



## MEMBER COMPANIES

Arcwood Environmental  
Arkema, Inc.  
Bayer CropScience  
Clean Harbors Environmental Services  
Eastman Chemical Company  
Formosa Plastics Corporation, USA  
INV Nylon Chemicals Americas, LLC  
Ross Incineration Services, Inc.  
The Dow Chemical Company  
Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC  
Westlake US 2, LLC

## GENERATOR MEMBERS

Eli Lilly and Company

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

ALL4 LLC  
Alliance Source Testing LLC  
B3 Systems  
Coterie Environmental, LLC  
Envitech, Inc.  
Eurofins TestAmerica  
Focus Environmental, Inc.  
Franklin Engineering Group, Inc.  
Montrose Environmental Group, Inc.  
Ramboll  
Strata-G, LLC  
TEConsulting, LLC  
Trinity Consultants  
W.L. Gore and Associated, Inc.

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Ronald E. Bastian, PE

## ACADEMIC MEMBERS (Includes faculty from:)

Colorado School of Mines  
Lamar University  
Louisiana State University  
Mississippi State University  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
Northern Illinois University  
University of California – Berkeley  
University of Dayton  
University of Kentucky  
University of Maryland  
University of Utah

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## CRWI Update July 31, 2026

### PCE and CTC extensions

On July 28, 2026, EPA published a final rule extending the applicable compliance dates for certain entities subject to the risk management rule for perchloroethylene (PCE) and carbon tetrachloride (CTC). This action will match the compliance dates for the Workplace Chemical Protection Program of certain private industries with those of federal operators. Additional details can be found in the *Federal Register* notice.

### DOJ civil penalties adjustment

The Inflation Adjustment Act as amended requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to adjust civil penalties each year based on the inflation rate published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in October of the previous year. Because of the government shutdown in 2025, the BLS did not publish an inflation rate for October of 2025. As such, DOJ published a *Federal Register* notice on July 15, 2026, that the civil penalties would not be adjusted for 2026 and would remain the same as 2025.

### HON waiver

On July 16, 2026, President Trump published Proclamation 11041 that extended the compliance date for the 2024 HON rule for 17 companies for two years. The annex to the proclamation provides a list of those companies, some with multiple facilities, that are impacted by this order. Additional information can be found in the *Federal Register* notice (under Presidential Documents).

### Data center permits

On July 27, 2026, EPA released guidance clarifying that the Acid Rain Provisions of the Clean Air Act do not apply to power generation facilities not connected to the grid. The press release states that this will add flexibility for those data centers that decide to generate their own power. A copy of the guidance can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-07/epa-issues-clarification-on-islanded-power-generators-and-acid-rain-program-provisions.pdf>.

## Spring 2026 regulatory agenda

EPA released their Spring 2026 regulatory agenda on July 6, 2026. The previous regulatory agenda was released in September of 2025 for the Spring of 2025. While the dates included in the regulatory agenda are often not met, the document gives a snapshot of what issues EPA will be working on for the next 12 months. The majority of actions planned for the next year are deregulatory in nature. The one exception is there are a number of regulatory actions for PFAS chemicals. Both the short-term and long-term action lists can be found at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>.

## PFAS

In their comments on the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) disposal and destruction guidance, the state of New Mexico has renewed its request that the Agency regulate discarded PFAS compounds as hazardous waste under RCRA. New Mexico argues in their comments that EPA's reliance on non-binding guidance rather than listing these wastes as hazardous creates an enforcement problem for states and leaves the disposal and destruction of PFAS waste entirely unregulated at the federal level. New Mexico pushed for federal listing of PFAS compounds as hazardous waste in a 2021 petition. The Biden Administration proposed two rules to address this request: one to list nine PFAS compounds as hazardous constituents under RCRA; and the other to clarify that the corrective action program could be used to address emerging pollutants. The proposed rule to clarify how the corrective action program could be used was withdrawn by the Trump Administration in May. The final rule to add the nine PFAS compounds is currently scheduled for January 2027.

On July 22, 2026, The House of Representatives passed their version (H.R. 8800) of the FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by a 216-212 vote. In the report language for the bill (H. Rept. 119-698), the House directed the Comptroller General to assess the Department of Defense's (DoD) progress at addressing the most contaminated PFAS sites and to submit a report on progress to the House Armed Services Committee by March 27, 2027. It also suggested that the use of Class I hazardous waste disposal wells may be an underutilized method for handling PFAS-contaminated liquids and ordered a briefing to the committee on this issue by February 1, 2027. During the floor debate, the House approved an amendment (no. 162) that requires DoD to submit a report on the available PFAS destruction technologies that will "enable a single-pass high PFAS-destruction technology to ensure rapid" PFAS destruction in water by June 1, 2027. DoD is also to establish a pilot program to test this technology. The amendment defines this technology as one that (1) destroys PFAS; (2) is portable and can operate in remote areas; and (3) can process up to 20,000 gallons of water per day. The Senate is not expected to take up their version of the NDAA until after the August recess.

In June, EPA, West Virginia, and Chemours announced a settlement agreement to resolve PFAS contamination issues at the company's New Jersey, North Carolina, and West Virginia facilities and asked for comments. North Carolina submitted comments

objecting to the proposed settlement agreement arguing that their state was not a part of the negotiations and the agreement “does not fix the decades of damage Chemours has done to our state.” Just how these comments will impact the settlement agreement is not known at this time.

### **CSB report**

In 2024, water leaking from a corroded sprinkler came into contact with reactive pool-treatment chemicals and caused a fire at the KIK Consumer Products Bio-Lab Plant 12 warehouse in Conyers, Georgia. On July 21, 2026, the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) released their report on the incident and made several recommendations to OSHA and EPA. CSB reiterated previous recommendations for OSHA to amend the Process Safety Management standards to achieve more control of reactive hazards and augment the Process Hazard Analysis to explicitly include an evaluation of reactive chemicals. CSB also reiterated recommendations that EPA should revise the accidental release requirements in 40 CFR 68 to explicitly cover reactive hazards. The report also included new recommendations for the company’s handling of these chemicals and recommendations to the National Fire Protection Association. A copy of the report can be found at <https://www.csb.gov/csb-releases-bio-lab-conyers-final-investigation-report/>.

### **EPA personnel**

EPA has confirmed that Aaron Szabo, currently the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, will be leaving his post in the near future. EPA did not announce the exact date, a potential replacement, or who will be acting Assistant Administrator.

### **Denka final settlement agreement**

EPA sent an information request to Denka (LaPlace, LA) in February 2022, conducted several inspections during the year, and issued a unilateral consent agreement in December. This agreement required Denka to clean up a brine pit, comply with RCRA disposal requirements, and pay a civil penalty of \$996,703. In May 2025, Denka ceased neoprene operations at that location. On June 22, 2026, EPA and Denka signed a final agreement to resolve the issues. Additional information and a copy of the final agreement can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/denka-performance-elastomer-rcra-settlement-summary>.

### **Environmental pardons**

The Biden Administration actively pursued several individuals and companies for developing and selling methods to detune diesel engines. Several pleaded guilty or were found guilty of criminal charges under the Clean Air Act for tampering with the air pollution control equipment for those engines. On July 3, 2026, President Trump announced he was pardoning nine of these individuals. This appears to be the first time a presidential pardon has been issued for these types of felonies. Others are still waiting for pardons.

## **Environmental justice**

EPA has essentially closed its environmental justice efforts, including the use of its screening tool (EJScreen). However, California has continued to use their version (CalEnviroScreen) and recently released version 5.0. The new version adds expanded buffers around hazardous waste facilities, data for six PFAS chemical in drinking water, water quality data, presence of oil and gas wells and gas stations, and a new diabetes indicator. California continues to use this tool to prioritize funding for pollution reduction in disadvantaged communities. The tool and additional information can be found at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>.

## **CRWI meetings**

The next CRWI meeting will be held on August 19-20, 2026, in Elyria, OH. It will feature a tour of Ross' incineration operation. Please contact CRWI (703-431-7343 or [mel@crwi.org](mailto:mel@crwi.org)) if you are interested in attending.