ACC WELCOMES RULE TO BOLSTER CHEMICAL SAFETY PROGRAM

WASHINGTON (November 21, 2019) – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a final rule today to make changes to one of the primary programs that regulates safety at chemical facilities, the Risk Management Program (RMP). RMP regulates safety at more than 12,000 facilities nationally covered by the program and has helped EPA work with industry to reduce the number of accidental releases by 60 percent since the program has been in place.

The American Chemistry Council’s (ACC) Vice President of Regulatory and Technical Affairs, Mike Walls, issued the following statement welcoming the final rule:

“ACC and its members commend Administrator Wheeler for taking action to ensure that RMP continues to deliver solid results when it comes to regulating safety at chemical facilities.

“During EPA’s review of RMP, ACC and its members provided constructive input focused on ensuring that this program helps drive a high level of performance that has helped it become a well-regarded and trusted safety program.

“We commend the EPA for developing a rule that reflects the extensive feedback the agency received through a comprehensive and thoughtful process to seek public input. The agency wisely incorporated the recommendation to strike the right balance of sharing vital safety information with emergency responders and protecting sensitive security information. EPA also followed the recommendation to utilize the EPA’s latest data to identify areas where more focused compliance assistance is needed to help facilities further reduce the number of reportable safety incidents.

“Most importantly, EPA’s changes to RMP will provide a strong regulatory framework for our industry to continue our work to safeguard chemical facilities and to work with our state and local partners to plan for a potential emergency.”

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®; common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues; and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a $553 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is among the largest exporters in the nation, accounting for ten percent of all U.S. goods exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.