

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

Chris Rascher, Moderator

Chris Rascher has a master's degree in environmental engineering from Syracuse University. After school he was a project engineer for a consulting company designing industrial treatment facilities. Since then he has worked for the US EPA in several different areas including reducing pollution at large industrial sites. Chris has been in the Toxic Release Inventory program for the last 10 years. One of Chris's most rewarding aspects of his current job with TRI is walking through and learning about the many different industries that report for TRI.

Erik Edgar, Presenter

Mr. Edgar is a chemical engineer with over six years of consulting experience as an analyst and project manager to the U.S. EPA Headquarters TRI Program and EPA Regions 6, 7, 8 and 9. Mr. Edgar is program manager and lead developer for GuideMe, a database of official program correspondence and reporting guidance database, for the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program and Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) programs. He leads annual technical review and assembly of the TRI Reporting Forms and Instruction guidance document, and reviews the annual update. Mr. Edgar has supported economic analyses of chemical and sector expansion for the TRI Program, estimating industry burden through modeling of industrial toxic chemical use. Mr. Edgar has supported numerous additional EPA headquarters analyses of facility- and industry-level reporting of toxics releases and waste management including analysis on metal mines, refineries, electric utilities, oil and gas extraction, petroleum bulk storage, and lead smelters. Mr. Edgar has also trained over three thousand TRI filers on how to comply with the EPCRA Section 313 requirements via webinars and live workshops. He supports EPA's annual TRI data quality review efforts where he examines the TRI data to identify potential data anomalies that may indicate quality issues, and contacts facilities to review reporting and clarifying information. Prior to consulting, Mr. Edgar working in engineering and research capacities for fiberboard and building materials manufacture (JELD-WEN; Klamath Falls, OR), chemical applications research (Chemica Technologies; Beaverton, OR) and biodiesel production (Beaver Biodiesel LLC; Albany, OR), and environmental remediation (Western Research Institute; Laramie, WY).

TJ Pepping, Presenter

T.J. Pepping is an Analyst at Abt Associates. His work specializes in data analysis and interpretation and economic analysis, and supports several programs at EPA such as

the TRI National Analysis. Mr. Pepping earned a Master in Environmental Management degree from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Washington University. Prior to working at Abt Associates, he was a research fellow in EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

Larry Taylor, Presenter

Larry Taylor is an Environmental Scientist for the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection Commissioner's Office and serves as the science and policy advisor to the Commissioner and the Department on high profile, multimedia or cross-program projects that often involve multiple divisions.. His education is from the University of Kentucky with a BS in Biology and a Master of Science in Biology with emphasis in toxicology and ecology and has worked for DEP since 1994. In his role at DEP, Larry serves as Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) coordinator, Environmental Justice coordinator, Quality Assurance Manager, works on public health outreach and nutrient reduction, and has represented the department or cabinet on various committees, task forces, and work groups to advance environmental protection in the Commonwealth.