

# 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*

### Asbestos Draft Risk Evaluation and Peer-Review

In EPA's March 2020 draft risk evaluation for asbestos under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA reviewed a suite of potential asbestos exposures and made the following initial determinations on risk. These preliminary determinations may change as EPA's evaluations become more refined through the public comment and peer review processes.

- EPA did not find risk to the environment. For all the conditions of use included in the draft risk evaluation, EPA has preliminarily found no unreasonable risks to the environment under any of the conditions of use.
- EPA's draft risk evaluation did preliminarily find an unreasonable risk to workers, occupational non-users, consumers and bystanders. EPA found that workers, occupational non-users, consumers, and bystanders could be adversely affected by asbestos under certain conditions of use. These initial determinations are based on a draft risk evaluation of the reasonably available information.
- This draft risk evaluation and the initial risk determinations are not a final action. This draft represents the agency's preliminary conclusions, findings, and determinations on asbestos and will be peer reviewed by independent scientific experts. The draft risk evaluation includes input from other EPA offices as well as other federal agencies.

The public comment period for this draft risk evaluation closes on June 2, 2020.

For more information go to: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/draft-risk-evaluation-asbestos>.

The previously announced virtual meeting for the TSCA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) to review the draft risk evaluation for asbestos (85 FR 18954) was rescheduled to June 8-11, 2020. This public meeting will be virtual, with participation by phone and webcast. You must register online to receive the webcast meeting link and audio teleconference information for participation in this meeting. Please visit <https://www.epa.gov/tsca-peer-review/peer-review-draft-risk-evaluation-asbestos-0> to register. You may register and participate as a listen-only attendee at any time up to the end of the meeting. Requests to make brief oral comments to the TSCA SACC during the virtual meeting should be submitted when registering online on or before noon (12:00 PM EDT) on June 2, 2020.

MAY 2020

#### 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 articles to [thompson.elnora@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.elnora@epa.gov)

# National Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

## 2020 Annual Training



**Goes Virtual**

<b>What:</b>	<b>2020 Annual Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) Training Event</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Virtual Event – Due to travel and social gathering restrictions the 2020 event is now being transitioned to a virtual platform.
<b>Why:</b>	As usual, this year’s SBEAP training agenda is sure to provide opportunities for continued learning and collaboration across the country. The original agenda and potential speakers are now being evaluated or revised to fit the needs of a virtual platform. More updates and a revised agenda to come!
<b>When:</b>	<i>Tentatively scheduled for the week of September 8-11, 2020.</i>
<b>Contact:</b>	For up to date event information go to <a href="https://nationalsbeap.org/training">https://nationalsbeap.org/training</a> Additional question? Contact the ASBO Hotline at 1-800-368-5888

### **EPA Announces Cooperative Agreement to Support the National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking applications from states, federally recognized tribes, Native American organizations, and non-government organizations to provide technical support for the National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC). The NTTC works collaboratively with EPA to represent tribal interests in the development and implementation of chemical risk assessment, risk management, and pollution prevention programs. EPA anticipates awarding one cooperative agreement for approximately \$800,000 over a five-year period that will focus on the following activities:

- Assist federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and intertribal organizations in selecting and maintaining a geographically diverse membership with a diversity of relevant and technical expertise in the NTTC;
- Assist the NTTC in maintaining a viable charter that covers activities eligible for EPA funding and fulfilling the objectives of that charter; and
- Provide professional and technical support to the NTTC to conduct its meetings and other activities.

2 Applications are due by June 15, 2020. For full solicitation details go to:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326584>

## New “Contact Us about Compliance” Page

EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) has now added a “contact us” page to provide information about the Coronavirus Pandemic/COVID-19. This website includes information related to coronavirus-related products and pesticides, CDC cleaning guidance, Agency updates related to OECA’s Temporary Enforcement Policy, and a list of frequently asked questions, along with necessary compliance contact information.

To view the website and learn more go to: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/forms/contact-us-about-compliance>

## Small Business Environmental Assistance Program



Dear SBEAP,

I operate a painting and coating business that employs about 80 people. Thankfully we have been able to operate while maintaining COVID-19 social-distancing requirements. As a small business that generates environmental emissions and wastes, are there any special COVID-19 issues I need to be aware of from an environmental compliance standpoint?

Sincerely,  
Peter Painting

Dear Peter,

It is good to hear your small business is able to operate safely and that you are seeking proactive guidance with regard to this public health pandemic. The National SBEAP has compiled a list of [COVID-19 resources](#) with a focus on environmental compliance and impacts. These include EPA’s adjusted enforcement policy, which basically provides some allowances to industry that may miss recordkeeping requirements due to employee illness or even stay-at-home orders. This policy only applies to EPA inspections and enforcement actions. If your state agency is the regulatory authority, not EPA, then your state would still retain enforcement authority unless they, too, have issued a policy similar to EPA’s during this time of national emergency. It also lists [CDC guidance for small businesses](#) and includes information from [OSHA that requires industries](#), such as painting and coating operations that use N95 masks, to reassess their need for these coverings due to the medical shortage.

If you have state-specific environmental compliance questions or just need help understanding what requirements apply to your operations, contact your [state SBEAP](#) and check out the [environmental compliance resources for painting and coating operations](#) on the National SBEAP website. Remember, you can always get help through [email](#) or by calling 800-578-8898

## **EPA Provides Grant Funding to Support Environmental Justice Communities Impacted by COVID-19**

WASHINGTON (April 30, 2020) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to improve the environment and public health conditions of low-income and minority communities through our daily efforts to ensure all Americans have clean air, safe water, and access to information to make decisions to protect personal and public health. In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, EPA is making \$1 million in grant funding available to states to help local environmental justice communities address COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income and minority communities.

Through the State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program, EPA will provide funds to states, local governments, tribes and U.S. territories to work collaboratively with environmental justice communities to understand, promote and integrate approaches to provide meaningful and measurable improvements to public health and the environment.

“Environmental justice grants aim to support public education, training, and emergency planning for communities across the country impacted by COVID-19, regardless of their zip code,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “These grants are part of EPA’s effort to actively fight the COVID-19 pandemic that is having a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities.”

The grant funding will be used to support public education, training, and emergency planning for communities impacted by COVID-19. Projects could include sharing information related to EPA-approved disinfectants to combat COVID-19; addressing increased exposure of residents to in-home pollutants and healthy housing issues; and training community health workers.

EPA anticipates awarding five grants of approximately \$200,000 each for up to a two-year funding period. The agency encourages applicants to develop innovative plans and processes to conduct effective outreach to underserved communities, especially in places where Internet access may not be readily available to all residents.

Interested applicants must submit proposal packages on or before June 30, 2020 to be considered for the available funding.

To apply for funding: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/state-environmental-justice-cooperative-agreement-program>

### **EPA’s New Risk Management Program (RMP) Small Entity Compliance Guide**

EPA has updated the Risk Management Program (RMP) Small Entity Compliance Guide to keep small businesses current with the latest information on RMP implementation, guidance and changes to the RMP provisions found at 40 CFR part 68. This updated guide helps small businesses understand the requirements of all companies that use certain chemicals to develop a “Risk Management Program,” a program of activities designed to prevent an accidental chemical release from occurring. This factsheet helps small businesses comply with EPA’s regulation which requires companies that use certain chemicals to develop a risk management program.

The final document can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/rmp/small-business-and-risk-management-program>.



## EPA FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

### National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Subcategory of Certain Existing Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Firing Eastern Bituminous Coal Refuse for Emissions of Acid Gas Hazardous Air Pollutants

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/15/2020-07878/national-emission-standards-for-hazardous-air-pollutants-coal--and-oil-fired-electric-utility-steam>

**Federal Register:** 85 FR 20838

**AGENCY:** EPA

**ACTION:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 Final Rule

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking final action establishing a subcategory of certain existing electric utility steam generating units (EGUs) firing eastern bituminous coal refuse (EBCR) for acid gas hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions that was noticed in a February 7, 2019, proposed rule titled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units—Reconsideration of Supplemental Finding and Residual Risk and Technology Review” (2019 Proposal). After consideration of public comments, the EPA has determined that there is a need for such a subcategory under the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Coal- and Oil-Fired EGUs. The EPA’s final decisions on the other two distinct actions in the 2019 Proposal (*i.e.*, reconsideration of the 2016 Supplemental Finding that it is appropriate and necessary to regulate EGUs under Clean Air Act (CAA) section 112 and the residual risk and technology review of MATS) will be announced in a separate final action.

For further information contact: Mary Johnson, at [johnson.mary@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.mary@epa.gov)

### Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/23/2020-07397/significant-new-use-rules-on-certain-chemical-substances-19-2b>

**Federal Register:** 85 FR 22587

**AGENCY:** EPA

**ACTION:** April 23, 2020 Final Rule

**SUMMARY:** EPA is issuing significant new use rules (SNURs) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for eight specific chemical substances which are the subject of premanufacture notices (PMNs). This action requires persons to notify EPA at least 90 days before commencing manufacture (defined by statute to include import) or processing of any of these chemical substances for an activity that is designated as a significant new use by this rule. The required notification initiates EPA’s evaluation of the intended use within the applicable review period. Persons may not commence manufacture or processing for the significant new use until EPA has conducted a review of the notice, made an appropriate determination on the notice, and has taken such actions as are required as a result of that determination.

For technical information contact: Kenneth Moss, [moss.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:moss.kenneth@epa.gov). For general information contact: The TSCA-Hotline: (202) 554-1404; [TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov](mailto:TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov).