



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER

P.O. Box 1049, 122 South Front Street

Columbus, OH 43216-1049

Tele: (614) 644-2160 Fax: (614) 644-2737

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Mike Settles
(614) 644-2160

Editor's Note: U.S. EPA is expected to release the national TRI report on or about March 30, 2005.

Report Shows Continued Decrease in Toxic Releases to Ohio's Environment

Toxic releases to Ohio's environment have decreased for the sixth consecutive year, according to the 17th annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) report from Ohio EPA. Releases decreased by 1.3 million pounds in 2003.

Each year, manufacturing and other facilities must report to Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA the amount of toxic substances they release to the environment, treat or otherwise manage on-site or transfer off-site for treatment and disposal.

For 2003, Ohio EPA received approximately 6,300 reports from 1,650 facilities. Overall, toxic releases to water decreased by more than one million pounds (13.8 percent) while releases to air decreased 0.83 percent. Other notable changes included:

- 1.07 percent decrease in deepwell injections;
- 0.30 percent decrease in on-site land disposal;
- 1.34 percent increase in discharges to publicly owned treatment works; and
- 1.62 percent increase in off-site disposal and treatment.

Toxic release increases or decreases for individual facilities are attributable to many factors including changes in production, accuracy and types of measurement used, and pollution prevention efforts.

The TRI report is a compilation of raw data. The report does not indicate the degree to which people may be exposed to these substances nor is it a health study or risk assessment. Not all material that is released to the environment results in exposure to people and some forms of treatment and disposal render toxic substances less hazardous or contain them to prevent exposure.

(more)

TRI Report

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The 2003 TRI report, including county-specific data, and past reports are available online at: www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/tri/tri.html. The material also is available at Ohio EPA's Central Office by calling (614) 644-4830 or writing to: Ohio EPA, DAPC/TRI, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio, 43216-1049.

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<http://www.epa.state.oh.us>