

# Toxics Release Inventory (TRI): Upcoming Opportunities

- Rulemakings
  - EPA is in the early stages of drafting a proposed rule in which we intend to clarify opportunities for tribal participation under the TRI program.
  - As part of this process, we will be consulting with tribes to make them aware of EPA's intentions.
  - EPA is also working on a proposed rule related to TRI reporting requirements for metal mining facilities.
    - Convened a conference call to obtain tribal input
    - Additional opportunities for comment when the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register in 2011



# Other TRI News for Tribes

- National Training Conference on TRI and Environmental Conditions in Communities
  - November 1 - 4, 2010
  - Several tribal-specific presentations
  - “States and Tribes only” half day session
- The 2009 TRI National Analysis will contain a tribal profile
- TRI Web site
  - Exploring how to make the site a better resource for tribes
  - Input on improving the usefulness of this site for tribes is appreciated



# Toxic Releases on or Near Tribal Lands (2008 data)

- 49 TRI facilities operate on tribal lands
  - 39 industry sectors, including Fossil Fuel Power Generation, Concrete Manufacturing, Coal Mining, Copper Ore & Nickel Ore Mining, Pulp Mills, Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal
  - Reported releases of over 22 million pounds of toxic chemicals
- 321 facilities operate within 3 miles of tribal lands, releasing 141 million pounds of toxic chemicals.
- 1292 facilities operate within 10 miles of tribal lands, releasing over 285 million pounds of toxic chemicals.
- TRI data: another resource to help assess environmental and health concerns on tribal lands





The ABCs

of TRI

*EPCRA Section 313*  
*September 8, 2010*



# A is for ... Acronym

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**TRI = EPCRA 313**

EPCRA = SARA TITLE III

SERC LEPC TERC

la la la la

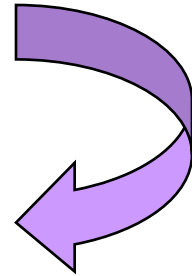




# EPCRA created TRI

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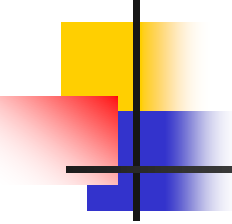
Emergency Planning and Community  
Right-to-Know Act



Toxics Release Inventory  
(Section 313)



# T. R. I.

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- **T**oxic chemicals released by facilities
  - **R**eleases reported by facilities to EPA
  - **I**nventory publicly-available online



# TRI is ...

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- **A** rich source of data
- **A** starting point for analysis
  - Example: Puyallup Reservation
    - ✓ 16 TRI facilities
    - ✓ 1.1 M pounds released in 2008
      - ✓ Includes 150,000 pounds discharged to surface water and 897,000 to air







**B** is for ...

Who? What?  
How? Why?  
When? Where?  
**So what?**

Break - it - Down





# Why TRI?

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It is our right to know  
what  
toxic chemicals  
are released  
in our neighborhoods.





# Who must report?

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Any facility that meets all 3 criteria:

- ☑ TRI-listed industry
  - ex: 212231 – Lead Ore and Zinc Ore mining
- ☑ 10 or more employee equivalents
- ☑ Above threshold for TRI chemicals





# When a facility meets all 3 criteria ...

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- it must report TRI releases to the U.S. EPA and State
- Deadline: **July 1** (for **prior** year's releases)
- Failure to report or inaccurate reporting are subject to enforcement actions.



# Which Industries?

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- Certain industries have reported since 1987:
  - *Wood products, petroleum, plastics, paper, and chemical manufacturing; non-metal mining; others.*
- Federal facilities began reporting in 1994
- 7 industries added in 1998





# Which Industries? (cont.)

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- 7 industries added (1998):
  - metal mining
  - coal mining
  - electric utilities
  - commercial hazardous waste treatment
  - solvent recovery
  - petroleum bulk terminals
  - wholesale chemical distributors



# What chemicals are included?

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- Original list (1987) = 300 chemicals
- Current list (2008) = 660+ chemicals
- Under EPCRA, chemicals that:
  - Are known to cause cancer or other serious or irreversible health effects
  - Have significant adverse effects on the environment
- Anyone can petition to *add* or *delete*





# What are the thresholds?

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- “Manufacture”      25,000 pounds
- “Process”      25,000 pounds
- “Otherwise use”      10,000 pounds
  
- Lower thresholds for PBTs
  - Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs)
  - Ex.: Dioxin (1 gram); Mercury (10 pounds); Lead (100 pounds)







# What is a release?

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- EPCRA 313: "Spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping or disposing into the environment ... of any toxic chemical"
- On-site and Off-site



# Types of Releases

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On-site (at facility) releases of TRI chemicals to:

- Air
- Surface water
- Land (e.g. landfills, surface impoundments)

Off-site “releases” = transfer of toxic chemical wastes to disposal sites





# Other Data On ...

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- Waste management
  - Recycling
  - Treatment
  - Energy recovery
- Pollution prevention activities



# How are TRI data reported?

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- Paper submissions or electronic reporting using TRI-MEweb application
  - Approximately 97% of facilities use TRI-MEweb
- **Form R** (detailed) or **Form A** (short)
- TRI State Data Exchange (SDX)
  - SDX members receive data automatically



# When are TRI data available?

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- TRI data are due to EPA by July 1
- EPA provides access to preliminary dataset as soon possible after the July 1st reporting deadline
- TRI National Analysis published in December
  - Based on full dataset
  - Data quality checks completed
  - Contains trends, summaries, and analyses



# Where can I get TRI data?

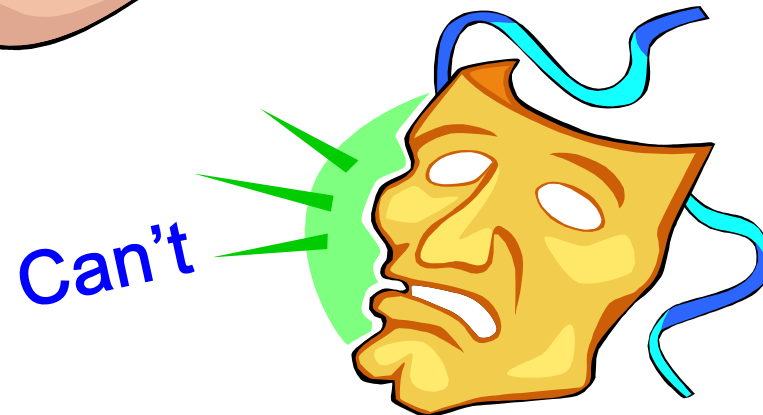
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- Several tools for accessing and analyzing TRI data:
  - <http://www.epa.gov/tri/tridata/index.htm>
- TRI data access tools include:
  - TRI Explorer
  - TRI.Net
  - Envirofacts



C is for ...

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# TRI can give you...

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- Annual data on toxic chemical releases to air, land, and water
- Tools and maps for analysis
- Another tool in your toolbox for assessing possible tribal environmental and health issues







# TRI can't give you...

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- Data from facilities that **do not meet** all reporting criteria
- Data on toxic releases from **mobile** sources
- Information needed for **risk assessments**
  - Does **not** include exposure, toxicity, site conditions, high release days, demographic and external monitoring data, or fate and transport modeling.





# Closing Points on TRI

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- ✓ Online toxics release information and tools
- ✓ Releases calculated by industry
- ✓ Can encourage changes in industry practices, including pollution prevention
- ✓ Enforceable
- ✓ Data can be combined with other information





# Who can help you at EPA?

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- For general TRI questions:
  - TRI Regional Coordinators
    - [http://www.epa.gov/tri/contacts/contacts\\_regional.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tri/contacts/contacts_regional.htm)
  - EPA Regional Indian Coordinators
    - <http://www.epa.gov/tribal/contactinfo/regcontacts.htm>
  - General TRI Program Mailbox:
    - [Tri.help@epa.gov](mailto:Tri.help@epa.gov)





After **ABCs** comes **D**

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# Demo

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