


Small Business Review Panel Takes Up Renewable Fuels Proposal

By Keith Holman, Assistant Chief Counsel
The Small Business Advocate

The Office of Advocacy is reviewing the impact of a planned Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule on renewable fuels. The rule will require renewable fuels such as corn-based ethanol to be added to the nation's gasoline and diesel supplies. The review is being done through a Small Business Advocacy Review Panel, which EPA will convene on July 9.



In late 2007, Congress enacted the Energy Independence and Security Act. This law requires oil refiners to blend increasingly larger amounts of renewable fuels into gasoline and diesel each year, totaling 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels by 2022.

Small refiners are concerned that some renewable fuels, such as those based on cellulose and biomass, may be difficult to obtain sufficient quantities and may only be available at high prices. This could add to the price of fuel or drive small refiners out of business. The small business review panel is evaluating

the likely impacts of the renewable fuel mandate and examining ways to make it easier for small refiners to come into compliance with the new requirements.

Small business review panels are a required step for draft rules from EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that are anticipated to have a

significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The panel consists of officials from the agency that will propose the rule, the Office of Advocacy, and the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Small entity representative from the affected industries review the draft proposal, comment on the rule's likely impact, and propose possible alternatives to make the rule less costly and burdensome for small businesses. The panel members prepare a report with recommendations for flexibilities and ways to improve the rule. The panel report on the renewable fuels rule is due on September 9. For further information, please contact Assistant Chief Counsel Keith Holman at keith.holman@sba.gov.

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