



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Dear Commissioner and/or Director:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing its National Analysis of the 2010 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data. This year, the EPA celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), the landmark environmental statute that created TRI in 1986. EPCRA requires certain facilities to annually report toxic chemical releases and other waste management activities to the EPA and states. In addition, the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA) of 1990 mandates collection of data from these facilities on toxic chemicals treated on-site, recycled, and combusted for energy recovery.

Over the past 25 years, the TRI Program has helped citizens, emergency planners, public health officials and others protect human health and the environment by providing them with toxic chemical release and other waste management data they need to make decisions that affect the safety and welfare of their communities. The EPA continues to take significant steps to improve the program, making TRI data more accessible and meaningful. This fall, for example, the EPA's first TRI mobile application, myRTK, was released in Spanish to help meet the needs of the diverse TRI data users.

The TRI National Analysis also reflects these continued improvements. Last year, new sections highlighted toxic disposals and releases to large aquatic ecosystems, urban communities and tribal lands. EPA has improved this year's report by adding new information on facility efforts to reduce pollution and by considering whether economic factors could have affected the TRI data. The EPA has also expanded Spanish translations of National Analysis webpages and documents.

Analyses available on the EPA's website include the 2010 national-level and selected local-level trends. The report shows that total disposal and other releases of TRI chemicals are up 16 percent from last year, an increase which is mainly due to increases in releases reported by the metal mining sector. Several other sectors also reported increases, including the chemical and primary metals industries. Nationwide, total air releases decreased 6 percent since 2009, continuing a trend seen over the past few years. Releases to surface water increased 9 percent and releases to land increased 28 percent, again due primarily to the metal mining sector.

Background materials and a summary of the 2010 TRI data are available at <http://www.epa.gov/tri>. The TRI website also provides a link to TRI Explorer and TRI.NET, two online tools that make TRI data more easily accessible and understandable. I hope you find these materials interesting and useful. If you have questions or wish to request a briefing, please have your staff contact David Piantanida in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-8318.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm D. Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Malcolm D. Jackson  
Assistant Administrator  
and Chief Information Officer