

SMALLBIZ@EPA

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombuds Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

► Policy and Regulation

- [Chemical Data Reporting Under the Toxic Substances Control Act](#)
- [National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for...](#)
- [National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Lime...](#)
- [Biden-Harris Administration Takes Latest Action Under Toxic Substances...](#)
- [Integrating e-Manifest with Hazardous Waste Exports and Other Manifest...](#)
- [Biden-Harris Administration Proposes Ban on Numerous Consumer and...](#)

► Key Dates and Opportunities

- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces More than \\$325 Million in...](#)

- [EPA Grants Overview and Training Course](#)

- [EPA Seeks Nominations for the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities...](#)

► Ask SBEAP

► Spotlight

- [Fraud Alert: Notice of Violation Letter Phishing Scam](#)
- [EPA Releases Updated Climate Indicators Report Showing How...](#)
- [EPA Releases New Science-Based Recommendations to Help More...](#)
- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \\$160 Million...](#)
- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$4.3 Billion in Grants...](#)



POLICY AND REGULATION

Chemical Data Reporting Under the Toxic Substances Control Act

The Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) rule, under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), requires manufacturers (including importers) to provide EPA with information on the production and use of chemicals in commerce. The 2024 CDR submission period is open now and runs through September 30, 2024. Check if you meet the [applicable TSCA definition of small manufacturer](#), for which [an exemption](#) applies. [Read more on the 2024 Chemical Data Reporting Submission.](#)

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Coke Ovens: Pushing, Quenching, and Battery Stacks, and Coke Oven Batteries; Residual Risk and Technology Review, and Periodic Technology Review

This action finalizes the residual risk and technology review conducted for the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for the Coke Ovens: Pushing, Quenching, and Battery Stacks (PQBS) source category and the periodic technology review for the Coke Oven Batteries (COB) source category NESHAP. EPA is finalizing a determination that risks due to emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) from the PQBS source category are acceptable and that the current NESHAP provides an ample margin of safety to protect public health. This final rule became effective on July 5, 2024, except for amendatory instruction 3, which became effective July 15, 2024. [Read the final NESHAP rule for Coke Ovens in the Federal Register.](#)

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Lime Manufacturing Plants Technology Review

This action finalizes amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Lime Manufacturing Plants (Lime Manufacturing NESHAP). Specifically, we are finalizing maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards for hydrogen chloride (HCl), mercury, organic HAP, and dioxin/furans (D/F). This final rule is effective on September 16, 2024. [Read the NESHAP rule for Lime Manufacturing Plants in the Federal Register.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Takes Latest Action Under Toxic Substances Control Act to Protect Public from Exposure to Harmful Chemicals

On July 24, 2024, EPA proposed to designate five chemicals as High-Priority Substances for risk evaluation under the nation's chemical safety law, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA): Vinyl Chloride (CASRN 75-01-4), Acetaldehyde (CASRN 75-07-0), Acrylonitrile (CASRN 107-13-1), Benzenamine (CASRN 62-53-3), and 4,4'-methylene bis(2-chloroaniline) (MBOCA) (CASRN 101-14-4). If EPA finalizes these designations as proposed, the agency would immediately move forward with the risk evaluation process. This step is consistent with a commitment from the Biden-Harris Administration to understand and address environmental and toxic exposures to ensure that every community has access to clean air and water, supports the Cancer Moonshot's mission to end cancer as we know it, and bolsters the Administration's efforts to make progress on delivering environmental justice and tackling plastic pollution. [Read the press release for more on the latest TSCA actions.](#)

Integrating e-Manifest with Hazardous Waste Exports and Other Manifest-Related Reports, PCB Manifest Amendments, and Technical Corrections

EPA is finalizing certain amendments to the hazardous waste manifest regulations, and the hazardous waste electronic manifest (e-Manifest) regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to increase utility of the e-Manifest system in delivering benefits to reduce administrative burden and improve tracking of hazardous waste shipments, and to various related regulations. This rule is effective on January 22, 2025. [For more on the amendments to the hazardous waste manifest regulations read the rule in the Federal Register.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Proposes Ban on Numerous Consumer and Workplace Uses of Cancer-Causing 1-Bromopropane to Protect Public Health

On July 31, 2024, EPA announced a proposed rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to safeguard public health and protect consumers and workers, with this latest proposal focused on the solvent 1-bromopropane (1-BP). Exposure to this chemical can cause serious health effects such as skin, lung, and intestinal cancer; damage to the liver, kidneys, and nervous system; and effects on the reproductive systems that lead to reduced fertility. If finalized, the rule would prohibit all but one consumer use of 1-BP, as well as some workplace uses. [Read the press release on the proposed rule.](#)



KEY DATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$325 Million in Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants

On July 25, 2025, EPA announced more than \$325 million in funding for 21 selected applications to help disadvantaged communities tackle environmental and climate justice challenges through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity. Made possible by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, the Community Change Grants Program is the single largest investment in environmental and climate justice in history. The funding announcement is the first tranche of nearly \$2 billion from the program that was designed based on community input to award grants on a rolling basis.

These 21 selected applications are the first to come under the Community Change Grants Program's rolling application process. Informed by robust stakeholder engagement and community feedback, the innovative rolling application process will

ensure that applicants have ample time to prepare and take advantage of this historic resource. The Community Change Grants Program’s [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO), administered through the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, is **still accepting applications through November 21, 2024**. EPA will continue to review applications and announce selections on a rolling basis. [Read the press release for more on the Community Change Grants Program funding investments](#).

EPA Grants Overview and Training Course

Every year, EPA awards more than \$4 billion in funding for assistance agreements to state and local governments, tribes, universities nonprofit recipients, and other entities. EPA’s environmental statutes are the legal basis for funding assistance agreements. EPA provides an [online training course](#) designed to introduce EPA grant applicants and recipients to key aspects of the entire grant life cycle, from preparation of an application through grant closeout. For more information read [EPA Grants Overview for Applicants and Recipients](#).

EPA Seeks Nominations for the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee

On July 24, 2024, EPA announced a [solicitation for nominations](#) to serve on its Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). Established in 2008, the FRRCC provides independent policy advice, information, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities. To be considered for an appointment to the FRRCC, nominations should be submitted to FRRCC@epa.gov by September 5, 2024, with the subject line “FRRCC Membership 2024.” Nominations should include a résumé or curriculum vitae and a statement of interest. Letters of support and recommendation will be accepted but are not mandatory.



Dear Ask SBEAP:

My business uses an emergency generator, which draws fuel from an underground storage tank. Though I have always kept up on my inventory control,

I didn't think I was required to document monthly release monitoring. Has that changed? If yes, what do I need to do to keep up on release detection?

-Sincerely, Jenny Rater

Dear Jenny:

In 2015, the EPA [updated the regulations for underground storage tanks](#), or USTs ([40 CFR 280](#)). This new regulation explains “emergency generator tanks are no longer deferred from release detection requirements in 40 CFR part 280, subpart D and are subject to all UST requirements”. Under federal regulations, (1) standby or emergency generator UST systems installed on or before October 13, 2015, must use an approved method of release detection no later than October 13, 2018, and (2) new standby or emergency generator UST systems installed after October 13, 2015, must meet release detection requirements when they are installed.

From the new EPA regulation, “since 1988 UST federal regulations for standby or emergency generators have matured greatly for inventory control. Whereas technology development and upgradation of most of UST in the U.S. can now be monitored for release with use of any EPA authorized leak detection methods.” Specific to your question, standby or emergency generator tanks require monthly monitoring but not inventory control.

Note that I've been saying “under federal regulations” up to this point. Most states have their own implementing agency, typically their state environmental agency. Those states write their own regulations, which have to be at least as stringent as the federal regulations, and as long as they meet that requirement, they can be different from the federal regulations. You should check with your state's environmental agency to determine the requirements in your state.

If you need help navigating this topic or other environmental regulations that may impact your small business, SBEAP is here to assist you. You can find contact information for your state SBEAP on the [State Contact map](#) on the [National SBEAP website](#), or you can contact National SBEAP at 800-578-8898.



Fraud Alert: Notice of Violation Letter Phishing Scam

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General is issuing this fraud alert to highlight an increasingly common phishing scam involving fraudulent EPA

Notice of Violation letters. In this scam, a fraudster sends a falsified EPA Notice of Violation letter to a target business and requests that the business respond by phone or email.

If you receive a Notice of Violation letter and are unsure of its validity, we encourage you to thoroughly review the letter, including the email address, and contact the [EPA's enforcement office](#) directly to verify authenticity. If you believe you have been the victim of fraud, or have knowledge of potential waste, fraud, or abuse involving EPA operations and programs, report it to the EPA OIG Hotline by completing the [online complaint form](#), emailing OIG.Hotline@epa.gov, or calling 888-546-8740. [For more information view the EPA OIG fraud alert public notice.](#)

EPA Releases Updated Climate Indicators Report Showing How Climate Change is Impacting People's Health and the Environment

On July 2, 2024, EPA released the Fifth Edition of [Climate Change Indicators in the United States](#). The report highlights new data showing the continuing and far-reaching impacts of climate change on the people and environment of the United States. New to the report this year are an indicator on Marine Heat Waves (showing trends related to multi-day high ocean temperatures) and a feature on Heat-Related Workplace Deaths. [Read the press release for more highlights from the Climate Change Indicators report.](#)

EPA Releases New Science-Based Recommendations to Help More States, Tribes, and Territories Reduce Exposure to PFAS in Fish

On July 11, 2024, EPA issued updated recommendations under the Clean Water Act for contaminants that states, Tribes, and territories should consider monitoring in locally caught, freshwater fish. For the first time, EPA has added several per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) to the contaminant list alongside lead, three cyanotoxins, a flame retardant, and amphetamine. The recommendation to monitor for 12 PFAS fulfills a key commitment in Administrator Regan's PFAS Strategic Roadmap and helps protect communities from exposure to these "forever chemicals." [Read the press release for more on the agency's updated recommendations to reduce exposure to PFAS in fish.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$160 Million in Grants to Support Clean U.S. Manufacturing of Steel and Other Construction Materials

On July 16, 2024, EPA announced the selection of 38 grant recipients across the country, totaling nearly \$160 million, to support efforts to report and reduce climate pollution from the manufacturing of construction materials and products. EPA estimates

that the construction materials used in buildings and other built infrastructure account for more than 15% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions. [Read the press release for more information on grant funding to support clean U.S. manufacturing.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$4.3 Billion in Grants for Community-Driven Solutions to Cut Climate Pollution Across America

On July 22, 2024, as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda, EPA announced selected recipients of over \$4.3 billion in Climate Pollution Reduction Grants to implement community-driven solutions that tackle the climate crisis, reduce air pollution, advance environmental justice, and accelerate America's clean energy transition. The [25 selected applications](#) will fund projects in 30 states, including one Tribe, that target reducing greenhouse gas pollution from six sectors: transportation, electric power, commercial and residential buildings, industry, agriculture/natural and working lands, and waste and materials management. [Read the press release for more on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants and selected recipients.](#)



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