

## **EPA Regional Small Business Liaisons (RSBLs)**

States are required under Section 507 of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments to have a Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) and Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) to help small businesses understand state and federal air emission regulations and to advocate on the business' behalf. It is essential that state programs closely interact with EPA to get regulatory questions answered, understand EPA priorities and emerging issues and provide input on behalf of the businesses they serve. Most programs are very small and serve large numbers of businesses. Therefore, sharing ideas and resources within the region can greatly enhance the ability of the programs to provide assistance. EPA benefits from this coordination by seeing better compliance rates and less need for enforcement. Since each region is unique, it makes sense that this coordination is done at the regional level.

The EPA Regional Small Business Liaison (RSBL) is the primary contact for SBEAPs and SBOs within each EPA region. RSBLs serve to connect SBEAPs/SBOs with EPA technical staff and keep them informed of pertinent issues within the agency.

RSBLs have technical knowledge of air emission regulations and connections with EPA technical experts. The RSBL role is flexible and can be tailored to meet the needs of each region.

However, there are certain core functions that RSBLs perform:

- Serve as a liaison between SBEAPs/SBOs and EPA regional staff. Facilitate connections with technical experts to answer questions and educate the programs when needed.
- Facilitate sharing of information among state programs in the region. This may include organizing or participating in regional calls or meetings at EPA regional headquarters.
- Provide insight on pertinent EPA topics that may impact small businesses (changes to rules, policies, priorities; opportunities to comment; etc.).
- Help identify small business assistance needs and communicate them to programs.