

# FACTSHEET: Proposed rollbacks to the RMP

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The Coalition to Prevent Chemical Disasters

Credit: Chemical Safety Lab. Bio-Lab Inc. Conyers Fire and Chemical Release, 2024

## Background

### What is RMP?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Risk Management Program (RMP) rule was created to prevent chemical disasters by requiring proven safety practices at an estimated 11,500+ facilities that use, store and manufacture large quantities of toxic and flammable chemicals. Facilities regulated under the RMP are required to submit risk management plans that describe the potential risks at facilities and the actions being taken to prevent chemical disasters.

For decades, impacted workers, nearby residents, safety experts, and advocates have called on the EPA to strengthen this rule to protect workers and fenceline communities. Every year that stronger prevention measures are delayed, more chemical disasters occur, causing more injuries and deaths, and contaminating our communities' air and water.


**In 2024, EPA finalized a stronger Risk Management Plan rule ( the Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention or SCCAP), incorporating several protective measures including:**

- Chemical facilities in industry sectors with high incident rates must identify safer alternative substances and measures, and some must adopt them;
- Facilities must specifically prepare for natural hazards like hurricanes and flooding;
- Workers must be treated as key prevention partners, with stronger protections for workers to report compliance and safety issues and stop work in unsafe situations;
- Expanded emergency response measures and community access to information.

### Rollbacks proposed in 2026:

In February, EPA proposed a rule (Common Sense Approach to Chemical Accident Prevention or CSACAP) to **end, delay, and roll back critical protections** put in place by the 2024 SCCAP.

**The 2026 proposal would largely take our country backward on chemical emergencies and disasters, weaken health and safety protections for workers and first responders, and put communities — including children — in harm's way.**



## The Trump Administration's 2026 RMP proposal takes us backward on health and safety:

### **It eliminates a safer technologies assessment for many existing highly hazardous facilities**

The 2024 RMP rule called for some of the most hazardous facilities (oil refineries, chemical manufacturing plants) to conduct a Safer Technology and Alternatives Analysis (STAA). A STAA is important because it can identify opportunities for reducing risk by substituting a safer chemical, volume, or technology in place of a more hazardous one. In the proposed rule, only select *new* RMP facilities and modifications to existing facilities would be required to conduct a STAA. None would have to actually implement safer alternatives found in their analysis.

### **It eliminates specific requirements for facilities to assess natural hazards such as flooding, hurricanes, and wildfires**

Extreme weather and other natural hazards can cause or worsen accidental releases. And alarmingly, many RMP facilities are not adequately preparing for flooding, hurricanes, wildfires or loss of power in their current risk management plans. In 2026, EPA proposed removing explicit requirements for facilities to evaluate natural hazards.

### **It eliminates stop work authority and other worker safety protections**

Workers are the first line of defense against a chemical disaster, and in the 2024 final rule, there were important employee participation requirements to involve workers in hazard identification. These 2024 provisions included 1) stop work authority for the most hazardous facilities, 2) anonymous reporting of hazards and non-compliance, 3) training on workers' rights under the RMP rule and 4) consulting with workers to identify and address safety hazards. The 2026 proposed rule would eliminate these provisions.

### **It eliminates community emergency response notification system requirements**

The 2024 final rule required RMP facilities to establish a system, where one does not exist, to alert communities about emergencies and partner with local responders to ensure notifications were also available in the primary language of all nearby communities. The 2026 proposed rule removes this requirement and proposes to have facilities instead coordinate with local officials to provide necessary information through emergency response notification channels, if they exist.

### **It weakens information availability requirements**

The 2026 proposed rule eliminates requirements finalized in 2024 for facilities to make public when they've declined to implement safety recommendations related to natural hazards, power loss, siting, or bring facilities up to current codes, standards, or practices. It also eliminates the requirement to share RMP information in locally spoken languages. While the EPA has proposed to reinstate the public data tool, which is a helpful community resource, it will remove the mapping function, and make other changes that block common sense queries about RMP facilities.