

SMALLBIZ@EPA

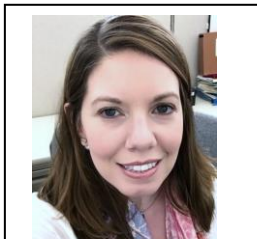
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ASBESTOS AND SMALL BUSINESS OMBUDSMAN

Fostering Partnerships • Improving Advocacy and Accessibility • Ensuring Compliance Assistance

APRIL 2020

Message from EPA's Asbestos & Small Business Ombudsman



Paula Zampieri Hoag
ASBO

As the new Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I am pleased to provide this special edition of the *SmallBiz@EPA* newsletter, focusing on EPA and other federal COVID-19 updates of particular interest to the regulated small business community. During this unprecedented time for the nation, EPA's ASBO Team continues to serve as an advocate and liaison for small businesses in the EPA rule development and compliance assistance process. With the devastating economic hardships

small businesses face as a result of this global pandemic, this special edition of *SmallBiz@EPA* includes information on EPA's temporary enforcement policy, EPA events or activities impacted by the pandemic, and available federal small business resources related to COVID-19.

The ASBO Team remains committed to providing this monthly newsletter as a platform to share relevant and timely information with the small business community. Last month, the ASBO Team launched a customer feedback survey to obtain stakeholder input on small business communication and information needs. My sincere thanks to all of you who took the time to complete the survey. The Team is currently in the process of analyzing the survey results. Based on that analysis, in the coming months the ASBO Team will work to strengthen the focus and relevance of the *SmallBiz@EPA* updates, including a new look and feel. Please stay tuned.

Finally, I am delighted to report that on March 16, 2020, the ASBO Team welcomed Lea Carmichael to the ASBO Program. Lea comes to the ASBO Team from the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, where she served as an Environmental Protection Specialist with a focus on Asbestos and Mercury. Please feel free to reach out to Lea and any of the other members of the ASBO Team. The members of the entire ASBO Team are as follows:

- [Paula Hoag](#), Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman
- [Lea Carmichael](#), Program Analyst
- [Elnora Thompson](#), Management Analyst
- [Harriet Edwards](#), ASBO Hotline, Senior Environmental Enrollee
- [Chester Eiland](#), ASBO Hotline Senior, Environmental Enrollee

Please stay safe and be well.

SmallBiz@EPA Bulletin

Welcome your
Submissions

Potential

Submission Topics:

- Upcoming Events
- Success Stories
- New Assistance Tools
- Technical Updates
- Regulatory Updates
- Stories to Reach the Small Business Community
- Updated Contact Information

Submission Guidelines:

- 150 words or less
- Provide a title for the article
- Include a link to more information on the topic
- Include contact information to be included in the article submission
- Articles should be submitted by the 15th of each month.
- Submit your articles to thompson.elnora@epa.gov



EPA Announces Enforcement Discretion Policy for COVID-19 Pandemic

On March 26, 2020, Susan Parker Bodine, EPA's Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance provided the following announcement:

“As you know, ongoing efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 have created unprecedented challenges for the regulated community. We remain mindful of the health and safety of the public, as well as our staff, and those of other Federal Agencies, State and Local Governments, Tribes, Regulated Entities, Contractors, and Non-governmental Organizations. We are taking these important considerations into account as we all continue our work to protect human health and the environment. Accordingly, we have developed a temporary policy regarding EPA enforcement of environmental legal obligations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

EPA will assess the continued need for and scope of this temporary policy on a regular basis and will update it if EPA determines modifications are necessary.”

To read the temporary policy memo in full go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/oecamemooncovid19implications.pdf>

Coronavirus and Drinking Water and Wastewater

There is no higher priority for EPA than protecting the health and safety of Americans. EPA is providing this important information about COVID-19 as it relates to drinking water and wastewater to provide clarity to the public. The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual. EPA also encourages the public to help keep household plumbing and our nation's water infrastructure operating properly by only flushing toilet paper. Disinfecting wipes and other items should be disposed of in the trash, not the toilet.

EPA also supports states and cities that have already taken proactive measures to ensure continued access to clean water for drinking and handwashing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many drinking water systems are discontinuing service cut-offs, restoring service to customers whose service was previously cut-off, and refraining from imposing penalties for nonpayment.

For further information visit <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>

Available Disinfectants to Protect Against COVID-19

To help ease the production and availability of EPA-registered disinfectants the Agency will temporarily allow manufacturers of certain already-registered EPA disinfectants to obtain certain active ingredients from any source of suppliers without checking with the EPA first. This only applies to products on EPA's List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2.

For the complete list go to: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

EPA Events and Activities Postponed

National Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

2020 Annual Training

POSTPONED



What:	National Small Business Environmental Assistance Program 2020 Annual Training POSTPONED
Where:	Your Truly DC (formally The Wink Hotel) 1143 New Hampshire Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20037 202-775-0800
Why:	The 2020 Annual Training, scheduled to take place May 5-7 in Washington D.C., has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. We are currently in negotiations with the hotel about our options for rescheduling the conference and hope to announce the new date very soon.
Lodging:	If you made a hotel reservation at the Yours Truly (formally The Wink Hotel) your reservation has been canceled and you should have received a cancellation notice.
Contact:	Please call 800-368-5888 https://nationalsbeap.org/training

Pollution Prevention (P2) and Source Reduction Assistance (SRA)

The submission deadlines for the Pollution Prevention (P2) and Source Reduction Assistance (SRA) request for applications **have been extended**. The new submission deadlines are as follows:

- P2 grant application submission deadline: **April 30, 2020**
(Link to P2 RFA: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-01/documents/cfy_20-21_p2_grant_rfa_final.pdf)
- SRA grant application submission deadline: **May 15, 2020**
(Link to SRA RFA: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-02/documents/general_sra_grant_guidance.pdf)

Please contact Alex Peck, P2 Program, EPA Region 2 at 212-637-3758 if you have any questions.

SBA’s Paycheck Protection Program for Small Businesses Affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic Launches

The U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza launched the Paycheck Protection Program, a \$349 billion emergency loan program created with the President’s signing of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES). The program provides forgivable loans up to \$10 million to small businesses left financially distressed by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The loans, which will be administered at the local level by a national network of banks and credit unions, are designed to maintain the viability of millions of small businesses struggling to meet payroll and day-to-day operating expenses.

“These loans will bring immediate economic relief and eight weeks of financial certainty to millions of small businesses and their employees,” SBA Administrator Carranza said. “We urge every struggling small business to take advantage of this unprecedented federal resource – their viability is critically important to their employees, their community, and the country.”

For additional resources about protecting your business, employees and customers go to: <http://www.sba.gov/Coronavirus>

Senate Committee Small Business Owner’s Guide to the CARES Act

The U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship issued a comprehensive Guide to help small business owners and entrepreneurs better understand the new programs and initiatives authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which Congress passed on March 27, 2020. It includes information on:

- Paycheck Protection Program Loans
- Small Business Debt Relief Program
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans
- Emergency Economic Injury Grant
- Small Business Counseling
- Small Business Contracting
- Small Business Tax Provisions

The U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Guide is accessible online here: <https://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/guide-to-the-cares-act>

National SBEAP COVID-19 Resources

COVID-19 has brought with it much change and challenge, particularly for small businesses. In an effort to help navigate these situations, the National SBEAP has assembled a COVID-19 webpage with news and resources related to environmental changes, disaster relief assistance, health and safety tips, and more. This page will be updated regularly with resources to help small businesses not only protect the environment, but their employees, communities, and their own livelihoods as well. This will include news such as EPA's environmental enforcement policy and OSHA's guidance on N95 respirators.

If you have questions or need information to help balance the environmental burden of your business against concerns about the health of your employees and your community, contact your [state SBEAP](#), or contact the National SBEAP via SBEAP@ksu.edu or by calling 800-578-8898.

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program



Dear Ask SBEAP:

I operate a small cabinet manufacturing shop and have recently heard that smoke from my burn pit may contribute to COVID-19 respiratory health problems. I don't want to call my state regulatory office because I am concerned it will tell me not to burn. I currently burn our wood remnants, sawdust, pallets and cardboard. Is my burning practice simply a temporary concern due to COVID-19?

Sincerely, Leif Fyreburne

Dear Leif,

The short answer is “No, you should not burn your wastes.” In most states this type of uncontrolled burning of industrial wastes without a permit is called “open burning” and is **prohibited**. Some states will allow limited types of industrial materials to be burned as a way of disposal using a pit, barrel or homemade incinerator, but you would need written permission or a special permit from the regulatory authority to do this. Your [state SBEAP](#) should be able to help you determine if the authority is your state environmental control agency or a local government entity such as the city or county fire marshal. During this pandemic, it is important to recognize that COVID-19 is a respiratory illness and the [health impacts](#) of open burning can increase the frequency or severity of respiratory distress, heart disease and allergies. The National SBEAP has set up a [COVID-19 resource page](#) that may be helpful, but also remember you can always contact your [state SBEAP by email](#) or calling 800-578-8898.



EPA FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; Connecticut; Determination of Clean Data for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Greater Connecticut Area

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/27/2020-06273/air-plan-approval-and-air-quality-designation-connecticut-determination-of-clean-data-for-the-2008>

Federal Register: Vol. 85, No. 60,
Friday, March 27, 2020/Proposed Rules

AGENCY: EPA

ACTION: Proposed rule

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to determine that the Greater Connecticut Serious 8-hour ozone nonattainment area has attained the 2008 8-hour national Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone, based on certified 2016–2018 ozone data. In addition, quality controlled and quality assured ozone data for 2019 that are available in the EPA Air Quality System, but not yet certified, do not conflict with the conclusion that this area attains the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS. If this proposed determination is made final, the requirements for this area to submit an attainment demonstration, a reasonable further progress plan, contingency measures, and other planning State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions related to attainment of the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS shall be suspended for so long as the area continues to attain the ozone NAAQS. This action is being taken under the Clean Air Act.

For further information contact: Elizabeth Townsend, (617) 918–1614 email at townsend.elizabeth@epa.gov.

Standards of Performance for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced-Air Furnaces

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/02/2020-05961/standards-of-performance-for-new-residential-wood-heaters-new-residential-hydronic-heaters-and>

Federal Register: Vol. 85, No. 64,
Thursday, April 2, 2020/Rules and Regulations

AGENCY: EPA

ACTION: Final Rule

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is amending the 2015 New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced-Air Furnaces. This final action removes certain requirements from the rule for pellet fuel to meet certain specifications regarding density, size, and content, while retaining a provision in the rule that requires EPA-approved third-party organizations to specify minimum requirements as part of the pellet fuel certification process. Also, in this final action, the EPA is deciding not to make changes that it had proposed that would have allowed a sell-through period for Step 1-certified residential wood heating devices that are manufactured before the May 2020 compliance date to be sold at retail after that date. Finally, this preamble provides a clarification of how the “prohibited fuels” provision applies to pallets. The final rule came into effect April 2, 2020.

For further information contact: Rafael Sanchez,
7 (202) 546–7028 email at sanchez.rafael@epa.gov