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*Right to Know*

## Preliminary Toxics Release Inventory Data To Be Released By EPA Week of July 20

Insight into which pollution prevention activities companies found to be most effective will be available as part of the preliminary Toxics Release Inventory data the Environmental Protection Agency will soon release, an agency official said July 14.

The TRI data also will identify barriers companies said they experienced as they tried in 2014 to reduce their TRI releases, Daniel Teitelbaum, an environmental policy analyst working in EPA's Toxics Release Inventory program said. He spoke during the 19th annual Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference sponsored by the American Chemical Society.

The EPA is working to make the 2014 TRI preliminary dataset public on July 21, an agency spokeswoman told Bloomberg BNA July 15.

The release of the preliminary data set will provide access to initially available 2014 information some 20,000 facilities reported concerning their air, water and land releases of 675 chemicals. The agency's detailed analysis of the full final data will be released in coming months, typically by December.

**P2 Reports Up; Corporate Name Searches.** Teitelbaum offered insights into initial trends the agency already has observed in the pollution prevention data companies have reported for 2014.

The percentage of companies reporting pollution prevention, or P2, data has increased from 2 percent in 2010 to 11 percent in 2013, Teitelbaum said.

He also described updates to TRI's pollution prevention website that allow users to search by hundreds of small and large corporate, or ''parent company,'' names.

Individual plants, or facilities, owned by companies in the manufacturing, metal mining, electric power generation, chemical manufacturing, hazardous waste treatment and other industrial sectors report TRI data. These include well-known corporations such as the Archer Daniels Midland Co., a global agricultural processor; the Lockheed Martin Corp., a global aerospace, defense, security and advanced technologies company; and the Exxon Mobil Corp.

The TRI program, implements Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). Under the program, facilities making or processing more than specific thresholds of TRI-listed chemicals, must provide the EPA a variety of information about their air, water or land releases of those chemicals.

**New Information Helps Identify Effective Changes.** New types of information available from the 2014 reports can help companies identify specific activities—for example raw material modifications, spill and leak prevention efforts and inventory control programs—that facilities found to be more or less effective at ''source reduction,'' meaning effective in reducing chemical waste, Teitelbaum said.

Beginning in their 2014 reports, facilities had the option of estimating the extent to which they were able to reduce chemical waste generation—compared with the previous year—as a result of P2 activities they undertook, he said.

Previously, facilities simply reported whether or not they had P2 activities, he said. Now they can show what those efforts accomplished, he said.

The information can help corporations, individual facilities, state officials and other interested parties identify the types of activities that contributed to their chemical waste reduction, Teitelbaum said.

The TRI program's initial analysis shows, for example, that changing raw materials is among the most effective means companies have found to reduce their releases of TRI chemicals, he said.

Changing cleaning and degreasing activities also contributes significantly to source reduction, Teitelbaum said. Changing cleaning and degreasing can

mean, for example, using aqueous cleaners instead of a solvent such as trichloroethylene.

Matthew Ranson, an analyst with Abt Associates, a public policy and business research and consulting company examining TRI data on behalf of the EPA, said his firm is completing the most comprehensive retrospective study conducted to date on the impact of pollution prevention activities companies have undertaken over the last 22 years.

A paper summarizing the study's results is under review, Ranson said.

**Barriers Identified.** Teitelbaum said barriers preventing companies from implementing P2 activities are another new type of information facilities reported in their 2014 submissions.

The TRI program's initial analysis showed that the most commonly reported barrier is finding no known substitute or alternative technology that could allow a company to reduce or eliminate a TRI-listed chemical, he said.

The second biggest barrier reported in 2014 is that facilities say their P2 activities already have reduced releases as much as feasible, Teitelbaum said.

Ranson said facilities typically achieve a 9 percent to 16 percent drop in their chemical releases and wastes in the first year they implement a P2 program.

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*The TRI's pollution prevention data can be searched at http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/tri/p2.html.*

*New information about the TRI program including updates to its data are announced at http://www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/recent-tri-program-news.*

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