

Data Trends: The Bigger Picture
Thursday, 10:00-10:55 a.m.
Grand Ballroom

TRI Chemicals Stories: Increasers vs. Decreasers

Erik Edgar and TJ Pepping, Presenters

Over the past ten years, total production related waste (TPRW) reported to EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) has remained fairly constant, increasing by just 2%. Within this aggregate trend, however, changes in TRI reporting requirements, production processes, market conditions, and environmental management in the U.S. may impact the TPRW managed and released to the environment for particular industry sectors and particular chemicals.

For example, hydrochloric acid (aerosols) TPRW decreased by 1.1 billion pounds from 2005 to 2014. Hydrogen sulfide was relisted as a TRI chemical in RY2012, which resulted in 1.5 billion pounds of TPRW managed. TRI data will be compared with other datasets to characterize industry or chemical metrics to bring greater context to TPRW trends. Different methods for analyzing trends in TRI data, and the associated advantages and disadvantages, will also be discussed in the context of what kinds of trend information is or is not available from TRI reporting. This presentation will a) identify TRI-listed chemicals that have notably increased or decreased in releases over the past few years, b) examine potential underlying causes of these changes, and c) provide narrative to describe causes of changes to augment the data analysis.

Analysis and Communication of Trends: Toxics Release Inventory in Kentucky

Larry Taylor, Presenter

The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection conducts an annual analysis of TRI data that is received by the agency. In the state analysis, the department evaluates the data using different metrics to provide different perspectives and increase understanding of trends in reporting. These metrics are developed to improve communication and understanding of the inventory data for Kentucky's citizens, industry and decision makers.