



Toxics Release Inventory Program Overview

October 22nd, 2012



Briefing Outline

- TRI's Statutory Authority and Scope
- Data Reported to TRI
- Compliance Assistance and Enforcement
- TRI Data Collection, Analysis, and Dissemination
- TRI Data Users and Uses



TRI's Statutory Authority

❖ Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) §313

- Facilities in certain industrial sectors must report toxic chemical releases to air, water, and land and other waste management to EPA and the states each year.
- EPA must maintain the data and make it available to the public.

❖ Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (PPA) §6607

- Facilities must also submit data on waste management and source reduction activities – recycling, energy recovery, and treatment





TRI Reporting Scope: Industry/Facility Coverage

- ❖ **A facility must report to TRI if it:**
 - Is in a specific industrial sector or is a Federal facility,
 - Employs ≥ 10 full-time employee equivalents, *and*
 - Manufactures or processes $> 25,000$ lbs. of a listed chemical *or* otherwise uses $> 10,000$ lbs. of a listed chemical in a given year (lower thresholds for Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals (PBTs))



TRI Reporting Scope: Industry/Facility Coverage

- **Industry Sectors Covered** (* added in 1997)
 - Mining: metal mining*, coal mining*
 - Electricity Generation (from coal and/or oil combustion)*
 - Manufacturing: food, chemicals, plastics, computers, wood, textiles, printing/publishing
 - Wholesale Trade: chemical wholesalers*, petroleum bulk terminals*
 - Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal *
 - Solvent Recovery*, Materials Recovery
- ❖ **Federal facilities began reporting in 1994 pursuant to Executive Order**
- ❖ **Statutory Authority:** The EPA Administrator may add industry sectors when relevant to the purposes of TRI.



TRI Reporting Scope: Chemical Coverage

❖ **Chemical Coverage:**

- Initial list of ~300 chemicals provided by EPCRA
- Current list includes > 650 chemicals and chemical categories
- Examples: lead, arsenic, mercury, dioxin
- On November 26, 2010, EPA published a final rule adding 16 National Toxicology Program (NTP) chemicals to the TRI list of chemicals. Reports will be received on July 1, 2012.



❖ **Statutory Authority:** The EPA Administrator may add or delete chemicals from the TRI list through rulemaking upon a finding of any one of the following:

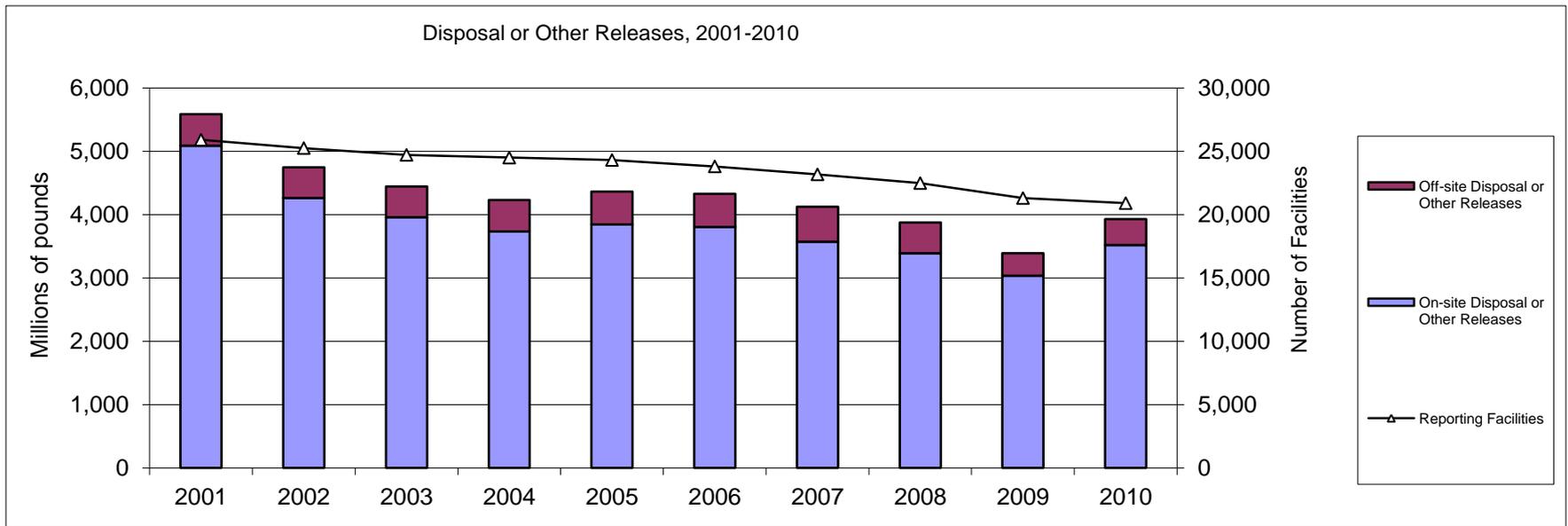
- 1) Acute human health effects,
- 2) Chronic human health effects, or
- 3) Significant adverse environmental effects.



Data Reported to TRI



TRI Summary Statistics



- ❖ Graph based on 1988 core set of chemicals and industry sectors
- ❖ From 2008 to 2009, total TRI releases decreased by 12% (480 million lbs.) and number of reporting facilities decreased by 7% (1,455 facilities)
- ❖ Metal Mining and Electric Utilities account for the largest percentages of disposal and other release, compared to other industrial sectors.



TRI Compliance Assistance and Enforcement

❖ TRI works closely with EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)



– Compliance Assistance

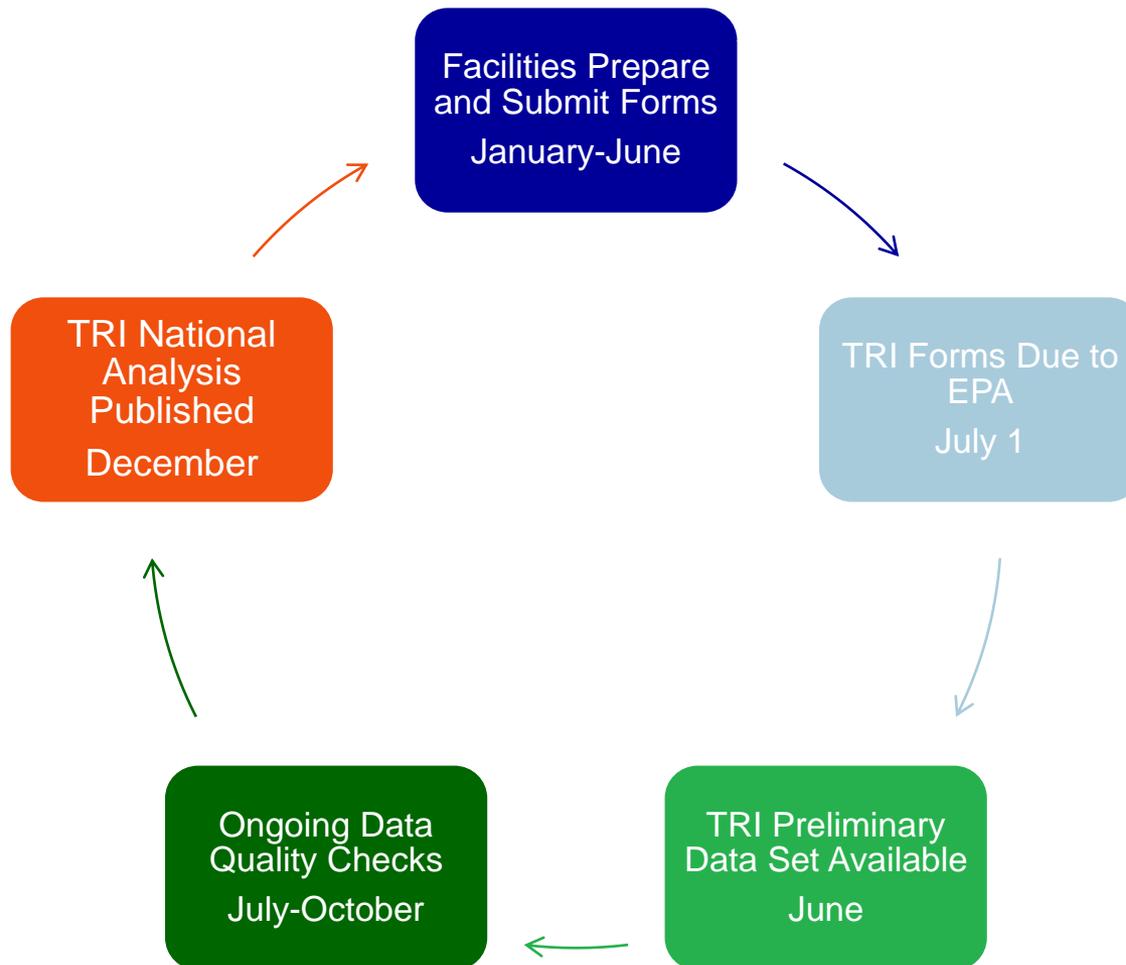
- TRI conducts various data quality checks and follows up with facilities to determine whether revisions are needed.
- Facilities are permitted to revise submissions when errors are detected.

– Enforcement

- TRI reporting facilities may be subject to enforcement action if they fail to submit a TRI report or violate any requirements of EPCRA§313.
- Under some circumstances, facilities that have committed certain violations may voluntarily self-disclose those violations through EPA's Audit Policy.
- Self-disclosure may result in reduced penalties.



Annual TRI Cycle





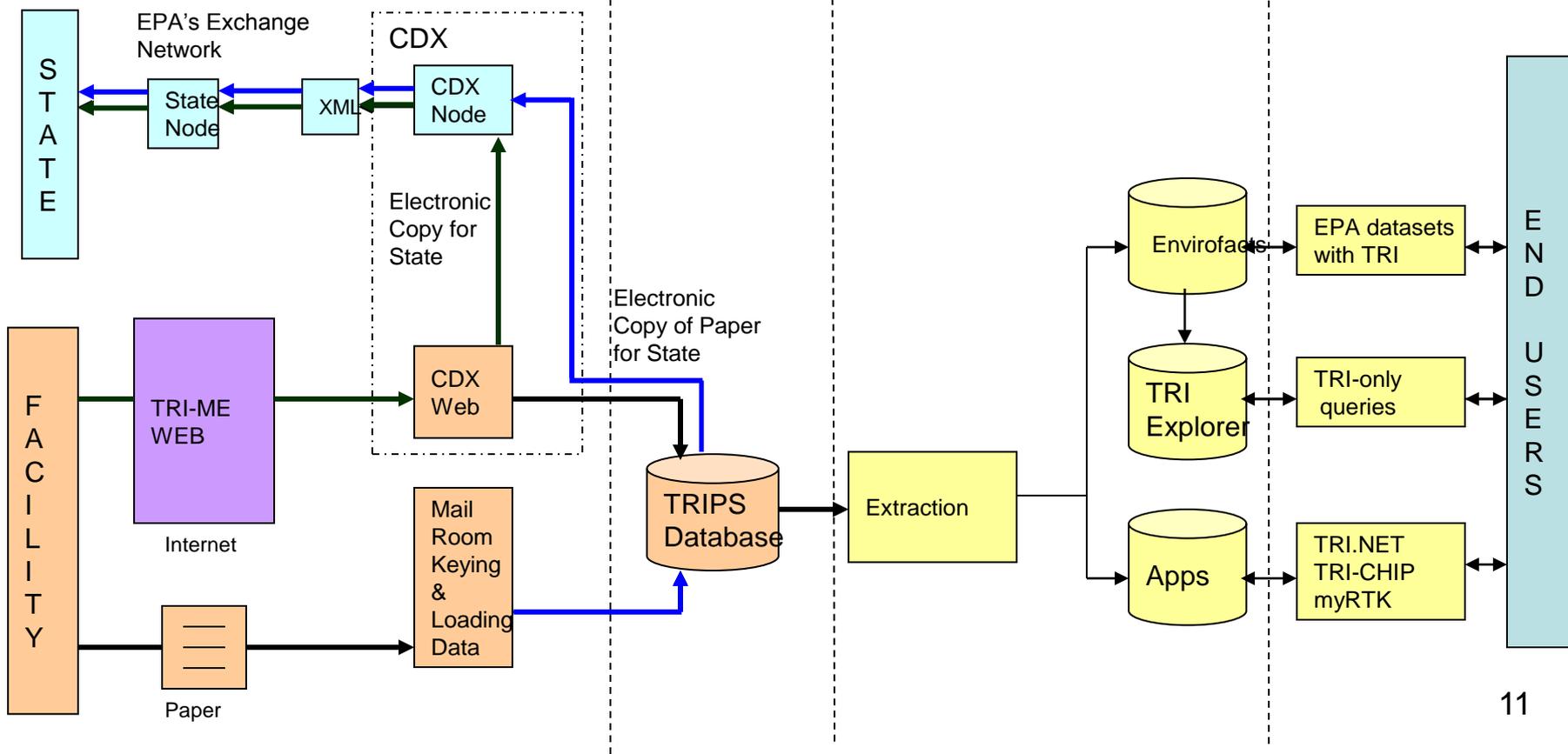
TRI Data Flow

Collection and Exchange

Process

Store for Use

End Use





Electronic Reporting

❖ **Toxics Release Inventory-Made Easy (TRI-MEweb)**

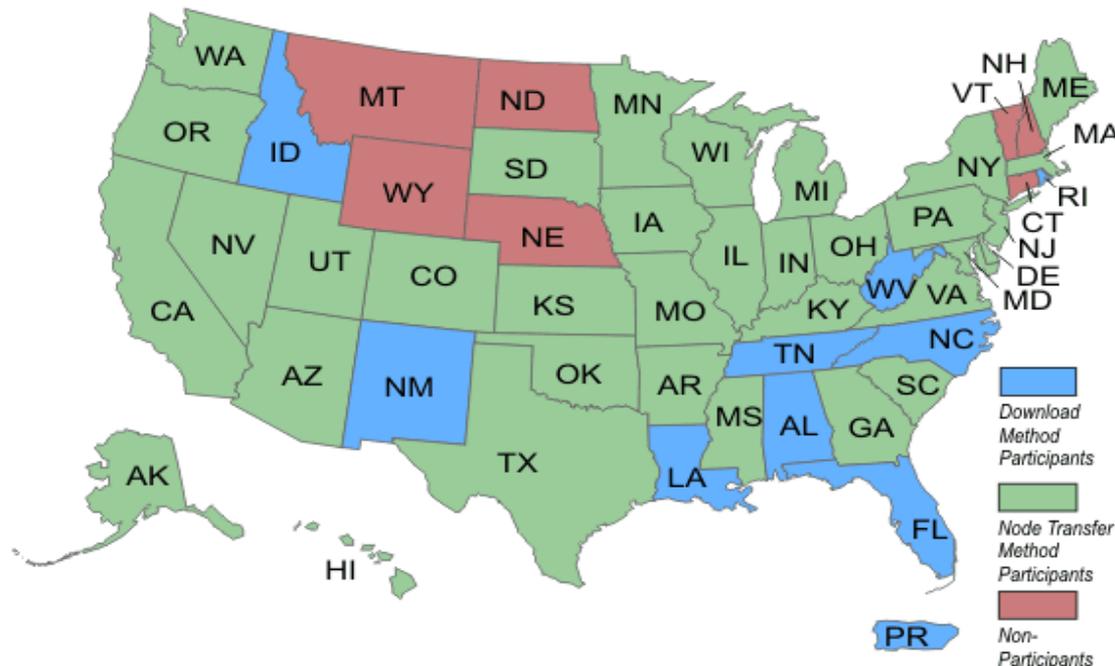


- TRI-MEweb is an online reporting application that allows facilities to submit TRI data electronically through EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX).
- TRI-MEweb can be used from any computer with Internet access.
- The application is pre-loaded with facilities' previous year's data, and it includes a number of data validation checks to help facilities submit accurate data.
- For reporting year 2009, >94% of TRI reports were submitted electronically, and the remainder were submitted on paper forms .



TRI Data Exchange

- ❖ EPCRA 313 requires facilities to submit TRI reports to both EPA and the State or Territory in which they are located.
- ❖ Facilities that report electronically and are located in States/Territories participating in the TRI Data Exchange submit to EPA and their State simultaneously through EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX).
- ❖ 43 States and Puerto Rico currently participate in the TRI Data Exchange.

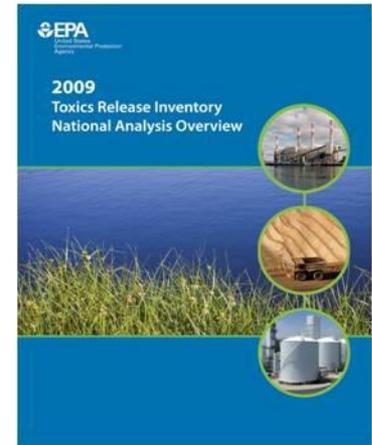




Data Analysis and Dissemination

❖ TRI National Analysis includes:

- National level statistics and trends
- Industry sector profiles
- Top corporate parent companies' production-related waste and pollution prevention activities
- Information on toxic chemical releases in urban communities, on tribal lands, and in large aquatic ecosystems





TRI Data Use

❖ Who uses the data?

- Individuals, communities, and environmental groups
- Industry
- Government agencies
- Academic community and investment community
- International community

❖ For what purposes?

- Estimate toxic chemical releases to air, land, water
- Estimate potential chemical hazards
- Encourage pollution prevention

TRI Data Access & Analysis

❖ There are multiple ways to access and analyze TRI data

❖ These include:*

– TRI Explorer



TRI Explorer

– TRI.NET



TRI.NET

– Envirofacts



Envirofacts

– Downloadable data files

– TRI-CHIP



– MyRTK mobile application

– TRI Comparative Analysis Tool



Public Participation & Collaboration

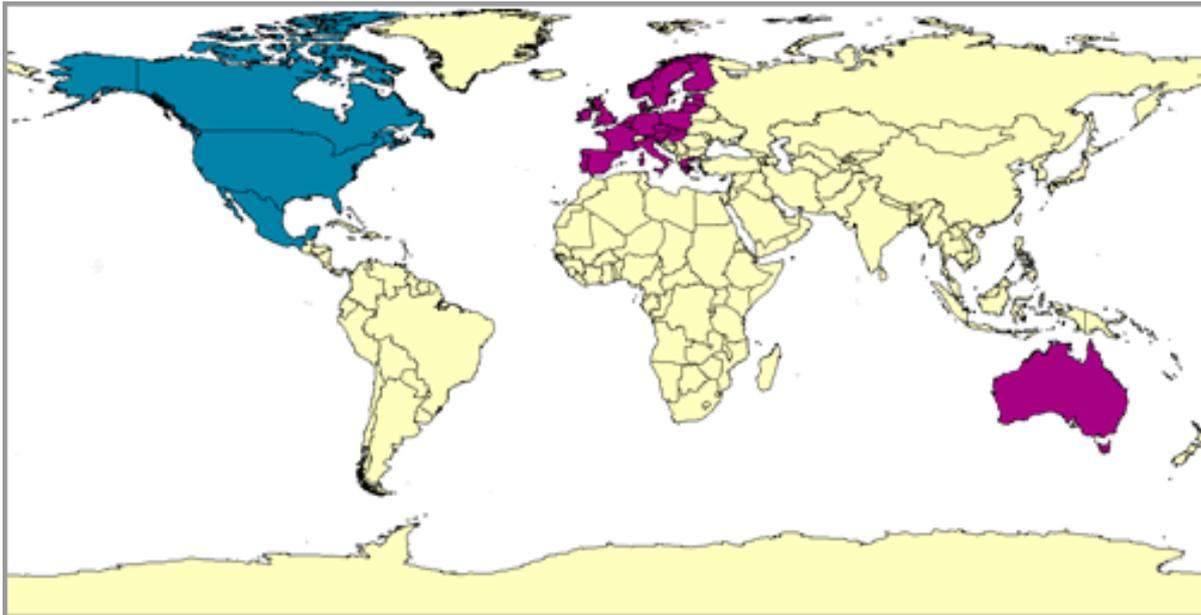
- ❖ **EPA has a cooperative agreement with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) to encourage public participation in TRI through:**
 - TRI National Training Conference, which is held every 18 months
 - Public Webinars
 - Online collaborative forum, www.chemicalright2know.org
 - Community Engagement pilot projects





TRI and the International Community

- ❖ TRI was the first Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in the world.
- ❖ There are now over 20 other PRTRs in the world, and many of them use TRI as a model.



PRTR Countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States



For Further Information:

<http://www.epa.gov/tri/>

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