

# The Toxics Release Inventory and Emissions Reduction Measures

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Toxics Release Inventory Program

Office of Environmental Information

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### **SEPA** Review: What is TRI?

- TRI tracks the management of certain toxic chemicals
- U.S. facilities in certain sectors report how much of each chemical is released and/or managed as waste



Releases



Waste transfers



Recycling



Pollution prevention



• TRI includes data about approximately **20,000 facilities** across the country and covers more than **675 toxic chemicals**.

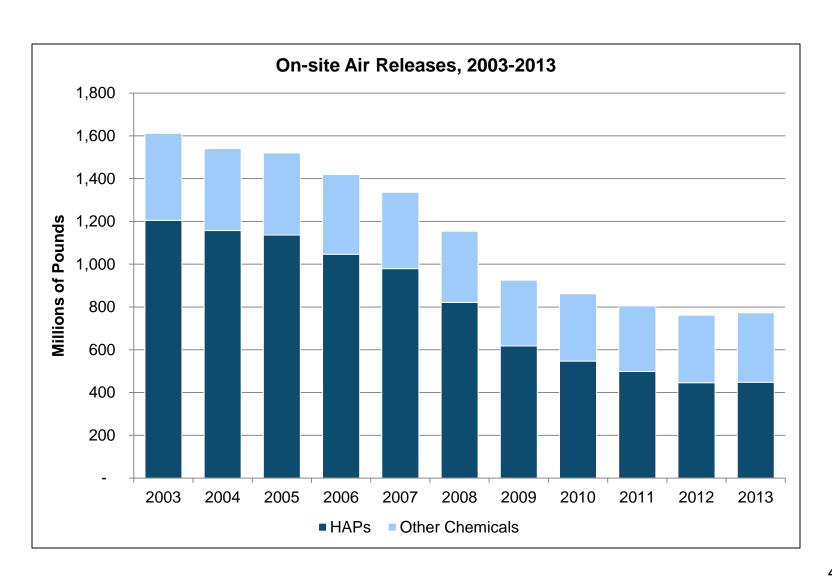
### **\$EPA**

### What Emissions Data Does TRI Collect?

- Total chemical fugitive (non-point) air emissions and total chemical stack (point) air emissions
- Basis of estimate for air emissions (e.g., published emission factors, monitoring)
- On-site treatment methods and associated destruction or removal efficiency
  - Treatment methods are reported using 25 codes that correspond to treatment activities
  - Treatment efficiencies are reported using six codes that correspond to six efficiency ranges

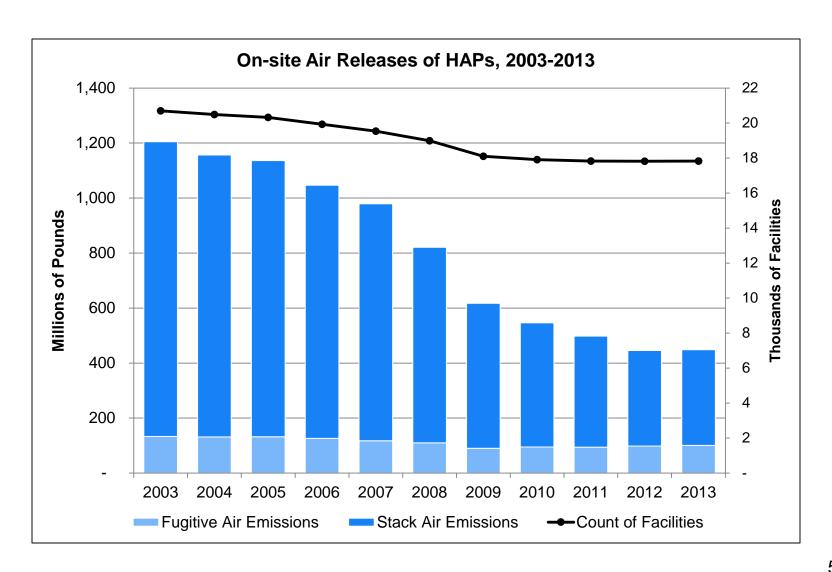


### **SEPA** TRI Emissions Trend, 2003-2013



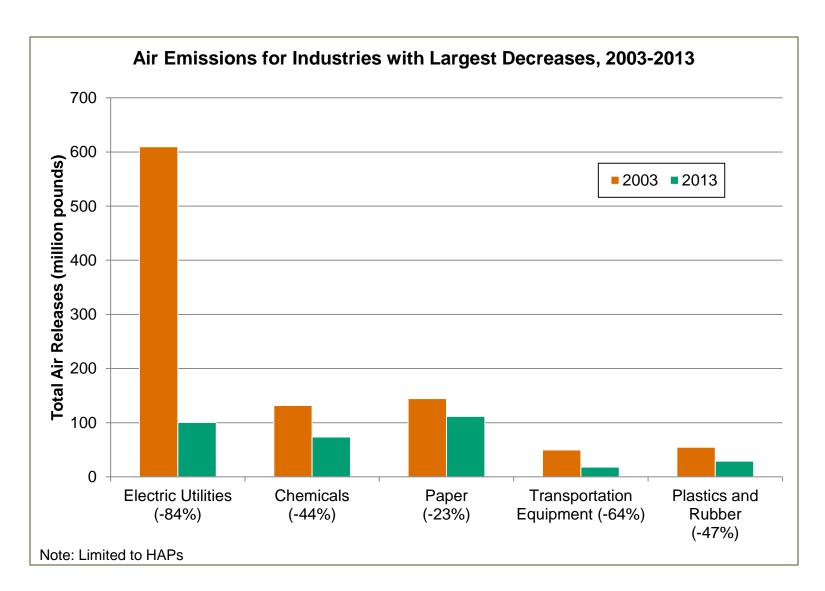


## Fugitive and Stack Emissions



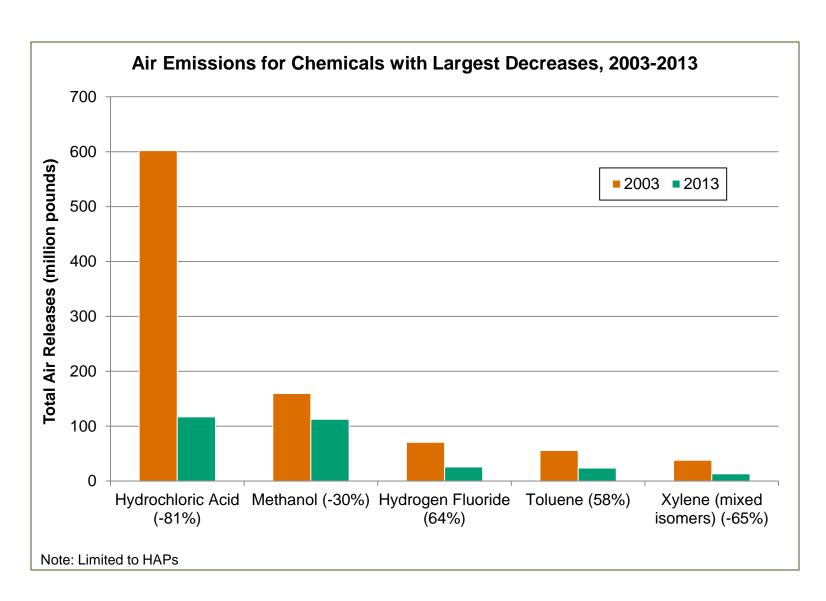


### Largest Decreases by Sector

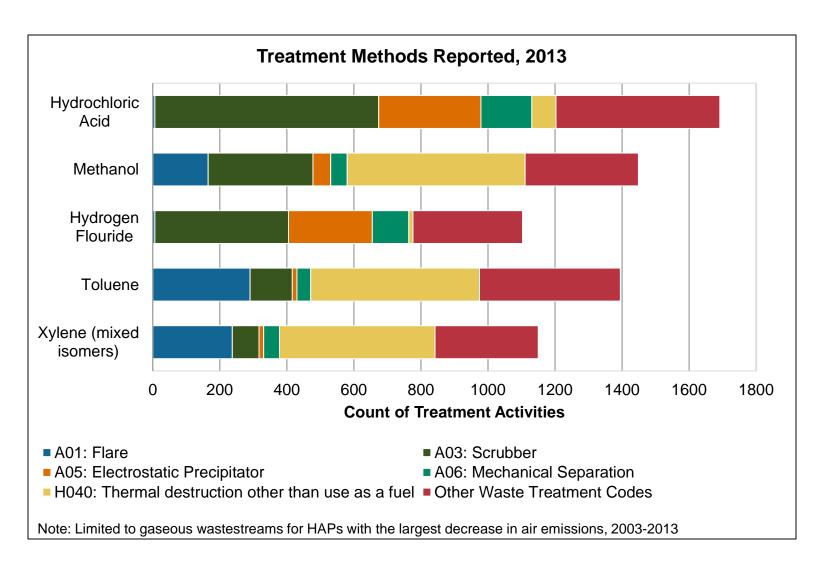




### Largest Decreases by Chemical

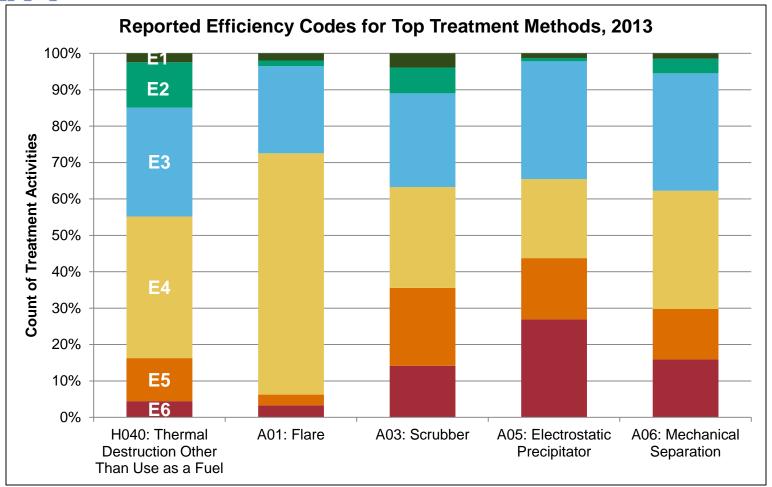


### **SEPA** Treatment of HAPs



### **SEPA**

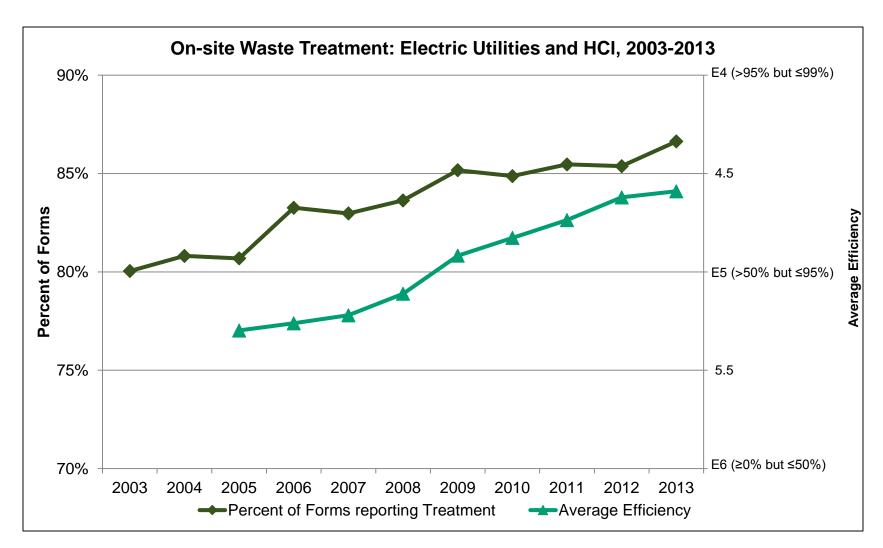
### Treatment Efficiencies for HAPs



Efficiency Categories	
E1: >99.9999%	E4: >95% but ≤ 99%
E2: >99.99% but ≤ 99.9999%	E5: >50% but ≤ 95%
E3: >99% but ≤ 99.99%	E6: ≥0% but ≤ 50%



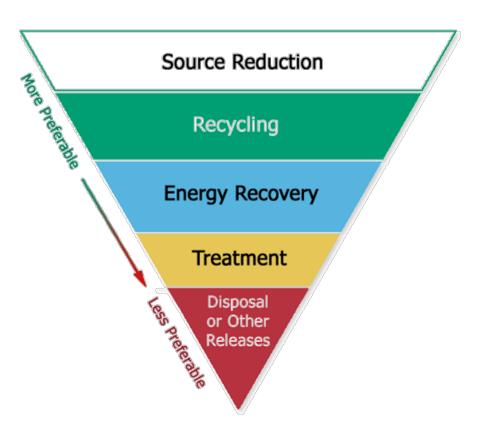
### Treatment of HCl at Electric Utilities





### TRI's Pollution Prevention (P2) Data

#### **Waste Management Hierarchy**



#### The Pollution Prevention Act

- Sets out hierarchy of preferred waste management techniques
- Tracks each TRI facility's progress up the hierarchy
- Provides an opportunity to publicly highlight steps a facility takes to reduce toxic chemical releases to the environment

### **SEPA** What P2 Data Does TRI Collect?

#### Waste Management Quantities

Prior Year, Current Year, and Future Years (projections)

#### Production Ratio

- Ratio of current year production or activity to previous year
- Puts changes in releases into context of production

#### Source Reduction Activities

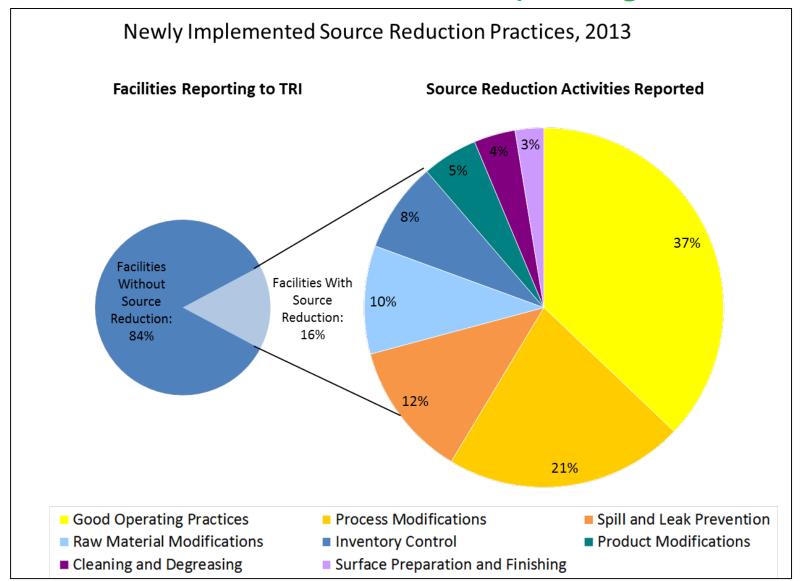
Codes corresponding to specific types of activities (required if any
 P2 activities were newly implemented during the reporting year)

### Optional Pollution Prevention Information

Additional detail about P2, recycling, or pollution control (free-text)



### Source Reduction Reporting: 2013



### **\$EPA**

### Optional P2 Descriptions from 2013

#### **Process Modifications**

 A rubber product manufacturer installed three natural gas boilers and decommissioned two #6 fuel oil boilers to reduce emissions. The change was made in September 2013 and resulted in a 36% reduction in benzo(g,h,i)perylene emissions from the previous year.

#### **Surface Preparation and Finishing**

 By changing to an immersion acid process instead of using spray acid equipment, a semiconductor manufacturer reduced emissions of aerosolized hydrochloric acid.

#### **Waste Treatment and Leak Detection**

 A chemicals manufacturer installed a new emissions scrubber system for capturing methanol emissions for re-use in their process. Testing shows emission control efficiency of >95%. The facility also implemented an LDAR program to identify VOC leaks.



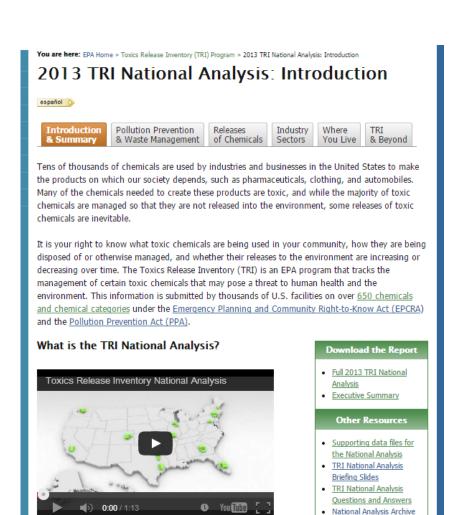
### Accessing TRI P2 Data

### **TRI National Analysis**

- Presents national trends in P2 reporting
- Highlights industries and chemicals with significant decreases in releases
- Presents air release trends

#### TRI P2 Tool

- Identify P2 activities
- Visually compare P2
   performance at the facility
   and corporate level





#### Questions That TRI's P2 Tool Can Address

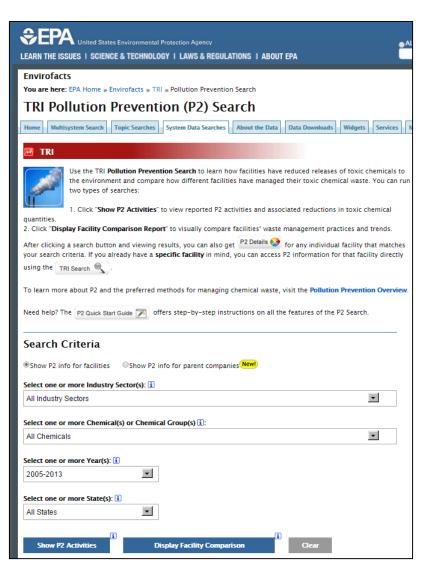
#### **Industry or Chemical-Specific**

- How have toxic chemical releases for a specific industry or chemical changed over time?
- How do different facilities or companies compare in terms of waste generation and waste management practices?
- What P2 activities have contributed to the biggest reductions?

#### **Facility-Specific**

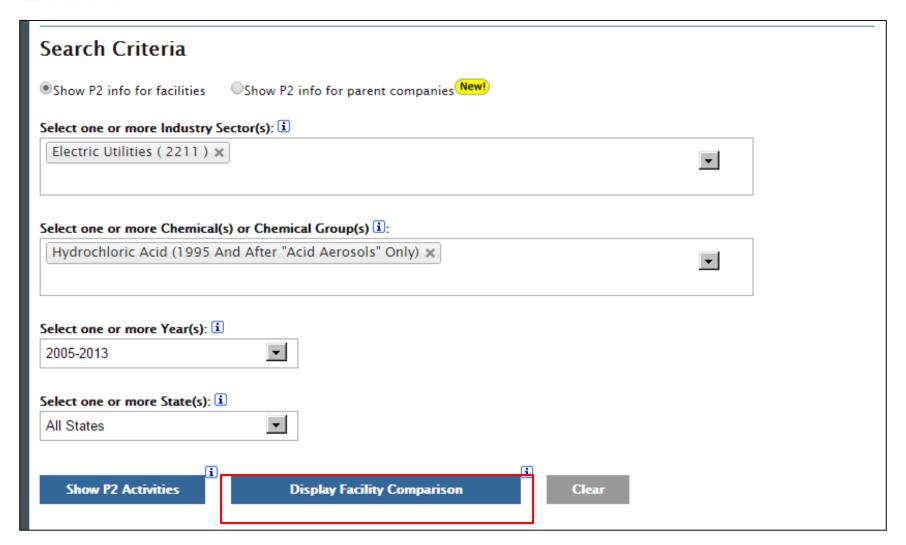
- Have toxic chemical releases at a particular facility gone up or down over time?
- Were changes in releases driven by changes in production? Did P2 practices play a role?
- How do the facility's TRI and GHGRP trends compare?

### **SEPA** TRI P2 Search Tool



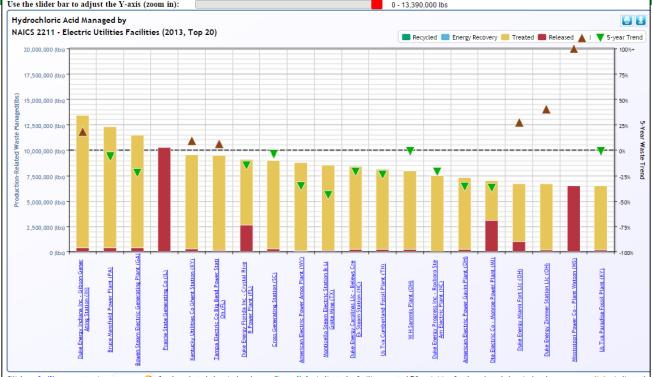


#### Facility Comparison Example: Electric Utilities and HCI

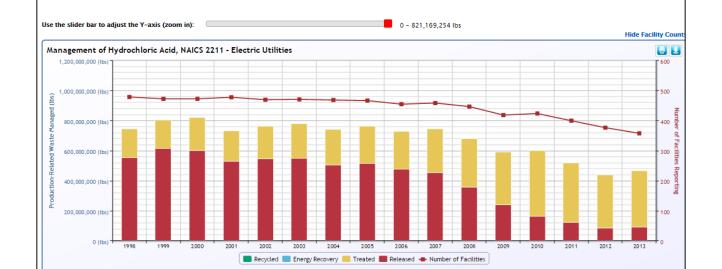






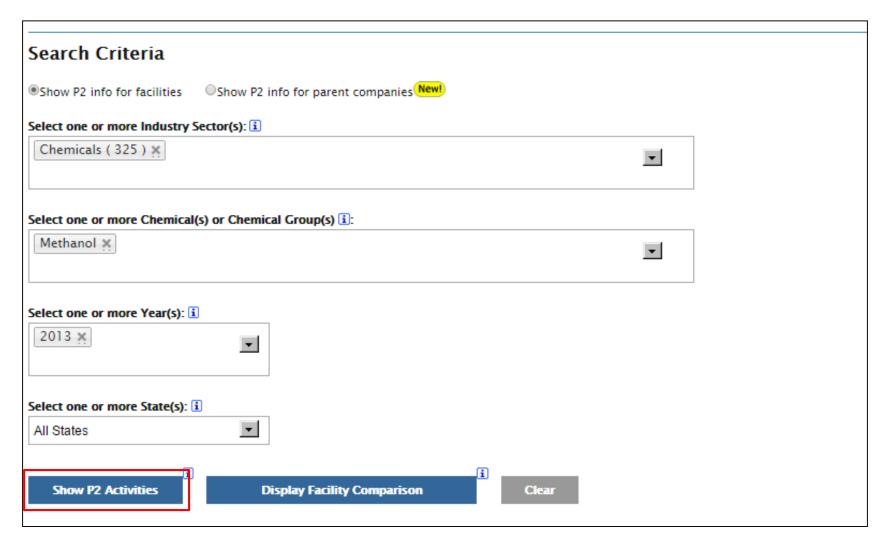


Click on facility name to view P2 Dotails 🚱 for the selected chemical and year; orange links indicate the facility reported P2 activities for the selected chemical and year; orange links indicate the facility reported barriers to P2. Use Chart Options to add data to the chart (e.g., waste trends, GHG emissions).



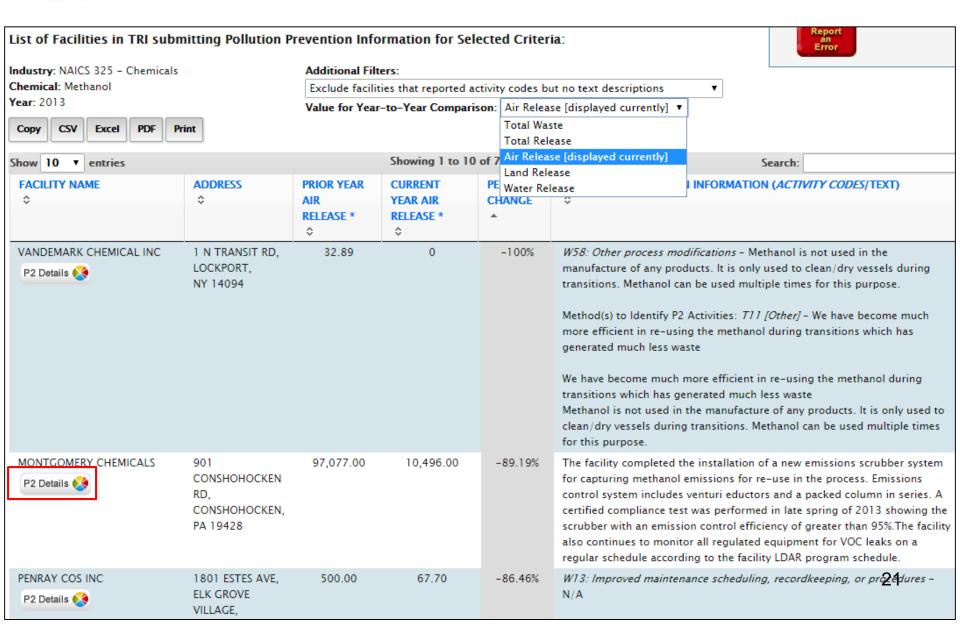


#### P2 Activities Example: Chemical Manufacturing and Ethanol



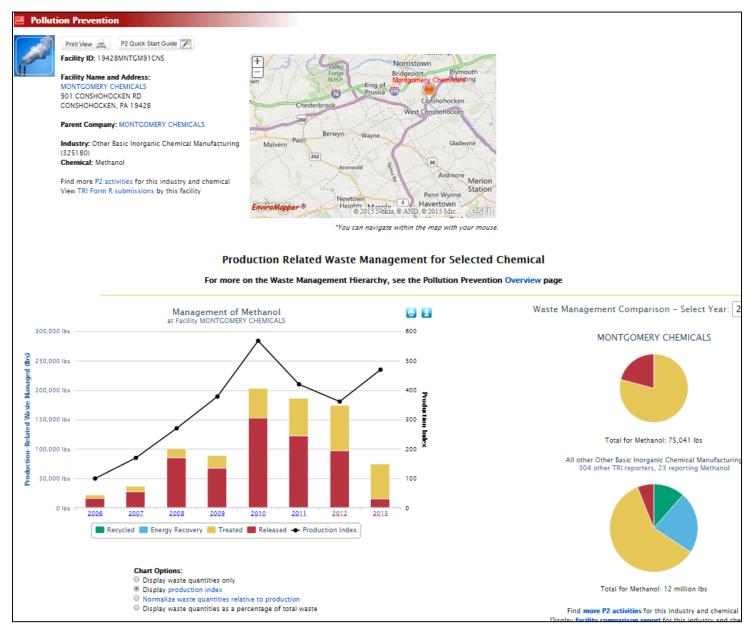


#### P2 Activities Example: Chemical Manufacturing and Ethanol





#### P2 Activities Example: Chemical Manufacturing and Ethanol



### **SEPA** Quantifying Impacts of P2 Activities

Research Project: "The Cumulative Impact of Source Reduction on U.S. Toxic Releases"

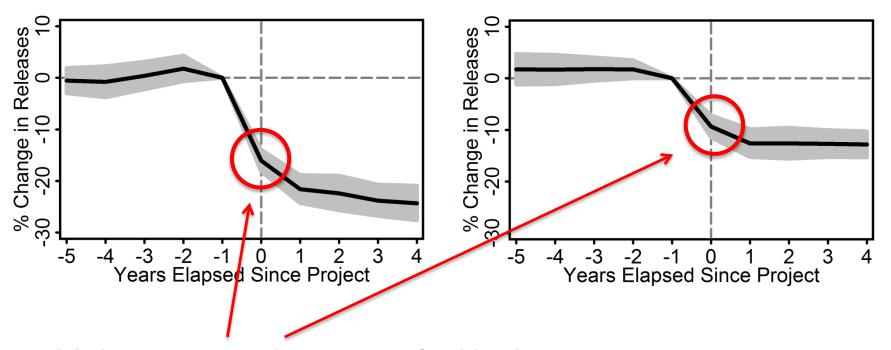
- Goal: to understand how source reduction affects facilities' releases of toxic chemicals
  - How do the average facility's TRI releases change when it implements a source reduction project?
  - How has source reduction affected U.S. aggregate TRI releases over the last 20 years?
- Methodology: "Differences-in-differences" approach
  - Estimates how toxic releases at each facility-chemical changed in the year before and after implementing a source reduction project
  - Controls for other facility- and industry-level factors



### Average Impact on Facility TRI Releases



Method 2: Industry-Chemical-Year Comparison

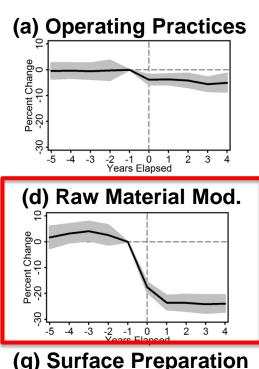


Main result: In the year a facility implements a source reduction project, its TRI releases of targeted chemicals decrease by an average of 9% to 16%

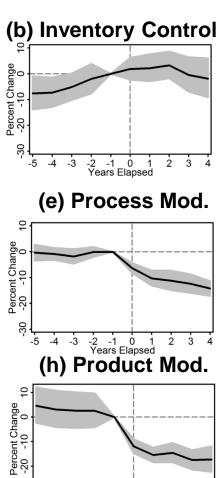
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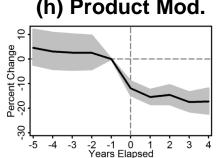


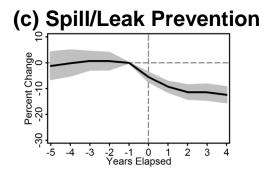
### Average Impact on Air Releases, by Approach

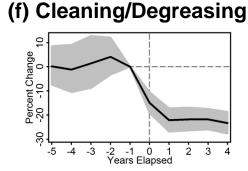


(g) Surface Preparation Percent Change -20 -10 0 -2 -1 0 1 Years Elapsed -3







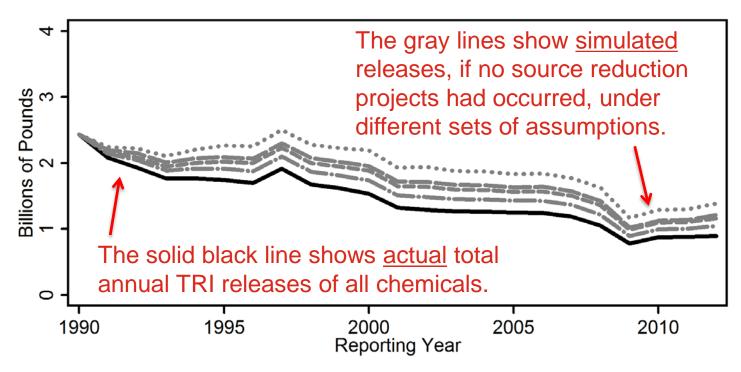


Projects vary in effectiveness. Raw material modification has the largest effect.



### Cumulative Impact on U.S. Total Releases

#### Simulated U.S. Total Releases without Source Reduction

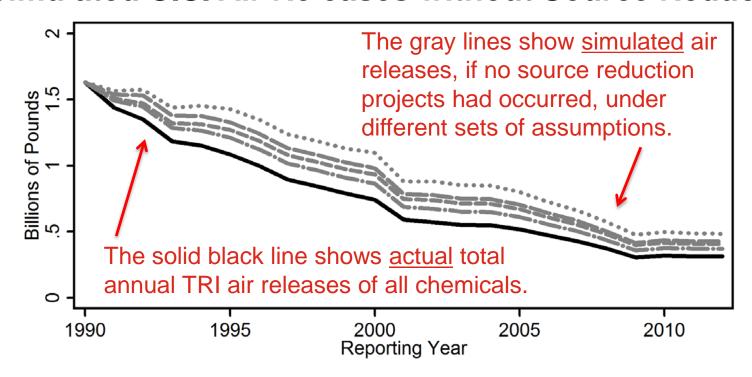


- Without source reduction, actual cumulative U.S. toxic releases (49.9 billion lb) would have been 8 to 23% higher between 1990 and 2012
- It is estimated that source reduction prevented between
   4.3 and 14.4 billion pounds of releases



### Cumulative Impact on U.S. Air Releases

#### Simulated U.S. Air Releases without Source Reduction



- Without source reduction, actual cumulative U.S. air releases (24.9 billion lb) would have been 9 to 23% higher between 1990 and 2012
- It is estimated that source reduction prevented between 2.5 and 7.4 billion pounds of air releases



### Additional TRI Resources

- Daniel Teitelbaum, TRI P2 Staff Lead:
   <u>Teitelbaum.Daniel@epa.gov</u>
- Check out the TRI Pollution Prevention (P2) Search Tool: <u>www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/tri/p2.html</u>
- Visit the TRI Program's website: www.epa.gov/tri
  - TRI P2 webpage: www.epa.gov/tri/p2
  - 2013 TRI National Analysis: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/tri/nationalanalysis">www.epa.gov/tri/nationalanalysis</a>