



NEWSLETTER – January 2018

Message from Rob McConnell, President OFA:

I would like to thank all of our members who have renewed their membership for the coming year. This past year has been highlighted by the great conference we were able to provide our membership and culminating in a wonderful President's Dinner which all of us who attended had a wonderful evening filled with good food, camaraderie and great entertainment.

You should be aware that our Executive Director is working very hard to provide our members with meaningful information to help you in the success of your business. As well, he is working hard to maintain a positive and strategic relationship with our Allied Trades, Environment Canada, and The Ministry of Environment of Ontario, City of Toronto and other municipalities, our employees and the public.

He and our board of directors are already planning our next conference on Friday, October 11th and Saturday, October 12th at the Holiday Inn Hotel (Yorkdale) for the year. The theme of this year's conference is "Growth through Diversity" and this year, we are partnering with a number of American manufacturers who have come to recognize our association as a growing entity. There will be a number of presentations by top speakers to provide those in attendance help to grow your business and add new ideas to it. Make sure you diarize these dates as you will not want to miss this opportunity to increase your sales and reduce your costs.

Membership Renewal

Welcome back to all of our members that have renewed their membership for the current year. We are looking forward to a successful year of increased membership based on our achievements over the past years, as well as our future programming for this year. We are planning a conference that will provide our members with the tools and information that will assist you in making future choices to grow your businesses.

As our membership has grown to include at least five provinces, we are pursuing becoming a national association to represent dry and wet cleaners and launderers across Canada. Our association has gained prominence and respect from all branches of government and are contacted to get our views and opinions on regulations and legislation. At all times we represent our membership providing we are continuing to operate our plants under the Best Practices system, which includes Environmental Certification.

When we send out your 2018 membership certificate, we will include two OFA decals for you to place on both sides of your glass door or window. Unfortunately, due to the huge numbers required to have a two sided decal similar to the DLI decals; it is impractical to print them. The DLI decals will be sent out when we receive them.

New Membership - We are pleased to welcome Hassan Ghanei of Dove Cleaners in Toronto and John Seamone of Sunny Brae Laundry in Moncton, New Brunswick as members of OFA.

News of our Members

In acknowledgement of the professionalism shown by OFA and its' membership, **Artur Keyes of Extox Industries**, distributor of solvents and licensed carrier of disposable chemical waste has offered OFA members a discount of 5% providing that each cleaning plant maintains membership in OFA and maintains their environmental certification. For more information, contact *Extox Industries Inc. 6419 Netherhart Rd, Mississauga, Ontario L5T 1C3, Tel: (905) 670-7738 Ext: 103, Toll Free: 1 (800) 501-8601*

Congratulations to **Chris Haddad of Sudbury Steam Cleaners** for winning the Fabricare Canada Scholarship to DLI.

Congratulations to **Peter Blunden of East Coast Laundry Systems** for being chosen as Industry Person of the Year by Fabricare Canada Magazine. East Coast Laundry Systems is one of our newest members.

Reminder – If you have more than one location, you should consider adding those locations to our website list of member locations. This can mean more sales for your depots as consumers look for the closest member to where they live or work. The fee for each location is \$25.00+\$1.99 per decals=\$26.99 + HST (\$3.51) = \$30.50. Just send me the list of locations with an accompanying cheque or credit card information.



The annual Conference of the [Ontario Fabricare Association](#) took place in Toronto, on October 14 2017. Rob McConnell, the president of the OFA presented the 2017 accomplishments the OFA executive team has achieved this year. He emphasized an increase in membership, improved financials with a balanced statement, and the continuing collaboration of OFA with the Canadian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOE).

Following the Conference, an interesting symposium took place the 15th of October 2017, at Seneca College Newnham Campus, in Toronto. The Symposium focused in "Solvents and Best Environmental Practices", broadcasting videos on this topics all over Canada. The videos showcased the safe use of perchloroethylene (perc), one on the use of alternative solvents, and one on wet cleaning. Each video was followed by knowledgeable speakers on the various solvents and systems available. The attendees were welcomed by Bill Humber of Seneca College and Sid Chelsky, the Executive Director of the Ontario Fabricare Association. Seneca College is working with OFA and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for Canada in order to promote best environmental practices for dry cleaning.

Conference 2018 – We are already working on next year's conference and I can assure you that it will be even larger than this past one. I am working closely with a representative of five major manufacturers from the U.S.A. who want to partner with us under the banner of OFA and we will be scheduling a two day conference where operators from both dry cleaning and laundry plants will be able to learn from each other with the object of "**Growth through Diversity**". Please save the dates of Friday, October 12, 2018 and Saturday, October 13, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Hotel (Yorkdale). There will be many speakers and events taking place, each with the objective of helping you grow your business. We expect attendance from many of the Canadian Provinces as well as Ontario and from our neighbouring American states.

President's Dinner comments - *Nancy and I enjoyed seeing everyone on Saturday evening. It was wonderful seeing all the smiles, singing and laughter throughout the evening. Thank you for including the OFA dinner in your holiday calendar!

Rob McConnell, President

*Rob, the event was an amazing success! Nancy and you made the event that much better! Rob, please express our gratitude to the golf club for providing such a wonderful venue and service. Thank you Sid and all involved for all your work to make this year end, OFA event difficult to top.

Jim St. Pierre, National Sales Manager Jim@trilliumtlc.ca

*Good morning Board, Rob and Nancy, thank you for a beautiful evening. The Toronto Golf Club was the perfect venue. I personally enjoyed my version of the 12 days of Christmas. I hope everyone did as well. I did a real quick head count on Saturday night and I believe we had almost 100 guests. I am very excited with that number as we all should be. A true testament to the hard work that Sid is putting into the OFA as well as Rob's leadership and direction. I would be amiss if I did not mention all of the positive input from our great Board of Directors. I feel confident in saying that we all played a special part in this year's success of the OFA. We have had a great 2017! I would personally like to thank you all, and extend my warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas, and a healthy and safe Holiday season. God Bless you all! **Dino Kantzavelos, TSC Wetclean**

*Hi all, I firmly second Dino's comments! Was a great evening in every respect! The food, the comradery, the entertainment and the surroundings were all terrific. Thanks again Sid and Rob! **Clark McDaniel**

*It was fun, wasn't it? Thanks Dino for letting me crash the family table, and Rob & Nancy for letting JP play the piano and sing his little heart out later on. My brother the wannabe rock star... **Michelle Krulicki, Newtex**

*I second everyone's comments. It was a great evening. I think there were a few wannabe rock stars; I think I could have fallen into that category...lots of fun! Thank you, **Shelley Clair, Orr Cleaners**

With the New Year upon us, we should include the following in our New Year's Resolutions:

The Golden Rule

Buddhism- Hurt not others with that which pains yourself; **Christianity** – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
Hinduism – Treat others as you would have them treat you; **Islam** – Do unto all men as you would wish to have done to you
Judaism – What you yourself hate, do to no man; Native **American** – Live in harmony, because we all are related
Sacred Earth – Do as you will, as long as you harm no one

TSSA - Boiler Pressure Vessels

I attended a meeting on November 23, 2017 at the TSSA headquarters and will advise you as to what the new regulations will encompass as of July 1, 2018. For all boiler and pressure vessels that will be inspected by your insurance company, the inspector will issue a Report of Inspection (ROI), which will be electronically forwarded to TSSA and automatically result in an electronic invoice for the fee levied and after the fee is paid, an electronic Certificate of Inspection (COI) will be issued to the plant owner or manager. For those operators who are not computer literate or who require payment to be made by cheque, this method will be accommodated, but the COI will not be issued until payment has been received by TSSA. You should insure that all email correspondence from TSSA should be in your safe list on your email program, so that you do not miss any correspondence from them. The COI will list all pressure vessels on the premises

If there are no major problems with the inspection, then this will happen immediately after payment is made, which can be done by inputting your credit or debit card information. If there are any minor deficiencies that will not immediately affect the safe operation of the pressure vessel, then the ROI will state what the problems are and a COI will not be issued until the problems have been rectified. If a deficiency is found that is deemed to be a major safety issue, then the inspector is obligated to inform TSSA and they will send out their own inspector and red tag the equipment, so that it cannot be used until it is fixed. A reminder here is that all safety valves must be replaced every five years.

Previously there was discussion about inspection of all piping attached to any BPV, but this will not be done other than a visual inspection of the piping for any obvious deficiencies, such as leaking traps, etc.

The question was asked by some members why there are two inspections, one by the insurance company and another by TSSA and the answer is that the TSSA inspects plants with Operating Engineers as well as plants with unattended pressure vessels. The TSSA inspectors will do a plant inspection and verify the Operating Engineers Certificate to operate any of the BPV's. This inspection is usually done within a two year period, while the insurance one is done every year. When I asked why both inspections could not be done by the insurance inspector at one time, the reply was that the regular inspectors are not qualified to do the Operating Engineer inspection as these inspectors require a 2nd Class Engineers Certificate. You will probably continue to receive advance notice from your broker or insurance carrier that you are due for an inspection and can continue to work with them to do so on a convenient date for both parties. Remember, it is up to you to insure that your inspections are done before your current COI lapses and if it does lapse, you are in noncompliance of the regulations and subject to fines. For more information about the regulations under Power Engineers, visit the website www.ipe.org for more information.

The TSSA will begin the process of re-evaluating what pressure vessels should be registered and will remove those that do not meet the criteria and will be removed from the list of registered vessels.

On a recommendation from me, the TSSA has agreed to prepare a letter of explanation to all BPV operators of what the new regulations entail and how it will work.

I participated in the meeting of the TSSA in determining the cost of issuing the Certificates of Inspection and I am awaiting the final decisions on the fees to be charged.

*In order to utilize space and save paper, I am interspersing some humour throughout this newsletter.

HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN

I was testing the children in my Sunday School Class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven. I asked them, 'If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?' **'NO!'** the children answered. 'If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?' Again, the answer was, **'NO!'**

By now I was starting to smile. Hey, this was fun! Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?' Again, they all answered, **'NO!'** I was just bursting with pride for them. 'Well,' I continued, 'then how can I get into Heaven?'

A five-year-old boy shouted out, **'YOU GOTTA BE DEAD.'**

Editorial Comment

From time to time I hear complaints from cleaners that it is difficult to find good competent staff and keep them. Recently I read an article written by Brigette Hyacinth that highlights what I agree is one of the main causes of losing good employees. The real reason employees have no loyalty to corporations are that people do not leave bad jobs, they leave bad bosses. Most of the time an employee has an issue with a company; it is something relating to their boss.

There are seven reasons why employees have no loyalty to corporations: *Not valuing employees or appreciating their contributions. *Inflexibility in breaks, lunch time, works from home, sick days, family leave, and further education. *Trespassing on their personal time. Asking them to leave the office late, work on weekends or interrupting them while on vacation. *Showing no interest in their personal development. *Not caring about them as a person or showing concern especially when they are dealing with illness, bereavement...etc. *Always looking to blame others and not standing up for your team. Lack of trust - Micromanaging them. You monitor their every movement.

If you treat people right they will treat you right 90 % of the time." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

My own experience over the years as an owner of a dry cleaning and laundry plant made me proud of the fact that my employees, especially my counter people were proud of working for our company and my family. They showed this pride in their conversations with our customers and continuously praised us. Customers love to hear that the people they are dealing with are loved and respected and are happy in their jobs. It creates a bond between customer and company. In addition, we all know how costly it is in time and money to train new staff to replace those employees that leave.

A recent quote in the TRSA newsletter also said the following: "Empower your employees with professional education to demonstrate your commitment to their development and growth, and improve retention and performance at the same time".

I personally believe that if you take care of your employees, they will take care of your customers.

*I previously have sent out emails and printed articles to support these beliefs and would like to thank the many members who have responded with positive comments about the articles. I will continue to send out article that will help you communicate with your employees better and improve your company image.

Did you know?

- If you die without a will, Ontario law (not you) decides who gets the things you worked so hard for.
- Marriage automatically revokes your will. This means that any will you made prior to your marriage is revoked, subject to some technical exceptions.
- Separation does not revoke your will. If you are separated you should consider making a new will.
- Without a will, your children will get their inheritance at 18, regardless of their level of maturity. If you make a will you can specify that your children have to wait until a later age such as 25. In your will you can set up an encroachable trust that allows your executor to take out money earlier if your children need it for medical care, education, etc.
- Many store bought will kits and internet forms are based on laws outside of Ontario or your province or state and may not reflect your province or state law. Doing it yourself may lead to improper wording or overlooked details that could affect the outcome.
- You can insert a special clause in your will to prevent your son-in-law or daughter-in-law from benefiting from your estate in case they separate or get divorced from your child after your death.
- Without a will, there is no guardian appointed to look after your minor children
- There are strategies to minimize probate tax on your death.

*To succeed in **POLITICS**, you must know how to game the system. For the record, any assertion that I am cynical is greatly exaggerated! So I told my son "I want you to marry a girl of my choice!" He said "**NO!**" I told him it Bill Gates daughter!!!! He said "**OKAY!**" Got in contact with Bill Gates & told him "I want your daughter to marry my son!" He said "**NO!**" Told him my son was the CEO of the World Bank! He said "**OKAY!**"

Went to the President of the World Bank & told him to make my son CEO of the Bank! He said "**NO!**" Told him my son was Bill Gates Son in Law! He said "**OKAY!**"

*That's exactly how **Politics** works...

BTW, my son Jeff is the Senior Economist of the World Bank, based in Washington D.C.

Price Survey

	Population up to 500.000	LOW	HIGH	Average	LOW	HIGH	Average	% + or -
	ITEM	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2018	
1	Pants, plain	6.45	14.75	9.17	6.77	10.50	9.96	9%
2	2 Piece Suit	15.80	30.95	20.25	16.59	32.50	22.13	9%
3	Suit Jacket	8.10	18.95	11.78	8.51	19.90	12.54	6%
4	Down Jacket	19.95	32.95	25.21	20.95	34.60	26.77	6%
5	Canada Goose Jacket	19.95	40.22	34.31	35.00	60.27	38.43	12%
6	Canada Goose Coat	21.95	61.95	37.40	23.05	65.05	42.83	15%
7	Blouse, cotton	4.99	9.45	7.20	5.78	11.85	8.23	14%
8	Blouse, silk	6.55	14.60	9.18	6.88	18.25	10.16	11%
9	Dress, plain	12.50	22.35	16.77	13.13	23.47	18.58	11%
10	Dress, silk	13.90	27.35	20.03	14.29	26.15	22.21	11%
11	Skirt, plain	8.42	14.75	9.69	6.35	15.49	10.09	4%
12	Shirt, dry cleaned	3.95	9.45	6.24	4.25	11.85	6.70	7%
13	Shirt, laundered on hanger	3.40	7.35	3.91	2.66	7.72	4.41	13%
14	Shirt, laundered folded	2.34	8.90	4.43	2.46	9.35	4.80	8%
15	Shirt, golf	3.50	6.50	4.67	3.68	7.45	5.09	9%
16	Scarf	4.29	12.75	7.48	4.71	13.39	7.99	7%
17	Sweater (up)	6.45	214.50	9.24	5.77	15.23	9.85	7%
18	Overcoat	11.60	29.75	19.70	20.00	31.24	21.22	8%
19	Sweater (bulky, cashmere)	8.25	15.75	10.31	8.90	16.54	11.23	9%
20	Tie (up)	4.30	10.35	6.32	4.52	10.87	6.46	2%
21	Trench Coat	14.30	29.75	19.60	15.02	31.45	21.67	11%
22	Wedding gown (up)	85.10	206.50	140.79	125.00	264.25	138.70	-1%
23	Comforter, Queen Size	22.50	45.00	28.95	23.94	47.25	30.90	7%
24	Down Duvet, Queen Size	32.00	57.25	39.25	33.76	60.11	42.92	9%
25	Duvet Cover, Queen Size	14.10	32.50	21.92	14.81	35.00	26.67	22%
26	Sheet Fitted, Queen Size	2.09	10.75	7.19	2.19	12.50	8.76	22%
27	Sheet Flat Queen Size	1.33	10.00	6.38	1.40	11.00	7.23	13%
28	Pillow Case	0.70	5.00	2.40	0.74	5.60	3.21	34%
29	Table Cloth Plain 6'	8.40	15.30	11.99	8.82	16.07	12.93	8%
30	Table Cloth Lace	12.00	25.80	10.73	15.00	19.35	16.09	50%
	Average price increase							12%

I would like to thank all those members who submitted and participated in the surveys and I hope that you that you will benefit from the results. For those who did not participate, I believe that you have missed an opportunity to have your numbers represented in determining the average wages and prices that are shown here.

If I may suggest, it is important that each of us understand the cost of production of each of the items we process. For example, take a one hour period and count the number of any particular item that you process and calculate the labour costs, utility costs, administration costs, packaging costs, and many other costs that need to be figured into the price you eventually charge. Do not forget to include your own time as well as a profit for your efforts. Do not forget to repeat the test a number of times in order to find the average pieces per hour produced.

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

All of us are doing the best we can to make a living from our businesses in an ever more difficult market-place. Increased competition or competitors 'cutting prices', the cost of consumables constantly increasing with the value of the Dollar dropping versus foreign currencies, customers being increasingly resistant to any price increase..... The list of daily problems trying to make ends meet is almost endless. We've all been there – and the last thing you need right now is someone, anyone, telling you what you already know.

SOLUTIONS & ANSWERS ARE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR!

Unfortunately, there is no simple 'One size fits all' solution. If it was that easy none of us would be in the position many are in today. All we can realistically do is the try and 'objectively' break down the various issues into smaller 'bite-sized' chunks – and deal with one issue at a time.

As Launderers and Cleaners, we are paid (hopefully) to restore all items entrusted to our care to as near new condition as possible – but as the proverb goes – 'It's not possible to make a silk purse from a Pig's ear' – and our customers often have unreasonable expectations – especially if the fabrics they sent to us are old or have been 'abused' – or were simply unsuitable for whatever reason they were originally purchased.

We have all learned that the: - **'Impossible we can do at once – but miracles take a little longer and a lot of practice'**.

However, when things do go wrong or when the customer is unhappy with what has happened to their textiles, invariably it is the Launderer or Cleaner who takes the blame – and, in some instances, such blame is justified. But, in many instances we have encountered over the years, the cause(s) are invariably because the customer has purchased the wrong fabric – or – what they expected was not what they actually received – and – as is often the case - it's not until the fabric has been in use for 6 or 9 months that the defects start to be seen – and, of course, by that time it's too late!! The damage has been done and someone is going to pay! **Guess Who?**

There are certain principles that work for us - which you may wish to consider:-

Very few clients (potential or existing) will ever complain - They will simply not respond and go elsewhere – or even worse – Post their complaint/grievance on Social Media!!! The reason for this is that few people enjoy or want any 'confrontation' and many companies and individuals react in a hostile manner if ever a client complains. What they (the company) don't seem to realize is that when a client (or even member of staff) complains they are 'helping' the company by high-lighting potential improvements that can be made in their business.

A 'Proactive' company will have already trained ALL staff to ask the client

'Are you happy with everything?' 'Is there anything we can improve?', 'If you had a magic wand, what would you like to see improved/done better?' and so on.

It is only by asking input from the customer can quality, service, etc. be improved;

Most people cannot handle 'criticism' - even constructive criticism.

Never tell anyone what they are doing wrong without coming up with an alternative proposal that will help to improve - with an explanation. And even then, demonstration is often necessary to show what changes are required.

Many employers will 'judge', 'criticize' the performance of an employee - but are unable to demonstrate how the job could/should be done better. Even the most basic function, e.g. Answering the office telephone - needs training.

- Answering within the first 3 rings;
- If an automatic 'answering service' is used – is the message clear, concise and audible?
- If music is played whilst on hold – is it pleasant and good quality? – and how long is it played before the caller hears a human voice?
- How we speak (is their 'Sunshine' in our voice?),
- Do not speak too quickly (especially in a country with multiple languages and accents which can be difficult to understand),
- Thank the person for calling,
- Give your name and the company name
- Ask who does the person want to speak to (or what is the nature of their enquiry to ensure they are transferred to the correct person),
- Knowing who is in/out of the building or in meetings and ensuring a 'call-back' is both promised and made etc. etc.

How many customers have been 'lost' because of poor telephone contact?

We only ever get one chance at 'First impressions'!

How often have you been told 'I'll call back in 5 mins (or just now).' And the return call never materializes? Many people tell you what they think you want to hear - just to get rid of you - and then promptly forget about you.

It does not matter if it is an invite to a party/wedding/function/cup of coffee - one can almost guarantee that from 10 people – at least 3 will simply fail to turn -up - and even worse - they do not even telephone or apologize. They simply do not turn up.

If you say you are going to do something – DO IT! – and within the time frame agreed.

The most valuable thing in our lives - TIME:

If you lose \$5.00 - you can always get another \$5.00 - BUT - If you lose 5 mins - it has gone forever - and you can never get it back. This is a universal truth and applies to all of us. Therefore, for example, if someone writes you an email - they have given me the most important thing they have in their lives - which is their time to write the email. If you fail to respond to them - You are telling them they are not important, and you have just insulted them by telling them, by your inaction, that their time has no value to you.

Just a few ideas worth thinking about – that may be of value to YOUR business

***The Marriage Dictionary**

*A new dictionary is soon to come out, defining some issues in marriage that people were curious about. Here are some of the definitions we thought we'd offer to include in it:

Bachelor

1. A man who has been able to avoid the opportunity of making some woman miserable.
2. A man who is said to be foot-loose and fiancée-free.
3. A man who never made the same mistake once.
4. A bad boy who has cheated some poor girl out of her alimony.
5. A person who believes in life, liberty, and the happiness of pursuit.
6. The only man who has never told a wife a lie.

Bride - A girl with great prospects of happiness behind her.

Compromise - A nice little arrangement between husband and wife whereby they both fully agree to let her have her own way.

Diplomat - A man who is able to convince his wife that a fur coat would make her look fat.

Gentleman - A husband who holds the stepladder tightly so his wife doesn't fall while she's painting the ceiling.

- A man who notices his wife dropping her knitting and immediately kicks it over to her so that she can pick it up.

Housework - What a wife does without anyone noticing it until she doesn't do it.

Husband - A man who has decided to give up privileges he never knew he had.

- A guy who controls the house and everyone in it, and is allowed by his wife to say so.

Joint Checking Account - A great little device which allows a wife to beat a husband to the draw.

Love - An obsessive delusion easily cured by a wedding.

Mother-in-Law - A woman who slowly destroys a man's peace of mind by telling him what's on hers.

Mrs. - A job title involving long duties, very light earnings and zero recognition.

Spouse - Someone who will protect you, help you and help you solve all the problems you wouldn't have had if you'd stayed single.

Wife - A partner who is always complaining that she doesn't have a thing to wear at the exact same time she complains about not having enough room in the closet.

EPA begins review of perc regulations (As reported in National Clotheline)

While the list of available drycleaning solvents has grown, perc remains the solvent of choice for the majority of drycleaners in the United States, thus when the Environmental Protection Agency says it is reviewing the chemical for possible further regulation, the drycleaning industry pays attention.

The review process has just begun, is likely to take years to complete and is unlikely to result in a ban of perc use in drycleaning, according to Faye Graul, executive director of the Halogenated Solvents Institute Alliance, an organization that represents manufacturers, producers, distributors and commercial users of perc and other halogenated solvents.

Still, perc was one of 10 chemicals that EPA placed on a list for further evaluation of potential risks to human health and the environment as directed by Congress in amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act passed last year.

The TSCA directed EPA to "determine whether a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment, without consideration of costs or other non-risk factors, including an unreasonable risk to a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation identified as relevant to the risk evaluation by the Administrator under the conditions of use."

The first step in that evaluation was a "scope document" that reviews the hazards, exposures and conditions of use for each chemical. That document was released last summer, followed by a second "problem formulation" document intended to refine the scope based on additional data from the public.

EPA said the scope documents for the first 10 chemicals were not as refined or specific as future scope documents will be and there was insufficient time for EPA to provide an opportunity for comment on the drafts of these scope documents, thus the additional comments sought for the "problem formulation" document.

That will add another six months to the process, Graul said, and ultimately it is likely to take EPA five years to make its final determinations.

The Trump Administration, she said, is more interested in the way chemicals are supposed to be used and ensuring that proper controls and disposal methods are implemented. As long as drycleaners are using perc correctly, there shouldn't be any problems for perc, she said.

EPA has been regulating perc for more than 30 years with rules governing waste disposal and emissions to air, water and soil. Over that time, the amount of perc used in drycleaning has declined as cleaners switched to more efficient equipment, improved their handling practices and operational procedures and, in many cases, stopped using it altogether in favor of one of the alternative cleaning solvents.

In comments filed with EPA, the National Cleaners Association and the Drycleaning and Laundry Institute said between 1985 and 2009 there was a 92 percent reduction in perc use by drycleaners. In the 1980s, more than 80 percent of drycleaners were using perc; that number is now nearer 60 percent, according to the two associations.

"DLI and NCA do not believe that there is an increased risk to public health and the environment from drycleaners who utilize tetrachloroethylene (perc) as their primary solvent," they told EPA. "Any future decision to reduce or phase out the use of perc in drycleaning will put an oppressive burden on thousands of cleaners, especially those for whom alternative cleaning technologies are not a viable option." Additional regulations, they added, would do little to reduce the negligible risks of perc while threatening the viability of thousands of drycleaners.

EPA said that drycleaners are the second largest users of perc in the United States, although at 15 percent of the total, the industry's use is a distant second in to the use of perc in the production of fluorinated compounds, which consumes about two-thirds of the perc.

That contrasts with the 1970s when, according to EPA, 58 percent of the perc produced was used in drycleaning and textile processing.

Some of that decline in perc use was pushed by regulations. In 1993 and again in 2006 EPA introduced regulations that placed tighter controls on air emissions from perc drycleaning plants that led to the phase-out of older drycleaning equipment in favor of new, more efficient machines that reduced emissions and increased solvent mileage.

Over those years, states added their own rules for drycleaners using perc, most notably California, where a planned phase-out of perc was adopted in 2006. Under that law, there should be no more perc drycleaning in California by 2023.

New York was considering a perc phase-out last year, but has since decided against it in favor of updating its rules for perc drycleaners that were adopted 20 years ago.

At the same time, however, the state is considering new regulations that could affect the use of alternative solvents in New York.

Also on EPA's list of 10 chemicals for review is trichloroethylene (TCE). The agency has proposed to ban its use in stain removal for drycleaners, but that plan appears to be on the back burner after The U.S. House Appropriations Committee urged EPA to back off its proposed ban.