From: Kelley, Jeremy
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Subject: Recent Environmental Updates
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Recent Environmental Updates

Effective March 11th EPA ammends current TRI Requirements

The 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act returned TRI reporting requirements back to the rules in effect prior to December 22, 2006. These changes affect TRI reports that are due July 1, 2009.

The main changes include the following:

1. All reports on persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals are now to be submitted on "Form R."

2. The new legislation restores the standard established by law in 1986, requiring all facilities to inform the public of any chemical releases that total 500 lb. per year or more, lowering the 2,000 lb. threshold.

    a. Note: "Form A" may now be used when "annual reporting amount" is 500 pounds or less and the chemical was manufactured, processed or otherwise used in an amount not exceeding 1 million pounds during the reporting year.

Contact our Regulatory Compliance Division for more information.
Call (281) 320-9796 or email compliance@obriensrm.com

EPA Proposes First National Reporting on Greenhouse Gas Emissions

March 10, 2009 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today proposed the first comprehensive national system for reporting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced by major sources in the United States. In developing the reporting requirements, EPA considered the substantial amount of work already completed and underway in many states, regions and voluntary programs.

The new reporting requirements would apply to suppliers of fossil fuel and industrial chemicals, manufacturers of motor vehicles and engines, as well as large direct emitters of greenhouse gases with emissions equal to or greater than a threshold of 25,000 metric tons per year. This threshold is roughly equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions from just over 4,500 passenger vehicles. The vast majority of small businesses would not be required to report their emissions because their emissions fall well below the threshold. Read More

EPA Announces New Action to Prevent Coal Ash Releases

March 9, 2009 - Responding to last year's massive coal ash spill at a Tennessee Valley Authority facility in Kingston, Tennessee, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today laid out new efforts to prevent future threats to human health and the environment.

The agency's plan includes measures to gather critical coal ash impoundment information from electrical utilities nationwide, conduct on-site assessments to determine structural integrity and vulnerabilities, order cleanup and repairs where needed, and develop new regulations for future safety. Read More

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