

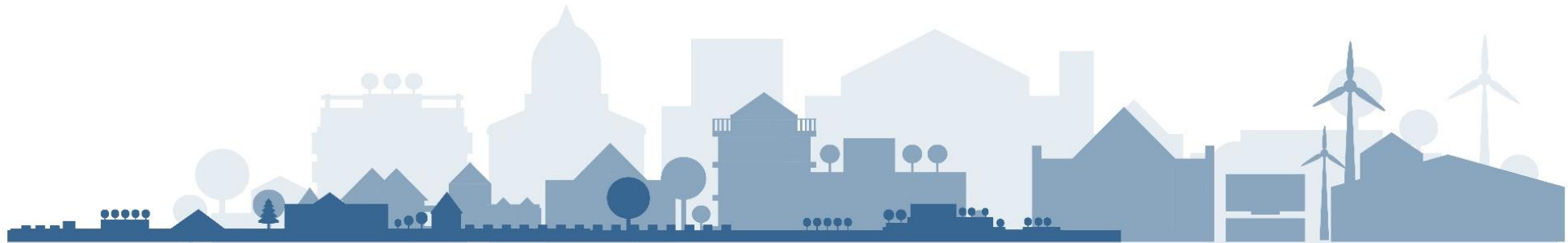


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# Environmental Protection Agency

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## Welcome



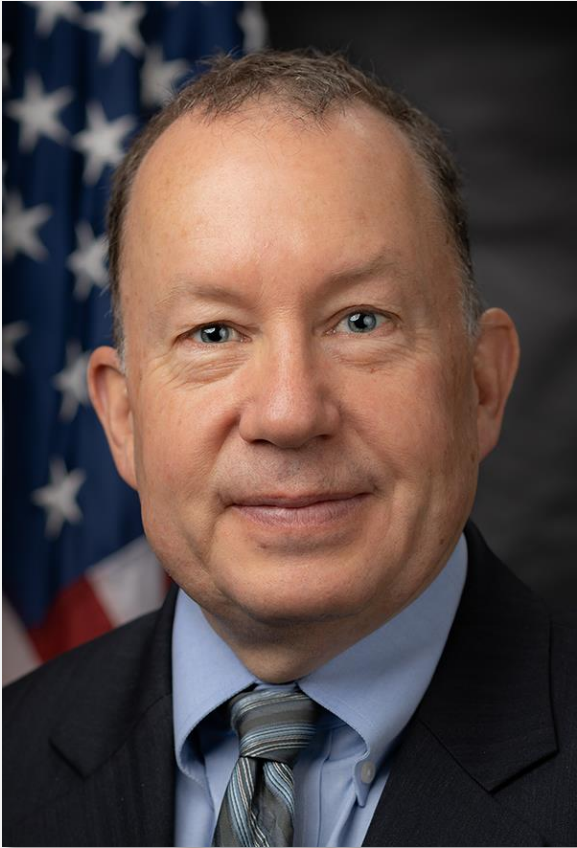
Small Business Environmental Assistance Program's  
Annual Training  
September 8-11, 2020



**Denise Sirmons**  
Office Director

# EPA's Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization





Douglas Benevento

# EPA's Associate Deputy Administrator





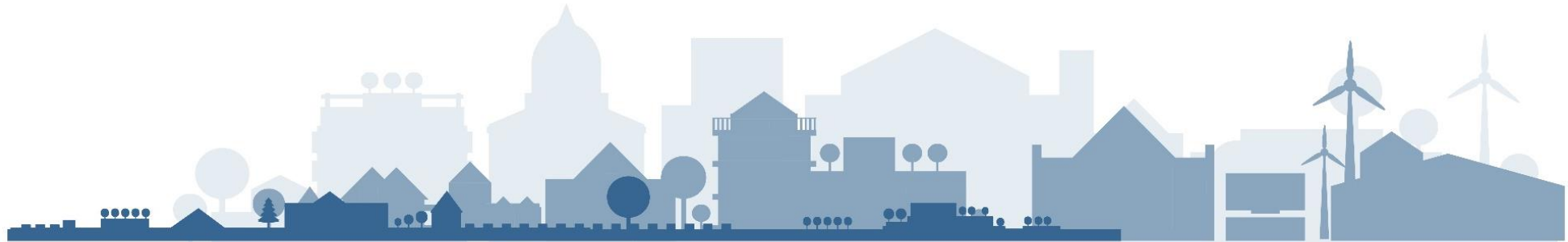
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# Environmental Protection Agency

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**Paula Hoag**

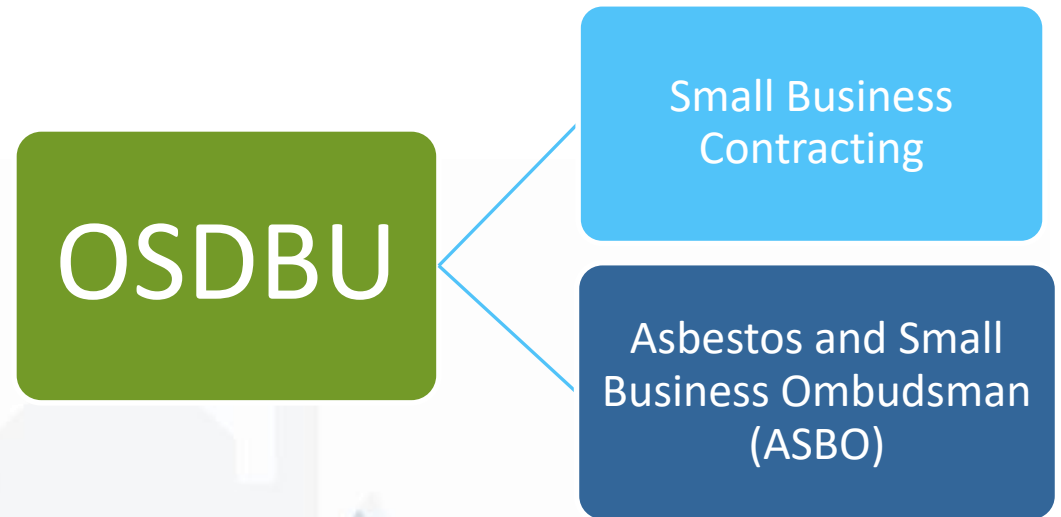
**EPA's Asbestos and Small Business  
Ombudsman Program Update**



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# OSDBU Program Areas

**The Office of Small and Disadvantage Business Utilization (OSDBU) is responsible for the oversight and execution of EPA's small business programs, as mandated by statute, regulations, executive orders and policies.**



# ASBO: One Program, Two Distinct Roles

## EPA Asbestos Ombudsman

Mandated under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)  
(15 U.S.C. § 2641-2656)

## EPA Small Business Ombudsman

Established under Section 507 of the  
1990 Clean Air Act amendments  
(42 U.S.C. § 7661f(d)).



# ASBO: Three Cross-Cutting Functions



## Advocate

We advocate for small business interests during the EPA rulemaking process



## Connect

We serve as the EPA small business liaison and connect small businesses to federal, state and local resources



## Serve

We provide hotline assistance to the general public and fund a national website to support small businesses in environmental regulatory compliance

# OSDBU's Strategic Goals 2018-2022

**Vision: A *Small Business First* culture that is fully integrated into EPA's core operations, programs and acquisitions over the next five years.**

- 1. Equip and engage OSDBU's workforce as a professional cadre of small business experts**
- 2. Operate as a valued partner in the work of EPA**
- 3. Serve as an effective advocate and resource for small businesses**
- 4. Continuously improve operational efficiency and effectiveness**



# ASBO's Small Business Experts

## 1. Equip and engage OSDBU's workforce as a professional cadre of small business experts

- **Three new team members**
  - **Small Business Ombudsman promoted from within**
  - **New program analyst with asbestos and rule-writing experience**
  - **New S.E.E. brings perspective from outside EPA**
- **Staff training and team development**

# ASBO's Partnerships

## 2. Operate as a valued partner in the work of EPA

### ➤ Inreach

- EPA program offices (e.g., Air, Water, Land, Chemical Safety)
- EPA Regional Offices
- EPA regulatory planning committee and policy office

### ➤ Outreach

- State SBEAPS and Ombudsmen
- Small Business Trade Associations
- Federal Agencies and general public

# ASBO Advocacy and Resources

## 3. Serve as an effective advocate and resource for small businesses

### ➤ EPA Rule Development

- Member of EPA's Regulatory Steering Committee
- Communicating Agency rulemakings and small business engagement activities via monthly bulletin and outreach events

### ➤ EPA Cooperative Agreement

- Fund and oversee Nationalsbeap.org website
- Support annual SBEAP Training

# ASBO Improvements

## 4. Continuously improve operational efficiency and effectiveness

### ➤ Internal Operations

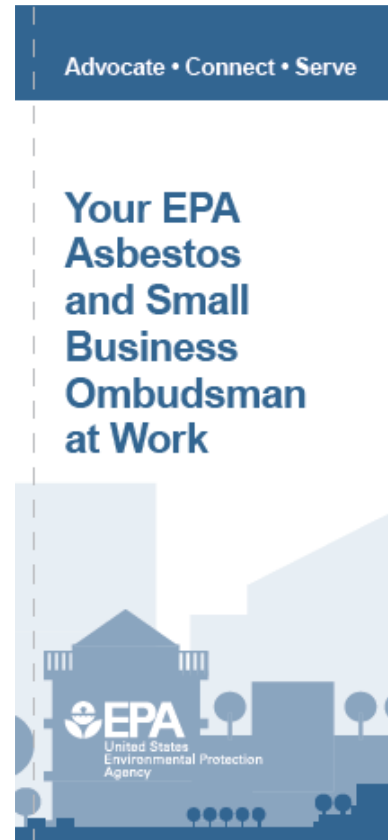
- EPA's ASBO Program Charter to clarify role and align within Agency
- Adapting to virtual collaboration environment

### ➤ Communications

- Redesigned the SmallBiz@EPA newsletter based on reader feedback
- Finalizing outreach materials and program guide to define and market ASBO Program and partnerships

# NEW! Outreach Materials

Trifold brochure



Promotional Flyer



# ASBO Goals: FY2021-2022

- **Develop ASBO reporting strategy and recommendation plan**
- **Improve communication channels throughout the country on environmental small business topics**
- **Support meaningful engagement with small business trade associations**
- **Strengthen internal EPA partnerships in ensuring early and two-way small business engagement opportunities**

# ASBO Team

Paula Hoag

**EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO)**

Lea Carmichael

**EPA ASBO - Program Analyst**

Elnora Thompson

**EPA ASBO - Management Analyst**

Harriet Edwards

**ASBO Hotline Staff/EPA S.E.E. Grantee**

Chester Eiland

**ASBO Hotline Staff/EPA S.E.E. Grantee**

Samuel Gila

**ASBO Communications Staff/EPA S.E.E. Grantee**

# Contact Us



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## OSDBU Main Line:

**(866) 618-7870 or (202) 566-2075**