In a July 30, 2015, update to the guiding document for the Special Government Employee (SGE) program, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) expanded the role of SGEs in VPP evaluations, allowing the agency to make greater use of VPP company expertise.

Under the new guidelines, SGEs may assist with the review of new VPP applications and existing sites’ annual self-evaluations. Another key change is that employees at Department of Defense (DoD) VPP sites may now become SGEs. DoD utilizes VPP at dozens of sites to ensure mission
Mike Maddox, chairman of VPPPA, stressed the potential impact of these changes. "One of the key tenets of VPP is outreach. Through the SGE program, our members provide time and expertise to OSHA at no cost to the taxpayer. These improvements will expand the reach of VPP, ensuring that more workers are able to return home safe and sound to their families every day. We will continue to work with the administration, Congress and our membership to find ways to allow VPP to grow and thrive."

For more information, visit OSHA's [website](http://www.osha.gov).
Onsite Registration

Did you miss online registration? You can still register onsite at the conference Aug. 24-27. Save time and fill out the registration form beforehand, then bring it to the registration desk.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference! We've worked hard all year to make this a memorable experience for everyone involved. Trust us when we say you will not be disappointed! See you in Grapevine!

Call for Environmental & Health Articles

Do you utilize best practices that allow workers to stay healthier on-the-job? Have you developed training or technology that prepares workers to properly handle hazardous chemicals or other environmental hazards? Then share it with other members of VPPPA!

The next issue of The Leader will focus on environmental and health issues at worksites. If you or someone you work with would like to contribute an article for the next issue of The Leader, send the article to the Communications department at communications@vpppa.org.

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