



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio Toxic Releases Decrease Again

Toxic releases to Ohio's environment have decreased for the seventh consecutive year, according to the 18th annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) report from Ohio EPA. Overall, releases decreased by 7.2 million pounds in 2004.

The most significant decreases were reported for releases to air, which dropped by 4.4 million pounds. Deepwell injection releases were down by 6.7 million pounds and releases to land on-site decreased by 7.9 million pounds.

An increase was reported for releases to water, up by 0.5 percent. Discharges by wastewater treatment plants were up by 7.2 percent, and off-site disposal and treatment increased by 16.4 percent.

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 2004, Ohio EPA received approximately 6,100 reports from 1,600 facilities, or 50 fewer facilities than the previous year.

Changes in toxic releases are attributable to many factors including changes in production, accuracy and types of measurement used, and pollution prevention efforts.

The TRI 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.

The 2004 TRI report, including county-specific data, and past reports are available online at: <http://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.