

On August 1, 2013, the President signed an Executive Order (EO) to improve the safety and security of chemical facilities and reduce the risks of hazardous chemicals to workers and communities. The EO established a multi-agency Chemical Facility Safety and Security Working Group to help improve the way all levels of government and the private sector work together to help improve the safety and security of chemical facilities and surrounding communities. Specifically, the EO is intended, in part, to: 1) improve operational coordination with State and local partners; 2) enhance Federal agency coordination and information sharing; 3) modernize policies, regulations and standards; and 4) work with stakeholders to identify best practices.

The Working Group has scheduled several public listening sessions to provide an overview of, and progress made on each of the sections in the EO and to obtain feedback from the stakeholders described in the EO: chemical producers, chemical storage companies, agricultural supply companies, State and local regulators, chemical critical infrastructure owners and operators, first responders, labor organizations representing affected workers, environmental and community groups, and consensus standards organizations. Attendees will have an opportunity to provide individual input on the process and on specific areas of the EO. A listen only teleconference bridge will be available for those who cannot attend in person.

A copy of the EO can be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/08/01/executive-order-improving-chemical-facility-safety-and-security>. For more information on the public listening sessions, see the website at <https://www.govevents.com/index.php> or contact the Department of Homeland Security at eo.chemical@hq.dhs.gov.