

## **EPA's Proposed Rule to Regulate TCE Use for Vapor Degreasing must be Reevaluated to Address Small Business Concerns.**

On April 17, 2017, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed a comment letter with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding its proposed rule entitled, “Trichloroethylene (TCE); Regulation of Use in Vapor Degreasing Under TSCA § 6(a).” A complete copy of Advocacy’s letter to EPA may be accessed at: <http://www.sba.gov/advocacy/>.

- On January 19, 2017, EPA issued the proposed rule, which will:
  - Prohibit the manufacture (including import), processing, and distribution of TCE use for vapor degreasing
  - Prohibit the commercial use of TCE in vapor degreasers; and
  - Impose downstream notification requirements.

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), EPA recognized that the rule will have an impact on small businesses. Consequently, a SBREFA panel was convened to examine and consider alternatives to minimize the impacts on small businesses.

- Small businesses are concerned about the risk assessment which is used to support the prohibition of production and use of TCE in vapor degreasers.
- Advocacy urges EPA to carefully address the small business concerns and carefully consider providing regulatory flexibilities to small businesses while still accomplishing the agency’s regulatory objective.

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.