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NEWS RELEASE

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Decrease in Overall Releases Is Shown by Annual Ohio Toxic Release Inventory

Toxic releases to the environment decreased more than six percent in Ohio from 1999 to 2000, according to the latest Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) report issued today by Ohio EPA. The TRI report contains information about the use, release and management of a defined list of toxic chemicals.

“Over the past three years, toxic releases have decreased a total of 15 percent, at the same time the number of reporting facilities and chemicals covered have substantially increased. This is a significant accomplishment for Ohio,” said Ohio EPA Director Christopher Jones.

The 2000 TRI report is the 14th annual report, but only the third to include non-manufacturing facilities. The additional seven sectors reporting for the first time in 1998 were: metal mining; coal mining; coal- and oil-fired electric generating facilities; commercial hazardous waste treatment facilities; wholesale chemical and allied products; wholesale petroleum bulk stations; and solvent recovery services.

The results of the 2000 TRI report also reflect major changes in reporting requirements. Most of these changes relate to the reporting of persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemicals. PBT chemicals remain in the environment for a long period of time, are not readily destroyed and, can accumulate in body tissue. Relatively small releases of PBTs can pose a threat to humans and the environment. Additional PBT chemicals have been added to TRI's toxic chemical list and the reporting thresholds have been lowered substantially. PBTs are now reportable at 100 pounds, 10 pounds, or 0.1 grams for dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. In contrast, the typical reportable amount is 10,000 pounds, which had been the lowest reportable amount since the implementation of the TRI. More than 300 additional reports were submitted to Ohio EPA as a result of the new PBT reporting rule. However, PBT releases accounted for less than one percent of total releases.

Since the first TRI reports were made available to the public more than a decade ago, the number of facilities reporting in Ohio has increased from 1,397 in 1987 to 1,704 in 2000. Annually, regulated facilities must report to Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA the volume of toxic substances they release to the environment or transfer off-site for treatment,

disposal or other management.

The TRI report is a compilation of that data. It does not indicate the degree to which people may be exposed to these substances. Some forms of treatment or disposal render toxic substances less hazardous or contain them (such as deep well injection) to prevent exposure. Not all material that is released to the environment results in exposure to people.

Currently, the TRI includes more than 650 toxic chemicals and chemical categories that must be reported. However, the list of reportable chemicals has changed over the past 13 years in response to public comments. The table below summarizes notable changes between the most recent two reporting years, that is, from 1999 to 2000. (The entries are in millions of pounds.)

Environmental Medium	1999	2000	% change
Air	150.44	144.62	-3.87
Water	6.96	7.70	+10.58
Deepwell injection	27.65	30.29	+9.56
Land On-Site	70.27	46.79	-33.42
Wastewater Treatment (POTW)	19.80	23.18	+17.09
Transfer Off-Site (treatment & disposal)	75.69	76.41	+0.96
Total Releases & Transfers (adjusted)	350.81	329.00	-6.22

The complete 2000 Ohio TRI Report and additional, county-specific data, as well as the TRI reports for all previous years are available on Ohio EPA's Web site at:

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/tri/tri.html>.

Reports can be reviewed in person at Ohio EPA's Central Office by first calling (614) 644-4830 for an appointment. Printed copies of the report, data copies and computerized summaries are available by writing to Ohio EPA, DAPC/TRI, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.