



## August 2012 Action Initiation List (as of 9/21/2012)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The following actions were initiated by EPA this month. Explanations of which EPA actions are included on this list and of each element of the table can be found at the end of this document.

The two most recent Action Initiation Lists (AILs) can always be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/search/ail.html>. But, they will not provide updates on the actions listed herein. Updates on priority rulemakings are available from EPA's Regulatory Development and Retrospective Review Tracker (RegDaRRT) on [www.epa.gov/rulemaking/](http://www.epa.gov/rulemaking/).

If one of the rules on this AIL is in RegDaRRT, a link to the rule's profile is included in the table below. For all rules – those that are in RegDaRRT and those that are not – you may obtain updates twice a year in EPA's Semiannual Regulatory Agenda, which is accessible from these Web sites:

- EPA's Laws, Regulations, Guidance and Dockets (<http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/search/regagenda.html>)
- RegInfo.gov (<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>)
- Regulations.gov (<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=UnifiedAgenda&agency=EPA&pubperiod=200710>)

Action Title	Stage	Contact	Abstract	Projected Publication Date
Air Quality: Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds -- Amendment to Definition with Respect to t-Butyl Acetate	NPRM	David Sanders 919-541-3356 Sanders.Dave@epa.gov	This NRPM proposes to amend the definition of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by removing t-butyl acetate from the group of compounds that are considered VOCs for purposes of all recordkeeping, emissions reporting, photochemical dispersion modeling and inventory requirements which apply to VOC but that are not considered VOCs for purposes of VOC emissions limitations or VOC content requirements. This action would add t-butyl acetate to the group of compounds which are not considered VOCs for any purpose.	12 months or less
Mercury and Air Toxics Standard (MATS) - New Source Reconsideration	NPRM	Bill Maxwell 919-541-5430 Maxwell.Bill@epa.gov	<p>EPA is reviewing new technical information associated with the new-source limits for toxics emitted from new power plants under the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS).</p> <p>The new information indicates that there may be technical challenges associated with monitoring mercury emissions at the levels set for new power plants. These new plants would continue to rely on the same proven pollution control technologies to reduce harmful mercury, acid gases, and particle pollution, which will provide important health benefits to the American public.</p> <p>EPA believes this information warrants further review and will follow an expedited, open, and transparent process that includes public comment on any proposed changes. The Agency will also use its Clean Air Act authority to stay the final standards for new power plants for 90 days during this technical review.</p>	12 months or less
Renewable Fuel Standard for 2014	NPRM	David Korotney Korotney.David@epa.gov 734-214-4507	The Energy Independence and Security Act requires the Administrator to promulgate rules establishing the applicable volumes of biomass-based diesel for 2013 and beyond and to do so no later than 14 months before the year for which such applicable volume will apply. This action will propose the 2014 biomass based diesel (BBD). Entities potentially affected by this final rule are those involved with the production, distribution, and sale of transportation fuels, including gasoline and diesel fuel or renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel.	12 months or less

## What EPA Actions Appear on the AILs?

Generally, AILs include those actions that 1) will appear in upcoming *Semiannual Regulatory Agenda* and 2) have been approved for commencement by EPA's Regulatory Policy Officer. In rare instances, an action will not appear on an AIL before it appears in the *Agenda*. Also, keep in mind that AILs will not post immediately. You can access a given month's list roughly 15 days after the close of the month (e.g., the April 2011 AIL will post sometime around May 15th).

## What Does Each Column in the AIL Mean?

**Title:** Self-explanatory.

**Stage:** The stage of an action describes where we are in the rule writing process, from the very beginning when a rule (or other action) is just an idea to the end when it is published as a final rule (or other action) in the Federal Register. For example, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) stage announces a proposed rule or proposed modification to an existing rule. In the AILs, the following acronyms are used:

- ANPRM - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- NPRM - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Supplemental - Supplemental NPRM
- Direct Final - Direct Final Action
- Interim Final – Interim Final Action
- Final – Final Action
- Section 610 Review – Agency Review under Section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act

**Contact:** Provides the name, phone, and email address for the EPA staff person assigned to this rule. Additionally, if a rule is in EPA's RegDaRRT ([www.epa.gov/rulemaking/](http://www.epa.gov/rulemaking/)), then a link to the rule's profile will be provided in this column.

**Abstract:** A brief summary of the action and its purpose.

**Projected Publication Date:** Since many variables affect how long it takes to write a rule or other action, it is difficult to predict a firm publication date when we have just started working on an action. Therefore, we insert one of two options in the "Projected Publication Date" column: 1) "12 months or less" and 2) "more than 12 months." These options give you some idea of how quickly we expect to complete an action.