



## National Tribal Air Association

### **Fact Sheet:**

### **On the Proposed Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry: Organic National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) - 40 CFR 63 Subparts F,G,H,I**

**Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0730**

### **Overview**

On April 6, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposal that would provide critical health protections to hundreds of thousands of people living near chemical plants. It would do this by reducing emissions of hazardous air pollutants (also called “air toxics”) including the highly toxic chemicals ethylene oxide (EtO) and chloroprene. Many air toxics, also called hazardous air pollutants, are known or suspected to cause cancer in humans and can have serious health effects even in small quantities.

EPA’s proposal would significantly strengthen and update several Clean Air Act regulations. The regulations apply to a variety of equipment and processes used to make synthetic organic chemicals and a variety of processes used in polymers and resins production, including neoprene production. The proposal would dramatically reduce air toxics-related cancer risks for people who live near approximately 200 plants across the country that make synthetic organic chemicals. Most of the facilities covered by the proposal are owned by large conglomerates.

The proposal would reduce 58 tons a year of EtO – a 63 percent reduction compared to total nationwide estimated emissions in 2020 from all sources. The proposal would cut chloroprene emissions by 74 percent reduction nationwide, compared to estimated emissions for 2020.

As part of the effort to develop these rules EPA conducted community scale demographic analysis to begin to understand cumulative impact on fenceline communities, which sets a precedence for future rulemaking.



It also requires fence-line monitoring that can identify leaks and other issues earlier and allow for more real-time correction of problems, as well as providing public access to the monitoring data.

This proposed rule significantly tightens requirements for flares, tanks, Pressure release devices and other important operations at chemical facilities.

### **Where can I find more information?**

- Read the proposal, Regulatory Impact Analysis, and related information on EPA's website for this action <https://www.epa.gov/hazardous-air-pollutants-ethylene-oxide/proposal-strengthen-standards-synthetic-organic-chemical>
- To access NTAA's Policy Resource Kit to help you and/or your Tribe submit comments, visit [www.ntaatribalair.org](http://www.ntaatribalair.org)
- Written Comments are due June 26, 2023.