



# SmallBiz@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman Program

A monthly newsletter for the regulated small business community

July 2020

[Policy & Regulation](#) | [Key Dates & Upcoming Opportunities](#) | [Ask SBEAP](#) | [Spotlight](#)

Thank you for your feedback! We are pleased to share with you our redesigned *SmallBiz@EPA* news bulletin, the development of which is based on survey results we received from our readership. This format allows for more efficient reading with enabled topic hyperlinks, standardized organization, and improved accessibility. We invite you to connect with us through our new [asbo@epa.gov](mailto:asbo@epa.gov) email address as we continue to provide you with current content relevant to the small business community.

Additionally, we are excited to announce the award of a new grant entitled, “*Support and Management of the Nationalsbeap.org Website and 507 Program*”. This new 5-year cooperative agreement has been awarded to Kansas State University’s (KSU) Pollution Prevention Institute (PPI) and will be managed in tandem with EPA’s Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman program. KSU’s PPI will continue to provide exceptional support and service to the state Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs) by maintaining and expanding the National SBEAP website, assisting the program nationwide through expert communication and collaboration services, and providing organization and hosting support for the SBEAP annual training events. This 5-year grant is scheduled to start August 1, 2020 and will expire July 31, 2025. Congratulations to KSU PPI, and thank you for your continued great work!

## Policy & Regulation

### **Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Information Collection; Effort for Ethylene Oxide Commercial Sterilization Facilities**

Federal Register: Notice. [85 FR 35931](#)

On June 12, 2020, the proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) for Ethylene Oxide (EtO) Sterilization Facilities was published in the Federal Register. Comments on the proposed ICR ([Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0178](#)) must be submitted on or before August 11, 2020.

EPA is planning to submit an information collection request (ICR), “Information Collection Effort for Ethylene Oxide Commercial Sterilization Facilities” (EPA ICR No. 2623.01, OMB Control No. 2060–NEW) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). Before doing so, EPA is soliciting public comment on specific aspects of the proposed information collection. This is a request for approval of a new collection. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

More information on EtO and how to comment on the ICR can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/ethylene-oxide-emissions-standards-sterilization-facilities>.

## **Granting Petitions to Add 1-bromopropane (Also Known as 1-BP) to the List of Hazardous Air Pollutants**

Federal Register: Notice, [85 FR 36851](#)

On June 18, 2020, EPA granted petitions to add n-propyl bromide (nPB) (Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) No. 106-94-5) to the list of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) contained in the Clean Air Act (CAA). EPA is taking final action to grant these petitions based on the petitioners having met the requirements contained in CAA section 112(b)(3), which allows any person to petition the Administrator to add a substance to the list of HAP. The term 1-bromopropane (1-BP) is the common name for nPB. This is the first occasion on which EPA is granting petitions to add a substance to the list of HAP that Congress created in 1990. Following this action, EPA will take a separate regulatory action to add 1-BP to the list of HAP under CAA section 112(b)(1).

[See webinar details below under Upcoming Events.](#)

## **EPA Takes Action to Stop Use of Certain PFAS in Products and Protect American Consumers: Agency marks 4th anniversary of amended TSCA by meeting important milestone under PFAS Action Plan**

On June 22, 2020, as part of EPA's [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) Action Plan](#), EPA issued a final rule giving the agency the authority to review an expansive list of products containing PFAS before they could be manufactured, sold, or imported in the United States. This action, issued under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), means that EPA is prohibiting companies from manufacturing, processing, or importing products containing certain long-chain PFAS, which persist in the environment and can cause adverse health effects, without prior EPA review and approval. As part of the agency's review, EPA could place restrictions on these products to protect public health.

Since issuing the PFAS Action Plan in February 2019, the most comprehensive cross-agency plan ever to address an emerging chemical of concern, EPA has made significant progress to help states and local communities address PFAS and protect public health.

For a summary of the actions the Trump Administration has taken under the PFAS Action Plan:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-pfas-action-plan-program-update-0>

For more information on the final rule: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas> or read the [full press release](#).

## **EPA's Latest Regulatory Agenda Continues Commitment to Strong Environmental Protections and Regulatory Reform into 2021**

On June 30, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with the rest of the federal government, released the Spring 2020 *Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions* (Spring

Agenda), which provides updates to the public about regulatory activity planned for the next 12 months. The Spring Agenda continues to support President Trump's commitment to regulatory reform, while simultaneously advancing the Agency's core mission of protecting human health and the environment.

"EPA has mapped out our regulatory agenda through the first half of 2021 that will continue to reduce pollution and improve the health of all Americans, while bolstering the economy," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "This agenda includes new actions ranging from cost-benefit reforms and improved permitting procedures to meeting air quality review timelines. Our smart deregulatory agenda helps American businesses large and small innovate and create jobs while keeping our air and water at the cleanest levels since environmental records began."

To access EPA's *Spring Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions*:  
<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>

To access EPA and other agencies' regulatory budgets:  
<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaEO13771>

For more information about regulatory reform at EPA, visit <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/epa-deregulatory-actions>. [View the full press release.](#)

## Key Dates and Upcoming Opportunities

### **Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) - EPA Bimonthly PFAS Calls**

EPA hosts a bimonthly call with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) and interested state representatives on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These calls are an opportunity for EPA scientists and our state environmental partners to share science and technical information related to PFAS. Topics include analytical methods, human health and toxicity, site characterization, exposure and remediation, and treatment work.

If you are a state environmental agency official or staff interested in joining the ECOS-EPA bimonthly PFAS calls, please [contact EPA's Office of Research and Development](#).

### **U.S. EPA Webinar: Clean Air Act (CAA) List of Air Toxics Addition of 1-bromopropane (1-BP)**

Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:30 – 3:30 pm (EDT), *Registration Required*

Under the CAA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to regulate emissions of air toxics, also known as hazardous air pollutants (HAPs). The original CAA list of regulated air toxics included 189 pollutants. Since 1990, EPA has modified the list through rulemaking to include 187 pollutants. Air toxics are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or birth defects, or adverse environmental effects. The CAA allows any person to petition EPA to modify the list by adding or deleting a substance. To add a substance, the petition must provide adequate data for EPA to determine that emissions, ambient concentrations, bioaccumulation, or deposition of the substance are known to cause or may reasonably be anticipated to cause adverse effects to human health or the environment.

EPA received petitions requesting 1-bromopropane (1-BP), also known as n-propyl bromide (nPB), be added to the CAA list of air toxics. This chemical is a solvent used in electronics and metal cleaning, surface coatings, dry cleaning, adhesives, and as an intermediate chemical in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and agricultural products. On June 18, 2020, EPA finalized its decision to grant petitions to add 1-BP to the list of CAA hazardous air pollutants — this is the first time since 1990 that EPA has granted a petition to add a hazardous air pollutant to the CAA. Granting these petitions is the first step in a series of actions to address air emissions of 1-BP. In a subsequent action, EPA will modify the *Code of Federal Regulations* to add 1-BP to the CAA list of air toxics — after it is added, EPA may consider revising or creating new emissions standards for source categories that emit 1-BP.

The purpose of this webinar is to provide a high-level overview of the petition approval process and to provide small businesses an opportunity to ask questions or provide feedback concerning facilities in their community that may be subject to revised or new emission standards by the upcoming listing. For more information on 1-BP, refer to <https://www.epa.gov/haps/petitions-add-1-bp-npb-clean-air-act-list-hazardous-air-pollutants>.

**How to Participate:** Registration is required for this event. To register, please provide your full name, organization, phone number, and email address to Rhonda Wright by email at [wright.rhonda@epa.gov](mailto:wright.rhonda@epa.gov). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information on how to join the webinar. We will be using Microsoft Teams for this event. You will have the option of joining by either a computer link or by telephone (not both). Please register by COB, Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

We look forward to your participation and encourage you to share this invitation with others in the Small Business community who may be interested.

## **National Small Business Environmental Assistance Program 2020 Annual Training** September 8-11, 2020

Join us for this year's virtual SBEAP Annual Training event, scheduled to take place on September 8-11, 2020. This event will provide learning and networking opportunities, including updates from EPA leadership and Program Offices, as well as collaborative activities that impact environmental assistance across the country.

For ongoing and up-to-date information or to view the draft training agenda, go to:  
<https://nationalsbeap.org/training>

### **Ask SBEAP**

Dear SBEAP,

Lately I've been hearing a lot about new toxic pollutants appearing in the ground and surface water of different parts of the county. They are called PFAS and appears to be associated with certain types of industrial manufacturing facilities. What exactly are PFAS, which industries use them and are they really considered toxic?

Sincerely,  
P. Fassbender

Dear Mr. Fassbender,

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals found in a wide range of products used by consumers and industries. The most commonly found and best studied PFAS are perfluorooctanoic (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic (PFOS) acids, and GenX chemicals. PFAS, developed in the 1940s, are used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water. Facilities that manufacture clothing, furniture, adhesives, food packaging, insulation of electrical wire, heat-resistant non-stick cooking surfaces (e.g., Teflon), polishes, waxes, paints, cleaning products or fire-fighting foams often use or generate PFOS.

Certain PFAS are no longer manufactured in the United States as a result of phase-outs including the PFOA Stewardship Program in which eight major chemical manufacturers agreed to eliminate the use of PFOA and PFOA-related chemicals in their products and as emissions from their facilities. PFOA and PFOS are linked to an array of health risks including cancer, thyroid disruption, reproductive and developmental harms, reduced effectiveness of vaccines and high cholesterol. PFAS have been found in drinking water typically localized and associated with manufacturers, landfills, wastewater treatment plants and firefighter training facilities. Both PFOA and PFOS are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don't break down and can accumulate over time.

PFOA and PFOS are the most studied PFAS chemicals and have been identified as contaminants of emerging concern by the Environmental Protection Agency. Until recently chemical companies have not been required to report industrial releases of PFAS through the federal Toxic Release Inventory, or TRI. If you have questions about PFAS action in your state, reach out to your state contact at the National Small Business Environmental Program.

## Spotlight: Congratulations to Idaho's DEQ!

### **EPA awards Idaho Department of Environmental Quality just over \$2 million to protect water quality statewide**

EPA has awarded \$2,069,912 to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, giving local water quality improvement projects across the state a welcome funding boost where it's needed most.

"I love these projects," said Chris Hladick, EPA's Regional Administrator in Seattle. "We get to help local groups design and build locally-supported solutions to often complicated and persistent environmental challenges. Through these grants, we watch water quality magic happen."

Jason Pappani, DEQ's Surface Water Program Manager in Boise agrees: "The Clean Water Act Section 319 grants are the cornerstone of Idaho's nonpoint source management program and provide resources for landowners to implement projects to improve and restore water quality for future generations of Idahoans."

The bulk of the state's grant will fund new on-the-ground projects similar to the successful work documented in three recently published Idaho success stories. Read the full press release.

For more about EPA's Non-Point Pollution Grant Program: <https://www.epa.gov/nps/319-grant-program-states-and-territories>

For more about Idaho's Non-Point program: <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/nonpoint-source-pollution.aspx>

For a copy of the latest (2019) IDEQ Non-Point Program Progress Report: <https://go.usa.gov/xwfVm>

## **Share with the small business community through EPA's SmallBiz@EPA Bulletin**

Do you have a story, upcoming event, resource, or information that may be beneficial to the small business community? Please email us at [ASBO@epa.gov](mailto:ASBO@epa.gov) to provide a brief submission with a suggested title, your contact information, and a website link for more information on the topic.

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