

EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call

March 15, 2022

Summary of Questions and Answers

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today. The purpose of these engagement calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open

o Webpage with information about upcoming calls: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

o For up-to-date information about Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: join-epa-

o Follow us on Twitter: [@EPAEnvJustice](https://twitter.com/EPAEnvJustice)

o Meeting materials and recordings for this call and all past calls will be here: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>

o Send follow-up questions or comments to: Environmental-Justice@epa.gov

| Question | Asker Name | Answer |
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| Welcome Robin! | Liz Ellis | We are excited to have Robin with us! Robin Morris Collin, EPA Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice < collin.robin@epa.gov > |
| The current administration is committed to mitigating climate change and improving air quality in environmental justice communities through CAA enforcement. What assistance can the EPA give to impacted BIPOC communities in New York City due to pollution from the explosive growth of Last-Mile trucking facilities, which are not regulated by local zoning laws. Teraine Okpoko, to@lawtopc.com | Teraine Okpoko | Hi Teraine, thank you very much for your question. Please reach out to the EPA Region 2 EJ Coordinator Towana Joseph (joseph.towana@epa.gov) |
| 1. Can you post a link here in the Q&A/chat to where the slides have been posted online? 2. Will the recording of this meeting also be posted online, and if so, when? | Anonymous Attendee | Hello, yes the slides are currently available on this page, where the recording for this call will also be posted: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls . Materials and recordings for past calls are available there as well. Thank you! |
| I apologize if you stated this, is TRI data available for download? | Angela Mayer | yes, you can download the data here: https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/tri-data-and-tools The tool Caitlin is showing is here: https://www.epa.gov/trinationalanalysis/where-you-live For a very informative, easy way to access the data, EPA recommends the tool at the bottom of www.epa.gov/tri Look for the basic and basic plus data files |
| Hello - would you be up for listing air releases in the context of the NAAQs and SILs levels, since those units are not in pounds and some of the criteria pollutants are often reported by the states in tons | "naomi yoder (they/them), Healthy Gulf " | Naomi, I will pass this along to the TRI team. Facilities are required to report their data in pounds, except for dioxins, which are reported in grams. |
| Can you please provide an example of the community profile layer combined with PFAS data? | Julia Nagy | live answered |
| (and/or some method of illustrating and analysing cumulative impact using the TRI data) | "naomi yoder (they/them), Healthy Gulf " | Naomi - our Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) tool does take into account releases from multiple facilities in an area when calculating the risk-screening score. There's more about RSEI at www.epa.gov/rsei . Easy RSEI has a dashboard that you can use here: https://edap.epa.gov/public/extensions/EasyRSEI/EasyRSEI.html ? |
| What is the reference demographic for the percentiles (for census block group)? | "naomi yoder (they/them), Healthy Gulf " | Naomi, the tool Caitlin was showing is using 'demographic index' from EJ Screen |

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| Thank you Sara! Follow up question, is the data cumulative or is each reporting period separate? I have had problems with cumulative data from the drinking water data portal. | Angela Mayer | Angela, the data are specific to one calendar year, unless otherwise indicated. The tools Caitlin are showing are only for one calendar year as are most of the TRI tools. Some TRI tools can present cumulative results, very few do it as a default. |
| Could you reiterate the definition of a release under TRI. | "Scott Hebner, Reclamation " | Releases are explained here: https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/common-tri-terms |
| Also, please consider using a separate demographic (a third category) for indigenous people since these populations often don't show up as a signal in the "overall % POC" of a census block group | "naomi yoder (they/them), Healthy Gulf " | Thank you for the suggestion, Naomi. We do have a separate tool for showing TRI data for facilities on and near tribal lands, but I'll pass along your recommendation. |
| Can you speak to the accuracy of the self-reported TRI data? What data do you collect and use to validate the levels of chemicals that facilities report releasing? How well do those measures align with the TRI reports? | Elizabeth Kamai | Elizabeth, EPA has a very comprehensive, data quality process for the TRI Program. You can read more here: https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/tri-data-quality Submitted TRI data are checked extensively through an ongoing data quality process. More information here https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/tri-data-quality |
| Does the decrease in TRI chem releases follow decreased production? | Liz Anderson Dakota Resource Council she her | live answered |
| Thank you Caitlin. Is the PFAS data reporting voluntary or required? | Julia Nagy | PFAS reporting is required for facilities that meet the reporting requirements of TRI. |
| '@Sarah & @Judy, thank you for that link. Those QC procedures do not appear to include chemical level measurements. Could you direct me to where I might find that information, if available? | Elizabeth Kamai | Elizabeth, are you asking how we verify the exact amount of the chemical the facility reported releasing? EPA does not conduct real-time monitoring at facilities if that's what you're referring to. That is done in some locations at the municipal level. |
| '@Sarah - thanks. I think then these are probably comments for EJ Screen then but I'd be so grateful if you could pass that along. While tribal lands are important, we also have tens of thousands of indigenous people living on the Gulf Coast that are either not federally recognized or do not have a reservation. The EPA has the power to change the way we as a nation face our past and the ways indigenous people have been systematically discriminated against since colonization. Please put this antiracist policy forward and as a start, incorporate indigenous concerns into the data analysis. | "naomi yoder (they/them), Healthy Gulf " | Hey Naomi - absolutely great point. We have been working with our tribal program and others on exactly this issue and have some solutions that we think will be great improvements. We were trying to get them ready for the February update and just couldn't get them there in time, but are going to get them into our next update which we hope to put out over the summer |
| The Ravensworth Generating Station is one of New York City's biggest polluters. What can be done to support the local BIPOC/EJ community in transitioning to a clean grid in line with the CAA and Justice40 initiative. The community has been suffering health challenges for a long time without recourse and wants a stop to harmful emissions from this power plant. Teraine Okpoko, to@lawtopc.com | Teraine Okpoko | Hi Teraine, thank you for this important information. I will pass this along to the EPA Region 2 coordinator whose name I mentioned to you before. |
| Please repeat which year AirToxScreen will start being produced every year. -- Thanks. | Anonymous Attendee | live answered |
| Is TRI data incorporated into the NEI and/or AirToxScreen? | DBM | live answered If a facility reports air releases of a chemical to TRI and a State/Local/Tribal Air Agency does not report air emissions of that chemical for that facility to the National Emission Inventory, then the TRI data is incorporated into the National Emission Inventory and AirToxScreen. |

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| '@Sarah, yes. Do you verify any sample of reports? Or @Judy do you compare any municipal level data with facility reports? | Elizabeth Kamai | Elizabeth, the software facilities use to report has a number of built-in data quality checks. We also do data quality checks throughout the year, looking at outliers and following up with individual facilities. TRI Regional Coordinators also do periodic inspections, and TRI data do get compared to facility permit limits. The TRI regulations do not include any third party verification of the data, including verification measurements by EPA. The regulations do require facilities provide their best estimate for the data and requires they maintain documentation, calculations, worksheets, and other forms upon which they relied to gather data and information for compliance determinations and are expected to present such documents in the event that EPA conducts an inspection or requests such information. Any locally monitored data along with any other available data sources potentially could be considered by EPA's enforcement office in the decision to inspect a facility. |
| Will the slides be available? | Thompson | Hi Thompson, yes the slides are currently available here: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls |
| Great presentations today. Our Regional Environmental Health Data app (or EHD) has linked to and pulled in TRI data at the block group level via an API connection. (Here's the link: https://qlikviz.epa.gov/sense/app/548ec18e-611a-4ce1-a9a9-3d83d05cb306/sheet/AhreC/state/analysis?qlikTicket=XVgm6g.9YrtYGmst). Additionally, we've added other variables that one can look at alongside this data. We also have a county app that doesn't have TRI but it has a lot of AQ, EJ, Radon and BLL variables (and we've worked with Cherokee Nation in OK to incorporate some of their data). The apps also have a scatter plot (to tease out hotspots), tabular data that one can sort from highest to lowest, and a trend chart to note data over the years. (Here's the link to the county app: https://edap.epa.gov/public/extensions/EHD_public/EHD_public.html). Let me know if you have any comments/questions about these apps. Thank you for these wonderful presentations...looking forward to future discussions! | "Sala N. Senkayi, PhD. - USEPA Region 6 " | Thanks for providing these links, Sala. We can take a look at the R6 apps and get back to you with comments. |
| Will all sources be updated annually in AirToxScreen? (Specifically interested in mobile source emissions, diesel particulate matter) Thanks! | Sarah Harrison | live answered |
| If that info (on EJ Screen example) is from 2017 , why not just get the info from here? https://www.airnow.gov/ | Anonymous Attendee | Airnow displays measured ambient data and AQI predictions for criteria air pollutants having a national ambient air quality standard, while AirToxScreen models air toxic emissions from a certain year and displays estimated chronic cancer risks from just the toxic emissions. (adding onto Caroline's answer) Airnow informs how today's measured ozone and particulate matter in the air and tomorrow's predicted air quality may impact you in the here and now. While AirToxScreen estimates chronic risk from breathing air toxics over many years. |
| Will the data be available in the link to the ArcGis mapping databases? | Kelly Hale | live answered |
| will the mapping tool also show locations of the various Sources in relation to the mapping? | Alice Sung (she/her) | live answered |
| Is 5 year old emissions data still actionable? When will more recent data be made available? Why the gap between the emissions and the publication date? | Anonymous Attendee | live answered |

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| Can you download maps created in AirToxScreen? that was, the facility sources of toxics.....shown in proximity to tracts of interest. | Angela Mayer | live answered |
| Does the tool have the capability to list by greatest to least cancer risk, for example, of tracts by state or other defined geo area? | Alice Sung (she/her) | Thanks Alice, we will answer your questions aloud and I will add that in. |
| Does the tool have the capability to list by greatest to least cancer risk, for example, of tracts by state or other defined geo area? | Alice Sung (she/her) | live answered |
| If the data is from 2017 - How is that there are emission changes marked/referenced from 2019? What type of data is provided after 2017 and when/how often is updated? | Anonymous Attendee | We have completed a point source review from State, Local, and Tribal partners for 2018 and 2019 inventory years, as well as received feedback from our partners about controls that have been installed or facilities that have shut down after 2017. Those have been noted in the tool. The tool will be incorporating additional emissions data in the coming months and will be updated with 2018 data later this year. We plan to get on an annual release schedule next year. |
| Does the EPA help create mapping with cancers risks for grassroots organizations? | Delia Barajas | Delia, the online TRI tools do allow you to see/map the facilities that release chemicals suspected to be carcinogens. It doesn't mean those facilities are causing cancer, but it can help communities understand the health effects associated with the chemicals being managed at the facilities. |
| I appreciate that Judy...and thanks to all that everyone's doing to get us all organized and into the visualization world! We use apps for everything now, so this is very exciting to see! | "Sala N. Senkayi, PhD. - USEPA Region 6 " | |
| Thanks so much for these tools, conversations, and this space. It is imperative that we get this pertinent information to the people directly affected in these environmental justice communities, more specifically in my case, Southwest Louisiana, Southeast Texas, and all along the Gulf Coast— Roishetta Ozane Clean Energy Organizer with Healthy Gulf | Roishetta Ozane | Thank you so much for your message Roishetta, we appreciate it. |
| BIA TAC-G first thursday 1 pm eastern then DHS Tribal Call last wednesday of month at 4 pm eastern | Monte Fronk | Thank you Monte! I will pass this information and your contact to Matthew Tejada! |
| As a black woman living in Southwest Louisiana within a 10 mile radius of several Oil and Gas facilities including Westlake Chemical, SASOL, Cameron LNG, Phillip 66, ConocoPhillips, and the proposed Driftwood LNG, Magnolia LNG, Lake Charles LNG, and several others I'm on the frontlines daily. We have a hearing on Thursday, St. Patty's Day at 630pm in Cameron. I'm organizing to get people out to the hearing in opposition of the proposed Commonwealth LNG. If you are near by come out in solidarity. | Roishetta Ozane | Roishetta, thank you for sharing this important information and the information on the hearing. |
| Manufacturing has been down during the pandemic? Perhaps? | Stephanie Branche | Yes, manufacturing value added did decrease by 2% during 2020, which seems very likely to be due at least in part to the covid-19 public health emergency. |
| EPCRA also requires all local community LEPC to work in tandem with the communities re: TRI data and Haz Sub in your neighborhoods. | Stephanie Branche | Thank you for this information Stephanie! |
| If anyone suspects a potential violation of environmental law or regulation they can report at https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations | Steve | Thank you for this link Steve! |