

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# **The National Air Toxics Assessment**

## **Presenting NATA Results to the Public**

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## **Preparing for the Public Website**

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- **Held two days of public meetings to discuss presentation options**
- **State and local government partners reviewed website and provided comments**
- **EPA's Office of Environmental Information set up "beta-testing" of site**

## NATA outreach...

- STAPPA/ALAPCO
- Environmental Commissioners of the States
- National Association of Counties (NACO)
- National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
- House and Senate Committees
- U.S. Conference of Mayors
- Mickey Leland Center
- Clean Air Network
- Clean Air Task Force
- Health Effects Institute
- Tribal Air Contacts
- National Electronic Manufacturers Association
- Residual Risk Coalition (API, CMA, etc.)
- others.....

## Website Presentation

- NATA website home page includes links to:
  - About the Assessment
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Glossary
  - Results (Maps, Data, Charts)
  - Limitations on Interpreting Results
  - Peer Review
  - Air Toxics Reductions

## Website Presentation (*continued*)

- Website uses "drill-down" approach
  - Leads with background information
  - Provides summary of information and assessment results in plain language
  - Allows more technical users to dig deeper into website for additional information and more complex details

## "About the Assessment..." It is...

- being used to help identify priority air toxics and sources
- being used to help identify potential national-scale air toxics problems
- being used to help prioritize future data collection and localized modeling efforts
- being used to inform air toxics program development
- *NOT* being used to make specific regulatory decisions

## Presentation of Results

- **Summary of results at county, state or national level**
  - Emissions inventory
  - Ambient concentrations
  - Exposure estimates
  - Risk characterization
- **Opportunities to search by pollutant, state, and county**
- **Caveats on each table, graph, and map summarizing limitations**

## Data Presentations

- **Publicly available currently on website:**
  - Emissions
  - Ambient concentrations
- **To be made publicly available after incorporating comments from peer review:**
  - Exposure estimates
  - Risk characterizations

## Data Presentations *(continued)*

- Current plan is to add exposure and risk charts, tables, and maps from report to website
  - Exposure results available down to county level
  - Risk results summarized at national level -- should they be summarized at State and county levels as well?
- Will also add plain language summary and add to "frequently asked questions"

## Challenges in Risk Communication

- Appropriately sharing results of assessment to educate public without causing undue alarm
- Communicating uncertainty results clearly and simply to provide context
- Developing plain language interpretations that will inform the non-technical audience and stimulate the technical audience to look further

## Caveat Language for Risk Characterization

- Current plan is to provide qualitative discussion of limitations (similar to that on website regarding ASPEN predictions -- and to language in the report on limitations)
- Can also provide results of U/V illustration, with discussion of implications and description of plan to develop fuller uncertainty and variability characterization

## Next Steps for the Website

- Continue working with state and local governments to review exposure estimates and risk characterization
- Incorporate SAB peer review comments into analysis and presentations
- Beta-test exposure and risk characterization presentations