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# Toxics Release Inventory Toxics Tracker: A Resource to Learn about Toxic Chemicals in Your Community

*T.J. Pepping*

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# Presentation Outline



- Background on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) TRI Program
- How is TRI Toxics Tracker help learn more about your community?
- Overview and live demo of TRI Toxics Tracker and environmental justice (EJ)-related features
- Questions



# Disclaimer



- The information in this presentation is provided by Abt Associates and does not reflect the views or policies of the United States Environmental Protection Agency



# What is TRI?



- EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program is an information resource that can help you learn about chemical releases from certain facilities in your neighborhood
- TRI includes information about
  - On-site chemical releases
  - Chemical waste transfers
  - Other waste management activities
  - Pollution prevention activities
- TRI includes data from nearly 22,000 facilities across the country and now covers more than 750 toxic chemicals



# Which facilities must report to TRI?



- Must be in a TRI-covered industry sector or category, including:
  - Manufacturing
  - Coal/Oil Electricity Generation
  - Certain Mining Facilities
  - Hazardous Waste Management
  - Federal Facilities
- Must have the equivalent of at least 10-full time employees
- Must manufacture, process, or otherwise use more than a certain threshold amount of a TRI-listed toxic chemical per year



# What data do facilities report to TRI?



- **Facility** data, such as name and location
- **Chemical** data, such as how the chemical is used at the facility
- **Release** data, such as on-site releases to air, water, and land
- **Transfer** data, such as the locations of off-site facilities receiving waste transfers
- **Other waste management** data, such as on-site recycling, energy recovery, and treatment
- **Pollution prevention** data, such as any barriers to pollution reduction efforts



# How does TRI empower communities?



- TRI can help communities:
  - Identify those facilities that report to TRI and are located in or near communities.
  - Learn about the annual quantities of chemicals released by TRI facilities.
  - Track increases or reductions of toxic chemical releases over time.
  - Compare the toxic chemical releases and pollution prevention efforts of facilities.
  - Prioritize efforts to reduce pollution from facilities.



# What are the limitations of TRI data?



- No real-time data – annual data collected from TRI reporting facilities each year.
- Reporting requirements cover many, but not all chemicals, and not all industry sectors.
- Small facilities are not included (under 10 employees).
- Does not cover all sources of pollution, e.g. cars and trucks.
- Does not describe duration or frequency of chemical releases.
- Does not indicate if and to what extent a person has been exposed.





# Adding Context Using RSEI



- EPA's Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) model is included in the Potential Risk section of TRI Toxics Tracker
- Generates potential risk-related scores and other metrics by accounting for relative chemical toxicity, fate and transport, and potential exposure of air and water data reported to TRI
- Helpful to determine relative potential impacts by chemicals, sectors, etc.
- Screening-level tool to help identify and prioritize potential concerns and establish priorities for looking at opportunities

# TRI Toxics Tracker Overview



- Primary focus is location-based searches, including using an address or your current Global Positioning System (GPS) location
- Provides a quick summary of TRI data based on user-defined search criteria
- Access directly from TRI homepage: **[www.epa.gov/tri](http://www.epa.gov/tri)**
  - Basic version with most recent year of data
  - Full version of TRI Toxics Tracker includes 10 years of data and more search options
  - Spanish version available



# TRI Toxics Tracker Location Searches



- Default option includes all TRI facilities within 10 miles of a user-defined address
  - Change search radius from 1 to 100 miles
  - Can use place names (e.g., Disneyland)
  - Searches for city, ZIP Code, etc. use the centroid of that area
- Options for viewing all TRI facilities within a pre-defined area include state, county, city, ZIP Code, metro area, watershed, and tribal land
- Search for an individual TRI facility by name or TRI facility ID



# TRI Toxics Tracker Sections



- Homepage
- Map
- Summary
- Releases
- Waste Managed
- Waste Transfers
- Pollution Prevention
- Chemicals
- Potential Risk
- Customizable Tables



# Additional TRI Toxics Tracker Data



- In addition to TRI data, TRI Toxics Tracker also includes:
  - ***Census block demographic information from EPA's EJ Screening and Mapping (EJScreen) tool***
  - Facility compliance and enforcement data from EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) tool
  - Potential health effects associated with TRI chemicals
  - Locations of other regulated EPA facilities



# Census Block Demographic Data



- Demographic data is pulled directly from EPA's EJScreen and downloaded into a shared file on EPA's Qlik server
- Maps include a linkage between each TRI facility's county and the demographic data for block groups in that county to provide context about communities near a facility
- Additional demographic data for a 1-5 mile radius around each facility is pulled from ECHO's demographic profile data for individual facility reports



# TRI Toxics Tracker Demonstration





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