

On April 17, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) wrote to the EPA Administrator endorsing an **industry letter** representing over ten thousand small business facilities, and asking her to take expeditious action to implement the noncontroversial portions of the December 2008 Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) reforms. The SPCC program is designed to prevent spills of oil into waterways, and to contain spills after they occur. Facilities subject to the program must develop spill prevention plans designed to prevent and minimize such discharges.

EPA's December 2008 ("SPCC II") amendments are designed to increase overall compliance by small firms while reducing the regulatory burden on facilities that handle small volumes of oil and have a history of no reportable discharge.

- For small facilities, EPA introduced a reporting template and other streamlined requirements. It also included a visual inspection option for small volume tanks. EPA has postponed the effective date of the SPCC II changes to January 2010, which impairs the ability of small firms to implement SPCC rules now.
- EPA has moved twice to amend the SPCC program since 2002, once in December 2006 ("SPCC I") and again in December 2008 ("SPCC II"). The December 2006 amendments are already effective. The small facility portions of the SPCC I rule were based, in large part, on recommendations that Advocacy made to EPA in comments filed on June 10, 2004.

A complete copy of Advocacy's letter to EPA, together with Advocacy's June 2004 and February 2006 comments may be accessed at <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments/spcc08.html>, a web page devoted entirely to SPCC activities. The Office has been working with EPA since 2004 to make improvements in the SPCC program to benefit small business and enhance compliance.

For more information, visit Advocacy's Webpage at <http://www.sba.gov/advo>, or contact Assistant Chief Counsel Kevin Bromberg by email at kevin.bromberg@sba.gov or by phone at (202) 205-6533.

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