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The New EPA Lead-Safe Paint Law – April 22, 2010

EPA Requirements

Common renovation activities like sanding, cutting, and demolition can create hazardous lead dust and chips by disturbing lead-based paint, which can be harmful to adults and children.

To protect against this risk, on April 22, 2008, EPA issued a [rule requiring the use of lead-safe practices](#) and other actions aimed at preventing lead poisoning. Under the rule, beginning April 22, 2010, contractors performing renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified and must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination.

EPA requires that firms performing renovation, repair, and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in pre-1978 homes, child care facilities and schools be certified by EPA and that they use certified renovators who are trained by EPA-approved training providers to follow lead-safe work practices. Individuals can become certified renovators by taking an eight-hour training course from an EPA-approved training provider. Learn how to become an EPA certified firm and where to take a training course near you. <http://www.epa.gov/getleadsafe>

As the law was written, it deals with any contractors who are disturbing, removing or working on homes, schools and day care centers which were built before 1978 that contains lead based paint. The rule applies to any contractor who is disturbing 6 or more square feet on the interior and/or 20 square feet on the exterior. From plumbers to electricians to painters, must now be "Lead-Safe Certified".

The main concern and complaints are from national & local organizations of contractors, real estate professionals and small mom & pop contractors with the 3-4 week notice before implementation took effect and the lack of an adequate quantity of Lead-Safe Certified contractors and the additional costs related to jobs already quoted and/or already started that now must comply.

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The following is an action in congress to suspend & delay the implementation

U.S. Senate Votes to Delay Lead Paint Regulation

The U.S. Senate voted May 27 to delay the implementation of an Environmental Protection Agency regulation on lead paint, in order to provide small contractors with more time to receive mandated training.

The vote was for an amendment to a supplemental spending bill, which now must be reconciled with a similar bill passed by the House of Representatives.

If the amendment survives the reconciliation process, the bill would then go to the White House. It could be vetoed by President Obama, but it is unclear whether he would want to block a major spending bill - which includes funding for troops in Afghanistan and disaster relief - over this issue.

A spokeswoman at the White House said it had no comment yet on the matter.

The rule requires that contractors who perform work in homes built before 1978 be EPA-certified in lead paint removal or face fines up to \$37,500 per violation per day.

The amendment introduced by Sen. Collins would bar the EPA from levying fines against contractors who have signed up for training classes by September 30, 2010. This delay would allow adequate time for contractors to comply with the new regulation.

"Unfortunately, as a result of EPA's lack of planning, there still are not enough certified trainers in most states to educate contractors about these new requirements," Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), the primary foe of the regulation, said during a Senate debate.

Three states - Louisiana, Wyoming and South Dakota - do not have a single EPA-certified trainer, Collins asserted. "In Maine, there are just three EPA-certified trainers. Hundreds of Maine contractors have signed up for training, but are being forced to wait," she added.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) argued strongly against the amendment, saying that there are traveling trainers who are able to go to more rural states. "Lead is poison," she told her colleagues. "Please don't leave America's children at risk."

We shall see what if anything happens. Don't hold your breath!

Let's Make No Mistakes Home Inspectors are Indirectly Effected by this New Lead Law

With the implementation of the new EPA Lead-Safe Law, it will have an indirect effect on how we report paint conditions were observe on homes we inspect that were built before 1978.



Late 1950s - Damaged siding on all 4 sides –Painted siding
Damage was over 80 to 110sqft



Mid 1960 – mold covered painted ceiling
Entire ceiling had to be remove – over 200sqft



Home built in 1880s - Peeling paint on porch -



Home built in 1900 – Peeling paint on siding

Most home inspectors are not qualified licensed lead inspectors. However we must report what we see and make recommendation as we see fit. Make your clients aware of the conditions and educate them on precautions and who should further evaluate conditions observed and concerns above and beyond the scope of your inspection & expertise.

Give this link to your client and tell them to read this notice from the EPA. Put it in writing in your report.

<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/steps.pdf>

Flooding Creates Opportunities For Mold



Release Date: May 7, 2010
Release Number: 1904-001

» [More Information on Connecticut Severe Storms and Flooding](http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=12689)
<http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=12689>

» [2010 Region I News Releases](http://www.fema.gov/news/regionnews.fema?region=1&year=2010) <http://www.fema.gov/news/regionnews.fema?region=1&year=2010>

WALLINGFORD, Conn. -- Due to the severe storms and flooding March 12 and continuing, residents may find their homes affected by storm-water damage. For those who are just returning to their homes to begin cleaning up, the following precautions should be taken to minimize the likelihood of mold contamination:

- Flooded homes should be thoroughly dried out, a process that may take several days or weeks;
- Wet carpet and padding should be removed and discarded;
- Porous materials—those that absorb water—such as sheetrock, some paneling, fiberglass insulation, cellulose insulation, mattresses, pillows, wallpaper and upholstered furniture should be discarded;
- Sheetrock and other porous wallboards should be removed at least 12 inches above the visible water line left by the flood. Check for wicking, the upward movement of moisture to higher levels;
- Wall studs, where wallboard has been removed, should be cleaned and allowed to dry completely;
- Floors, concrete or brick walls, countertops, plastic, glass and other non-porous materials should be washed with soap and water and then with a solution of one to two cups of bleach to a gallon of water and allowed to completely dry;
- Wear rubber gloves and eye protection when using bleach and make sure area is well ventilated. Don't mix bleach and ammonia. Consider using an N-95 rated dust mask if heavy concentrations of mold are already growing;
- Materials that cannot be effectively cleaned and dried should be placed in sealed plastic bags to prevent the spread of mold spores; and
- People allergic to mold and people with asthma or other respiratory conditions should not do mold cleanup.

Mold spores thrive in continuously wet conditions, and can start to grow within 24 hours after a flood. They can cause allergy symptoms, headaches, bronchitis, asthma attacks, lung irritation and skin rashes. People with asthma or other pulmonary illnesses, compromised immune systems, infants and the elderly are more likely to develop mold-related illnesses. Additional mold information is available at:

<http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/mold.shtm>.



US Senator To Introduce Bill Targeting Radon in Homes

St. Paul, MN - Joined by public health advocates and homebuilder representatives, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar announced today Friday, April 30) that she will introduce federal legislation aimed at reducing exposure to cancer-causing radon gas in homes.



L-R: US Senator Klobuchar, Liz Hoffman, CANSAR, Bill Angell, AARST
(Press Conference Photo by Jack Bartholomew, MN)

Radon occurs naturally when uranium and radium in the soil decay and break down, releasing a radioactive gas that eventually finds its way to the ground surface (or into the basements of homes and buildings).

"Radon is ghost-like," said Klobuchar. "You can't see it, smell it, taste it, touch it or feel it. You don't know when you're breathing it, and you can't tell how much of it you might be breathing. The only way to know if your home has radon, and how much, is to test for it."

Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer (after smoking), responsible for more 20,000 deaths each year in the United States, including an estimated 1,000 premature deaths each year in Minnesota.

At a home in Saint Paul with a radon control system installed, Klobuchar announced her legislation and highlighted the importance of addressing the most serious risk from radon exposure, which is inside the home.

Indoor residential exposure occurs when radon gas enters through cracks in floors, walls and construction joints, or gaps in foundations around pipes, wires and pumps.

Klobuchar noted that, while radon exists naturally in every part of the country, Minnesota has one of the highest concentrations. In addition, radon is a more serious concern in Minnesota because of cold-weather building

methods that tend to seal air inside the home. Also, many Minnesota homes have basements that are used for living spaces.

The Minnesota Health Department estimates that more than one-third of all homes in the state have dangerous radon levels. Several years ago, Minnesota passed landmark state legislation that requires all new homes (as of

June 2009) to have radon ventilation systems.

Klobuchar's federal legislation is called the "Indoor Radon Exposure Abatement and Detection Act." Key provisions would:

- Require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a scientifically-based national standard that defines what level of radon is unacceptable. Initially, this level would be set at 4.0. However, the legislation would also authorize the EPA to adjust this level in the future based on further scientific information.
- Authorize the EPA to set national standards for radon testing and for worker training programs for radon abatement. This will ensure consistency and quality across the country.
- Provide incentives (in the form of grants) to states like Minnesota that implement statewide radon education and mitigation plans, including building codes that require radon-resistant construction in new homes.
- Create a rebate program to help reduce the costs of installing radon control systems in newly-constructed homes. This could be similar to the kind of rebate that's currently available for the purchase and installation of things like energy-efficient appliances and windows.

"With public awareness, the danger from radon can be managed and minimized," said Klobuchar. "The most important thing is for people to take the risk of radon seriously. Here in Minnesota especially, it's important to test your home, which is simple and inexpensive. If the test shows a high level of radon, there are relatively simple methods to reduce your exposure."

Participants at the news conference included State Rep. Kim Norton, chief author of the Minnesota radon legislation; William Angell, professor of housing studies at University of Minnesota, director of Midwest Universities Radon Consortium, and president of American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists; Dale Dorschner, supervisor of the indoor air unit, Minnesota Health Department; Elizabeth Hoffman, founder and president of Cancer Survivors Against Radon (CanSAR); Mike Gohman and Pam Weaver, president and executive vice president, Builders Association of Minnesota; and Bob Moffitt, communications director with the American Lung Association of Minnesota

Thanks to Jim Medley @ jim@RADONSYSTEMS4U.COM for posting an announcement of this story on the RadonProfessional list serve.

For your information, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976 is a major statute that authorizes U.S. EPA work in controlling toxic substances (Title I of the Act).

TSCA was amended in:

- 1986 with asbestos requirements (Title II),
- 1988 with the Indoor Radon Abatement Act (Title III; Public Law 100-551), and
- 1992 with lead based paint requirements (Title IV).

The entire proposed bill can be found at: http://www.aarst.org/images/Radon_Bill_4-28-10.pdf

The bill is 42 pages long. Happy reading!

Web Sites of the month

The National Cancer Institute report, **Reducing Environmental Cancer Risks: What We Can Do Now** is available at:

http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/pcp08-09rpt/PCP_Report_08-09_508.pdf

Other related sites:

Science and Policy Reference Links:

Unsear July 21, 2009

United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

<http://www.unsear.org/docs/Radon-distrib.pdf>

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION RADON HAND BOOK

http://www.who.int/phe/radiation/backgrounder_radon/en/index.html

http://www.aarst.org/images/US_Highlights_WHO_Rn_Handbook.pdf

International Commission on Radiological Protection Statement on Radon

http://www.icrp.org/icrp_radon.asp

U.S. President's Health Panel

<http://www.aarst.org/images/PCPanelRadonTest.pdf>

Position Statement of the Health Physics Society

http://hps.org/documents/radon_position_statement_background_document.pdf

North Stamford Well Water Alert

Recent well water testing in North Stamford found that approximately forty wells had elevated levels of two pesticides: dieldrin and chlordane.

Dieldrin and chlordane were widely used by farmers to kill insects on agricultural crops. Because of concerns about danger to humans and wildlife the use of dieldrin and chlordane on food crops was banned in the late 1970s. These pesticides continued to be used to control termites in homes until the late 1980s, when all uses were banned.

The first step that concerned homeowners should take is to have their water tested for pesticides by a state certified lab. Wells should also be tested for radon as it may affect the performance of the equipment used to remove the pesticides.

Attached is the letter residents received. You should recommend testing to any of your past or present clients. I've located an excellent lab in Dayville, CT that does both tests for a reasonable price and has a quick turnaround. (EPA 505 - pesticides \$70, EPA 524.2 VOC's \$100) They also do pick ups. Their name is Premier Laboratory and they can be reached at 1-800-932-1150.

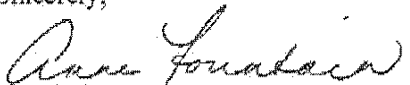
You may want to extend the recommended test site outside of Stamford. For example, all along the Merritt Parkway there used to be farms where these pesticides may have been used.


Special thanks for article submission by: **John Piatek, Licensed Water Treatment Professional**
Alliance Water Treatment Company, PO Box 3036, Stamford, CT 06905 1-800-838-0596

Due to unconfirmed reports of wells testing positive for chlordane and/or dieldrin outside the original cluster area, and a review of an environmental investigation report of the Scofieldtown Park area, The City of Stamford Department of Health with the guidance of the Connecticut Department of Health and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, will be implementing a limited residential well sampling program. We are working with experts to develop the protocol for this testing program at this time. In addition to this program, the City of Stamford is engaging experts to conduct a review of the 2010 environmental investigation report of Scofield Park area and to perform an investigation of the hydrogeology of the original impacted area.

If you have specific questions about testing or test results, please call the Stamford Department of Health Laboratory (203-977-4378). As additional public health issues develop, we will continue to advise you either directly or through our website. We at the Stamford Department of Health will continue to advocate for the needs of our community and pledge to work very closely with the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to assure the safety and well being of all residents of Stamford.

Sincerely,


Anne Fountain, MPH
Interim Director of Health & Social Services


Henry H. Yoon, M.D.
Interim Medical Advisor

Editor's Note: According to author Brian Hannigan, very few inspectors actually take the time to research and figure out their cost of doing business. Here, he shows you how.

Cost of Business: How to Price for Success

By Brian Hannigan

Wondering how much to charge is probably the number one question asked by home inspectors. Unfortunately, very few inspectors actually take the time to research and figure this out on their own. So they take the easy road (a road that often leads to disaster) and simply charge what other inspectors in their area charge. This trickle down effect of poor pricing has plagued the inspection industry from its inception until today.

Individuals who provide a service rather than selling a physical product can be paid in different ways, including a fixed fee for an entire project or payment by the hour. However you are paid, you need to determine how much to charge per hour. This is true even if you're paid a fixed fee for an entire project like most inspectors are. To determine the amount of a fixed fee, you must estimate how many hours the job will take and multiply the total by your hourly rate, then add your expenses. Figuring out that hourly rate is the key.

Many of even the most experienced inspectors in the business have been caught in a financial rut because they have not properly and/or accurately accounted for their time and expenses and this has caused a trickle down effect to all of the new inspectors in the business. This is because the second factor to pricing is being competitive in your marketplace. If you're just starting out, you may have no idea what you can or should charge and all too often new inspectors base their fees solely on the marketplace without taking into consideration the real cost of doing business and the time they will need to put into it.

Calculating Hourly Rate Based on Expenses

Business schools teach a standard formula for determining an hourly rate: add your labor and overhead costs and then the profit you want the company to earn and then divide the total by your hours worked. This is the minimum you must charge to pay your expenses, pay yourself a salary and earn a profit. Depending on market conditions, you may be able to charge more for your services or you might have to get by on less by cutting expenses but you can only cut so much before you are losing money on each inspection.

An important factor is to work a reasonable amount of hours so you still have a quality of life. It is important to check how much *you* (not the company) are earning per hour. To determine how much your labor is worth, pick a figure for your annual salary. This salary must be enough to cover your personal life/expenses. You must take into consideration things like mortgage or rent, food, savings, children's education, etc.

Next, compute your annual overhead. Overhead includes all the costs you incur to do business. These are just a few examples but the list is quite long: insurance, office supplies, report software/hardware, office equipment, clerical help, travel and vehicle expenses, association memberships, legal and accounting fees, advertising and marketing, continuing education. Overhead also includes the cost of your fringe benefits such as medical insurance, disability insurance and retirement funds. Also included in the overhead, your income and self-employment taxes.

If you're just starting out, you'll have to estimate some of these expenses or ask other inspectors what they pay in overhead, then use those amounts in your calculations until you can track your real expenses.

You're also entitled to earn a profit over and above your labor and overhead expenses. Your salary does not count as profit; it's one of the costs of doing business. Profit is the reward you get for taking the risks involved in being in business for yourself. It also provides money to expand and develop your business. Profit is usually expressed as a percentage of total costs. There is no standard profit percentage but an eight to 15 percent profit is a common goal.

Finally, you need to determine how many hours you'll work and get paid for during the year. You'll probably spend at least 35-50 percent of your time on tasks that you can't bill to clients, such as office work, driving, marketing your services and education. This means you'll likely have only 950 to 1,250 hours for which you can get paid each year if you still want that two-week vacation, some holidays, two days off a week and to attend an educational conference or two.

Example: A self-employed inspector wants to earn a \$65,000 salary. He estimates that his annual overhead will be about \$52,000 per year. He wants to earn a 10 percent profit and estimates he'll have 950 billable hours each year. The hourly rate is figured as follows:

- Salary and overhead together: $\$65,000 + \$52,000 = \$117,000$

- Multiply this total by a 10 percent profit margin and add the amount to the salary and overhead:
 $\$117,000 \times 10 \text{ percent} = \$11,700$; $\$117,000 + \$11,700 = \$128,700$
- Divides the total by the annual billable hours: $\$128,700 \div 950 = \$135.47/\text{hour}$.

This example calculates an hourly rate around \$135. This is only an example. You need to work out your actual numbers on your own or with the help of a program (see below).

Investigate the Marketplace

You may discover that your ideal hourly rate is higher than what other inspectors are charging in your area. That is usually the case because very few inspectors have thought like business professionals and calculated their fee schedule before setting out.

Don't be afraid to ask for more than others. You need to charge what you need to earn to stay in business and earn a profit. Low-balling your fees won't necessarily get you business but there is a good chance it will put you out of business. Many potential clients believe they get what they pay for and are willing to pay more for quality. You need to be fair to your clients but you also need to be fair to yourself. If you can not charge enough to cover your expenses- salary, retirement and disability insurance included, then there is a strong possibility your business may fail. Over time, you should be able to find a fee structure and marketing program that enables you to get enough work while adequately compensating yourself for the services you provide. Properly calculating your fee schedule is one of the most important things you can do for your business and to stay in business.

When marketing, remember to sell your qualifications and experience, not your price.

About the Author

Brian Hannigan developed the Cost Of Business program to help the inspection community. In business since 1997, Brian has helped inspectors, associations and schools succeed with professional web site development, SEO, and hosting. His site, InspectionNews.net, is home to over 13,000 inspectors throughout the US, Canada and around the world.



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NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission - Update

CPSC Identifies Manufacturers of Problem Drywall Made in China

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is releasing today the names of the drywall manufacturers whose drywall emitted high levels of hydrogen sulfide in testing conducted for the agency by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). There is a strong association between hydrogen sulfide and metal corrosion.

Of the samples tested, the top ten reactive sulfur-emitting drywall samples were all produced in China. Some of the Chinese drywall had emission rates of hydrogen sulfide 100 times greater than non-Chinese drywall samples.

"Homeowners who have problem drywall in their homes are suffering greatly", said CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum. "I appeal to these Chinese drywall companies to carefully examine their responsibilities to U.S. families who have been harmed and do what is fair and just".

At the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meetings in Beijing May 24-25, U.S. officials pressed the Chinese government to facilitate a meeting between CPSC and the Chinese drywall companies whose products were used in U.S. homes, and which exhibit the emissions identified during the testing procedures. The Strategic and Economic Dialogue represents the highest-level bilateral forum to discuss a broad range of issues between the two nations.

The following list identifies the top 10 drywall samples tested that had the highest emissions of hydrogen sulfide, along with the identity of the manufacturer of the drywall and the year of manufacture, from highest to lowest.

- Knauf Plasterboard (Tianjin) Co. Ltd.: (year of manufacture 2005) China
- Taian Taishan Plasterboard Co. Ltd.: (2006) China
- Shandong Taihe Dongxin Co.: (2005) China
- Knauf Plasterboard (Tianjin) Co. Ltd.: (2006) China
- Taian Taishan Plasterboard Co. Ltd.: (2006) China
- Taian Taishan Plasterboard Co. Ltd.: (2006) China
- Shandong Chenxiang GBM Co. Ltd. (C&K Gypsum Board): (2006) China
- Beijing New Building Materials (BNBM): (2009) China
- Taian Taishan Plasterboard Co. Ltd.: (2009) China
- Shandong Taihe Dongxin Co.: (2009) China

Other Chinese drywall samples had low or no detectable emissions of hydrogen sulfide as did the drywall samples tested that were manufactured domestically. They include: Knauf Plasterboard Tianjin: (2009) China; Tiger ***ShiGao JianCai***liangpianzhuang: (2006) China; USG Corporation: (2009) U.S.; Guangdong Knauf New Building Material Products Co. Ltd.: (2009) China; 3/8" drywall manufacturer uncertain (date uncertain):

China; Knauf Plasterboard (Wuhu) Co. Ltd.: (2009) China; CertainTeed Corp.: (2009) U.S.; Georgia Pacific Corp.: (2009) U.S.; Dragon Brand, Beijing New Building Materials Co. Ltd.: (2006) China; CertainTeed Corp.: (2009) U.S.; Pingyi Baier Building Materials Co. Ltd.: (2009) China; Sample purchased in China, manufacturer unknown: (2009) China; Panel Rey S.A.: (2009) Mexico; Lafarge North America: (2009) U.S.; National Gypsum Company: (2009) U.S.; National Gypsum Company: (2009) U.S.; Georgia Pacific Corp.: (2009) U.S.; Pabco Gypsum: (2009) U.S.; Temple-Inland Inc.: (2009) U.S.; and USG Corporation: (2009) U.S.

Last month, CPSC released the results of drywall emissions tests by LBNL. The studies showed a connection between certain Chinese drywall and corrosion in homes. In addition, the patterns of reactive sulfur compounds emitted from drywall samples show a clear distinction between certain Chinese drywall samples manufactured in 2005/2006 and other Chinese and non-Chinese drywall samples.

To date, CPSC has spent over \$5 million to investigate the chemical nature and the chain of commerce of problem drywall. Earlier this year, CPSC and HUD issued an [identification protocol](#) to help consumers identify problem drywall in their homes. Last month, CPSC and HUD issued [remediation guidance](#) to assist impacted homeowners.

See the [chart](#) (pdf) listing drywall chamber test results.---

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from thousands of types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

State debt per citizen as of April 15, 2010

Connecticut:	Massachusetts:
Present Debt: \$2,755,424,500	Present Debt: \$7,189,226,200
Population: 3,501,252	Population: 6,497,967
Debt owed per person: \$7,869.82	Debt owed per person: \$11,063.81

EPA Adds More Than 6,300 Chemicals and 3,800 Chemical Facilities to Public Database

Unprecedented access provided for the first time

WASHINGTON – As part of Administrator Lisa P. Jackson’s commitment to increase public access to information on chemicals, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has added more than 6,300 chemicals and 3,800 chemical facilities regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to a public database called Envirofacts.

“The addition to Envirofacts will provide the American people with unprecedented access to information about chemicals that are manufactured in their communities,” said Steve Owens, assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. “This is another step EPA is taking to empower the public with information on chemicals in their communities.”

The Envirofacts database is EPA’s single point of access on the Internet for information about environmental activities that may affect air, water and land in the U.S and provides tools for analyzing the data. It includes facility name and address information, aerial image of the facility and surrounding area, map location of the facility, and links to other EPA information on the facility, such as EPA’s inspection and compliance reports that are available through the Enforcement Compliance History Online (ECHO) database. EPA is also adding historic facility information for another 2,500 facilities.

EPA has conducted a series of aggressive efforts to increase the public’s access to chemical information including reducing confidentiality claims by industry and making the public portion of the TSCA inventory available free of charge on the agency’s Web site. EPA intends to take additional actions in the months ahead to further increase the amount of information available to the public.

More information on Envirofacts: <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/tsca/index.html>
More information about EPA’s efforts on increasing transparency on chemical information: <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/enhanchems.html>

EPA Helps Americans Get Ready for Summer with Insect Repellents

WASHINGTON – The arrival of warmer weather signals the return of biting insects. Recognizing that, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which regulates pesticides, has updated its insect repellent Web page. By reading and following label directions, the use of repellents can reduce or eliminate the discomfort of insect bites. Ticks can transmit serious diseases such as lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and other serious diseases. Repellents also curtail the spread of such mosquito-borne diseases as St. Louis encephalitis and West Nile virus.

The Web page serves as a one-stop-shop for information on registered repellents. It provides up-to-date listings of mosquito and tick repellents as well as tips for choosing the right product to meet your needs. One of the key features of the revamped Web page is easy access to information about protection time. It will help people choose the right product for the length of time they will be outdoors.

For best results, use only insect repellents registered by EPA. When used according to instructions on the label, registered products have been shown to be effective.

More information on insect repellent: <http://www.epa.gov/repellentfinder>



Offshore wind turbines such as these are proposed for the Cape Wind project.
Credit: Siemens

Interior Department Approves Cape Wind, the First U.S. Offshore Wind Farm

After almost a decade of federal study and analysis, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) approved the Cape Wind project on April 21, allowing the first U.S. offshore wind farm to move ahead. Cape Wind is a 130-turbine wind power project on submerged federal lands in Nantucket Sound off the Massachusetts coast. DOI required the developer of the \$1 billion wind farm to agree to additional binding measures to minimize the potential adverse impacts of construction and operation of the facility. Located in a 25-square-mile section of

Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound, the Cape Wind project will have a maximum electric output of 468 megawatts (MW), with an average anticipated output of 182 MW. That's enough to meet 75% of the electricity demand for Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Island combined. The Cape Wind developer hopes to begin construction by the end of this year. See the Cape Wind press release.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said that the project's public benefits weighed in favor of its approval, citing the benefits from increased energy independence, reduced pollution, and job creation. Both the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe have opposed construction of the project, saying it would disturb culturally significant sites on the seabed floor and would visually interfere with their cultural activities, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) agreed. But Secretary Salazar disagreed,

noting that Nantucket Sound is far from pristine, already featuring undersea power lines, communication towers along its coasts, and the visual impacts associated with aviation, shipping, fishing, and recreational boating. Those visual impacts are far greater than the impacts of wind turbines located at least 5.2 miles from the mainland, according to Secretary Salazar.

Nevertheless, DOI took several steps to minimize the visual impacts, including reducing the number of turbines from 170 to 130, reconfiguring the array to move it farther away from Nantucket Island and to reduce its breadth when viewed from Nantucket, requiring the developer to paint the turbines off-white to lessen contrast with the sea and sky, reducing nighttime lighting, and minimizing daytime lighting. In terms of seabed cultural and historic resources, DOI is also requiring a detailed marine archaeological survey of the area before construction begins. In addition, a "Chance Finds Clause" in the lease requires the developer to halt operations and notify DOI of any unanticipated archaeological find. See the DOI press release, the Record of Decision (PDF 20 MB), the Cape Wind fact sheet (PDF 108 KB), the project site map, and Secretary Salazar's reply to ACHP (PDF 3.6 MB). Download Adobe Reader.

In approving Cape Wind, DOI noted that there are other offshore wind power proposals in neighboring northeastern states, all seeking to tap the region's estimated offshore wind power potential of 1 million MW. To help advance that process, DOI issued a Request for Interest (RFI) on April 21 for renewable energy development off the coast of Delaware. Delaware officials have approved a proposal by Bluewater Wind Delaware, LLC for the construction of a 200-MW offshore wind farm, but the company is still required to apply to DOI's Minerals Management Service for an offshore lease, which may entail competing with other companies. The area covered in the RFI is in federal waters between the shipping routes for Delaware Bay, with the closest point to shore located about 7.5 miles due east from Rehoboth Beach. Responses to the RFI are due by June 25. See the DOI press release, the RFI (PDF 62 KB) as published in the April 26 edition of the Federal Register, and the DOI's map of the proposed leasing area (PDF 486 KB).

Cape Wind Sets Power Agreement with National Grid, Gets FAA Approval

Cape Wind Associates, LLC has reached an agreement to sell half of the power produced by its proposed offshore wind farm to National Grid, a utility serving customers in Massachusetts and three other states. On May 10, National Grid filed with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities for approval of its 15-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Cape Wind Associates. Overall, National Grid will buy about 3.5% of its electricity supply for Massachusetts from the Cape Wind project, fulfilling the state's requirement that all investor-owned utilities buy at least 3% of their electricity supply from renewable generators. National Grid also filed a second agreement to buy the balance of the power produced by the Cape Wind project, with the intent of assigning that wind power to other buyers. The PPAs are a key step in the development of the Cape Wind project, a 468-megawatt wind power facility in Nantucket Sound off the Massachusetts coast. The project won approval from the U.S. Department of Interior on April 28, putting it in position to become the first U.S. offshore wind project. See the article on the [Interior Department approval](#) from the May 5 edition of the *EERE Network News*.

Under the proposed PPA, the utility will initially pay 20.7 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for the wind power in 2013, with the price increasing 3.5% each year. Based on current forecasts, the utility projects that the wind power purchase will add \$1.59 to the average bill of a residential customer who uses 500 kWh per month. However, if a price is placed on carbon emissions in the future, National Grid expects the Cape Wind project to have a significant price advantage over conventional power sources. The PPA hinges on several milestones for the Cape Wind project, requiring the company to have all permits, property and site control rights, and financing in place by the end of 2013, and for construction to be underway by then, with commercial operation achieved by the end of 2015. However, the PPA allows the project to be developed in up to 17 phases, each

consisting of at least 28 megawatts of wind power capacity. See the [National Grid press release](#), the filing with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities ([PDF 868 KB](#)), and the Cape Wind fact sheet on the PPA

Cape Wind Associates also received approval for the project from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on May 17. An FAA study revealed that the project will have no substantial adverse effect on the surrounding airspace or on the operation of air navigation facilities. The study did find that the wind farm could have an adverse impact on a radar system at Otis Air Force Base, but it also found that a modification to that radar system will likely solve the problem. However, in the unlikely event that a new radar system is needed, Cape Wind Associates has agreed to pay for the acquisition, siting, and installation of the new system. See the FAA "[Determination of No Hazard](#)" and supporting documentation on the FAA Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis Web site, as well as the related [statement](#) from Cape Wind Associates.



DOE Sets Tough Standards for Home Water Heaters, Other Heating Products

DOE announced on April 1 that it has finalized higher energy efficiency standards for a key group of heating appliances that will together save consumers up to \$10 billion and prevent up to 164 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions over the 30 years after they take effect. The new standards apply to residential water heaters, pool heaters, and direct heating equipment such as gas fireplaces, increasing the stringency of the existing minimum conservation standards for these three types of residential heating products. The new standards will cut the energy use of large electric storage water heaters by 47% and of large gas-fired water heaters by more than 30%. The standards for water heaters will go into effect in 2015, while the standards for pool heaters and direct heating equipment—including gas-fired wall, floor, and hearth heaters—will apply to products manufactured in 2013 and beyond. On average, these products account for about 18% of the energy use in U.S. homes.

Under the Obama Administration, DOE has accelerated the pace for finalizing new appliance standards and has placed new resources and emphasis behind the enforcement of these important standards. Since President Obama came to office, DOE has issued or codified new efficiency standards for more than 20 different products, which will save consumers between \$250 and \$300 billion on their energy bills through 2030. See the [DOE press release](#), the final rule ([PDF 1.7 MB](#)), and the Web site for DOE's [Appliances and Equipment Standards Program](#).

EPA Announces New Guidelines for Energy Star Homes

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2010

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing new, more rigorous guidelines for new homes that earn the Energy Star label. Compared to the current Energy Star guidelines, the new requirements will make qualified new homes at least 20 percent more efficient than homes built to the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) – slashing utility bills for qualified homes by 15 percent compared to IECC code-built homes.

The updated requirements will ensure that the government’s Energy Star label continues to deliver a significant increase in energy efficiency over homes that are built to code and standard builder business practices. These guidelines will go into effect in January 2011, although some builders may choose to adopt the new requirements earlier.

Key elements of the new guidelines for Energy Star qualified homes include:

- **A Complete Thermal Enclosure System:** Comprehensive air sealing, properly insulated assemblies and high-performance windows enhance comfort, improve durability and reduce utility bills.
- **Quality Installed Complete Heating and Cooling Systems:** High-efficiency heating and cooling systems engineered to deliver more comfort, moisture control and quiet operation, and equipped with fresh-air ventilation to improve air quality.
- **A Complete Water Management System:** Because Energy Star homes offer a tightly-sealed and insulated building envelope, a comprehensive package of flashing, moisture barriers, and heavy-duty membrane details is critical to help keep water from roofs, walls, and foundations for improved durability and indoor air quality.
- **Efficient Lighting and Appliances:** Look for Energy Star qualified lighting, appliances and fans helping to further reduce monthly utility bills and provide high-quality performance.
- **Third-Party Verification:** Energy Star qualified homes require verification by independent Home Energy Raters who conduct a comprehensive series of detailed inspections and use specialized diagnostic equipment to test system performance.

More information about Energy Star qualified homes: <http://www.energystar.gov>

EPA Launches New Web Tools to Inform the Public About Clean Water Enforcement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2010

Interactive Web tool allows the public to check water violations in their communities

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a new set of web tools, data, and interactive maps to inform the public about serious Clean Water Act violations in their communities. Improving water quality is one of EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's priorities and in 2009, Administrator Jackson directed the agency to develop concrete steps to improve water quality, to better enforce the Clean Water Act and to use 21st Century technology to transform the collection, use and availability of EPA data. The web tools announced today is part of EPA's Clean Water Act Action Plan to work with states in ensuring that facilities comply with standards that keep our water clean.

"EPA is taking another important step to increase transparency and keep Americans informed about the safety of their local waters," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Making this information more accessible and understandable empowers millions of people to press for better compliance and enforcement in their communities."

The new web page provides interactive information from EPA's 2008 Annual Noncompliance Report, which pertains to about 40,000 permitted Clean Water Act dischargers across the country. The report lists state-by-state summary data of violations and enforcement responses taken by the states for smaller facilities. The new web page also makes it easy to compare states by compliance rates and enforcement actions taken and provides access to updated State Review Framework (SRF) reports..

Interactive Map for Clean Water Act Annual Noncompliance Report:

<http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/ancr/us/>

State Review Framework: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/state/srf/index.html>

Enforcement and Compliance History Online: <http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo>

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