

**EPA's Proposed Rules that Establish its Procedures for Chemical Prioritization and Chemical Risk Evaluation Must Be Transparent and Include Outreach to Small Businesses as Part Their Process.**

On March 16, 2017, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed a comment letter with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding two of its proposed rules entitled, “*Procedures for Prioritization of Chemicals for Risk Evaluation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act*” and “*Procedures for Chemical Risk Evaluation Under the Amended Toxic Substances Control Act*.” A complete copy of Advocacy’s letter to EPA may be accessed at: <http://www.sba.gov/advocacy/>.

- On January 17, 2017, EPA issued the proposal for its procedures on the prioritization of chemicals, which will:
  - Establish a risk-based screening process and criteria to use in identifying chemical substances as either High-Priority Substances for risk evaluation or Low-Priority Substances that will not require a risk evaluation.
- On January 19, 2017, EPA issued the proposal for its procedures for chemical risk evaluation, which will:
  - Establish a process for conducting risk evaluations to determine whether a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk under TSCA Section 6.

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), EPA certified that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

- Small businesses have expressed concerns regarding the consideration of small business issues as part of the agency’s proposed processes as well as for the need of transparency regarding the agency’s approach for its chemical prioritization and chemical risk procedures.
- Advocacy urges EPA to provide transparency and engage in targeted outreach with small businesses early and throughout its chemical prioritization and chemical risk evaluation processes.

For more information, visit Advocacy’s website at <http://www.sba.gov/advocacy>, or contact Assistant Chief Counsel Tayyaba Waqar by email at [twaqar@sba.gov](mailto:twaqar@sba.gov) or by phone at 202-205-6790.