



Toxics Release Inventory: Data Uses, Transparency and Access Enhancements

May 12, 2010



Session Objectives

- Discuss how TRI supports public understanding and environmental decision-making
- Provide an overview of efforts to enhance TRI data and information services

Background on TRI

- TRI requires certain facilities in the manufacturing, mining, electricity generation, and other sectors to report annually their release and other waste management (e.g., recycling) quantities for the 650+ TRI-listed chemicals
- Federal facilities report pursuant to Executive Order
- EPA compiles the TRI data each year and makes it available to the public through several data access tools



Use of Release Form



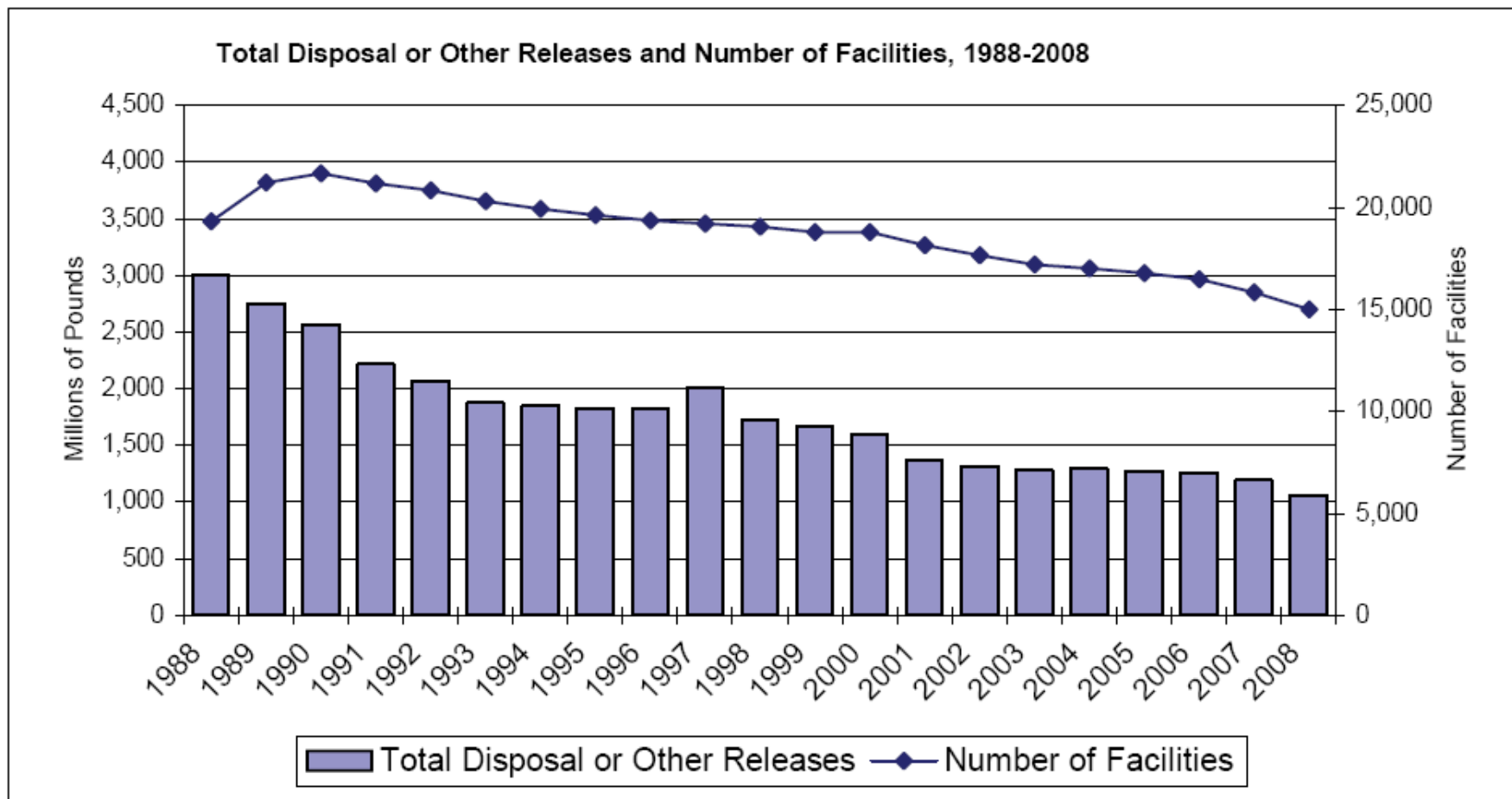
The statute lists the following:

- To provide information to the Federal, State, and local governments and the public, including citizens of communities surrounding covered facilities
- To inform persons about releases of toxic chemicals to the environment
- To assist governmental agencies, researchers, and other persons in the conduct of research and data gathering
- To aid in the development of appropriate regulations, guidelines, and standards
- “For other similar purposes”

Longevity and Scope



The following table displays total disposal or other releases and number of facilities for the core set of chemicals and industry sectors that have been on the TRI list and have had the same reporting definition since 1988.



Source: Page 37 of the 2008 TRI National Analysis Key Findings document, accessible from the TRI website at:

http://www.epa.gov/tri/tridata/tri08/national_analysis/pdr/TRI_key_findings_2008.pdf

For Conference Purposes Only

TRI Stakeholders



Stakeholders who use TRI data include:

- Concerned Citizens
- Community and Environmental Organizations
- Workers and Unions
- Industry
- Government (Federal, State, and Local)
- Academia / Researchers
- Investors
- International Community

TRI Data Uses



A description of some of the many ways the range of stakeholders use TRI data can be found in a May 2003 EPA document titled “How are the Toxics Release Inventory Data Used?”, available from the TRI website at:

http://www.epa.gov/tri/guide_docs/pdf/2003/2003_datausepaper.pdf

TRI Data Uses (*cont.*)



Industry uses the TRI data to:

- Reduce costs
- Improve internal auditing
- Stimulate more efficient use of chemicals
- Track progress
- Demonstrate progress to the public
- Promote good relations with the community

TRI Data Uses (*cont.*)



In 2005, the 441 facilities in the paint & coatings sector reported to TRI 4 million pounds of toxic chemical (*e.g.*, toluene, xylene) air emissions. Between 1996 and 2005, this sector's absolute TRI-reported air emissions declined by about 57%.

Source: EPA's 2008 Sector Performance Report

<http://www.epa.gov/sectors/pdf/2008/2008-sector-report-508-full.pdf>



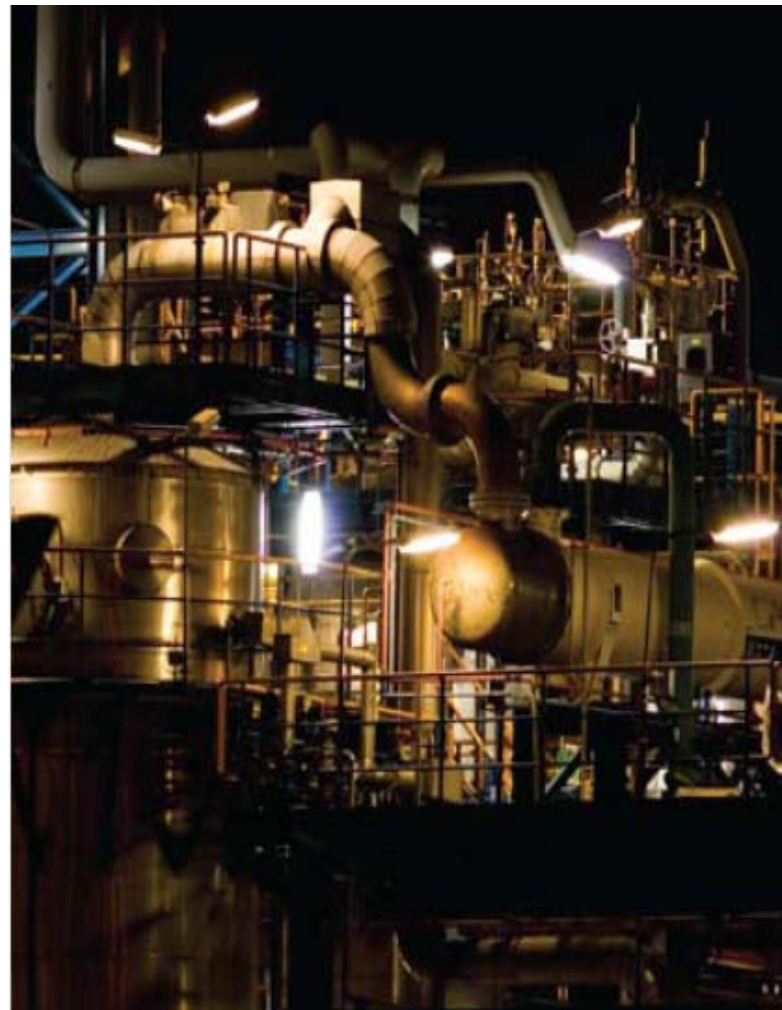
TRI Data Uses (*cont.*)



In 2005, 3,096 facilities in the chemical manufacturing sector reported to TRI 201 million pounds of toxic chemical (e.g., ammonia, methanol) air emissions. Between 1996 and 2005, this sector's absolute TRI-reported air emissions declined by about 51%. Facility-level analysis of TRI data indicate that this reduction was driven by a decline in the quantity of chemicals released by facilities that reported across all years, rather than being driven by a reduced number of reporters.

Source: EPA's 2008 Sector Performance Report

<http://www.epa.gov/sectors/pdf/2008/2008-sector-report-508-full.pdf>



TRI Data Uses (*cont.*)



Federal, state, and local governments use TRI data to:

- Aid in the development of legislation, regulations, policies, and guidance
- Encourage pollution prevention (P2) and environmental improvements
- Measure environmental performance
- Inform decision-making and set priorities
- Evaluate environmental justice (EJ) concerns
- Determine priorities for environmental compliance and enforcement efforts

Enhance TRI Data & Information Services

The TRI Program is exploring ways to better serve its stakeholders and data users by:

- Re-examining the scope of TRI
- Facilitating the TRI reporting process
- Providing timely, transparent TRI data to the public
- Encouraging participation and collaboration in using TRI data

Re-examine the Scope of TRI

- Adding Chemicals to TRI List:
 - On February 26, 2010, EPA announced that it is considering lifting the Administrative Stay of the TRI reporting requirements for hydrogen sulfide
 - On April 6, 2010, EPA proposed adding 16 chemicals reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogens to the TRI Chemical List
 - EPA is also evaluating selected phthalates for addition to TRI
- Adding Sectors to TRI:
 - The program is currently exploring possibilities for adding sectors, including evaluating sectors reporting in other countries, sectors that would add important information to TRI, etc.

Facilitate the TRI Reporting Process

- TRI State Data Exchange – now 26 state partners
- Full implementation of TRI-MEweb
- Enhancements of TRI-MEweb for Reporting Year 2009
 - POTW pull-down list
 - Standardizing parent company information

Provide Timely and Transparent TRI Data



- Early Sharing of 2008 TRI Data (reported to EPA by July 1, 2009)
 - Posted ~88,800 submissions within 49 days of collection (released August 8, 2009)
 - Made possible by streamlining entire TRI operation and use of TRI-MEweb
 - Made TRI data files more readily available to the public through Data.gov
 - Resulted in 10-fold increase of users' downloads of TRI data from the TRI Web site, compared to the same period of time (July – September) the previous year
 - Released National Analysis the same year as collection
- Expect to improve context in and provide “early data sharing” sooner for the 2009 TRI Data (reported to EPA by July 1, 2010)

Encourage Participation & Collaboration in Using TRI Data



- Chemicalright2know.org --Collaborative Web site launched mid-2009 through an EPA cooperative agreement with the Environmental Council of States (ECOS)
- Designed to serve a variety of data users and stakeholders -- communities, environmental organizations, industry, academia, etc.
- Provides a forum for sharing
 - Analyses of TRI data and related hazards/risks
 - Success stories in using TRI data
- Use social networking media to invite public participation in TRI activities:
 - TRI Webinars
 - Blogs to invite preliminary public input on TRI activities (e.g., blog on TRI reporting by the metal mining industry)



www.ChemicalRight2Know.org



For additional information:

Please contact:

- Larry Reisman
 - reisman.larry@epa.gov
 - 202-566-0751
- Peggy Bagnoli
 - bagnoli.peggy@epa.gov
 - 202-566-1230