

Environmental Justice and the Toxic Release Inventory

MECC October 27, 2021

Gene Taylor, PE



Why the Attention on EJ?

- HOT TOPIC political, legislative, regulatory, legal, and community relations
- EJ "Tools / Mechanisms" impacting industry
 - Permitting
 - EPA initiatives
 - Ambient monitoring near industrial sources
 - EPA direction of **enforcement resources** to most overburdened communities
 - Inspector General "management alerts" in areas of high risk
 - Formal Information Collection Requests (ICRs)
 - Regulation development (e.g., NESHAP, NSPS)
 - Civil rights / citizen suits
 - Increased public engagement and participation in rule development and permitting process
 - Increased access to environmental exposure data, estimates
 - Direction of **public funding** (and funding sources)
- Key ESG consideration of investors and stockholders



Things You Might Not Know about TRI

- 1. EPA has likely modeled impacts from your facility based on previous reports and combined your results with demographic profiles for the surrounding community
- 2. Has EPA identified your facility as having high Risk Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI), or not?
- 3. Do historical TRI reports indicate your facility has released cancer risk or hazard index compounds?
- 4. What are your TRI releases based upon?
 - Permit allowable (PTE), actual emissions (monitored), or some combination?
 - Are your TRI releases conservatively estimated or have large year over year changes going back to 1991?
- 5. You can take steps to improve the RSEI & EJ scores (past or future) of your facility and in your community



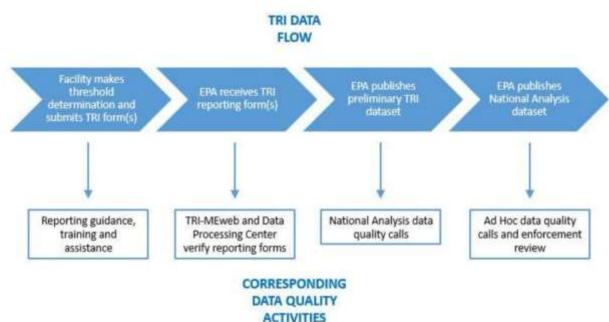
Administration, Legislative, and Regulatory EJ Actions

- EPA's Plan to Update TRI to Advance EJ April 30, 2021
 - Improve transparency, increase access to environmental information
 - Expand the scope of TRI reporting to include additional chemicals and facilities
 - Natural Gas Processing, Contract Sterilizers
 - Additional PFAS, TSCA Workplan and TSCA HPV chemicals
 - Provide new tools to make TRI data more accessible to the public
 - Pollution Prevention Information
 - Demographic profile info for a facility
- EPA's announcement "Improved Tools Supporting EJ" May 5, 2021
 - "Make it easier for users to learn about chemical releases from industrial and federal facilities ..."
 - New filter options in TRI Search Plus allows users to identify TRI facilities



Effects of your TRI on EJ

- TRI reported data affects EJ Environmental Indicators:
 - National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) air toxics cancer risk
 - NATA respiratory hazard index
 - Wastewater discharge
- TRI reported quantities drive EPA's Risk Screening Environmental Indicator (RSEI) scores
- RSEI scores are a significant part of the Environmental Indicator portion of EJ scores
- RSEI scores also establish EPA's priorities for further investigation and enforcement





EJ and your TRI – The Reality

- It is not uncommon for TRI reports to have conservative release estimates, reporting errors
- Facilities with the highest risk-screening scores (RSEI) and the largest changes in RSEI scores from the previous year draw EPA attention:
 - RSEI scores that are high in a community or state, high versus competitors, or have large year to year changes
- The Political Economy Research Institute publishes a list of
 - The top 100 air polluters by RSEI score,
 - The top 100 water polluters by RSEI score
 - Offer search ability by toxic chemical release amounts, RSEI scores, and Environmental Justice data for any company
- ► TRI reports can be corrected back to 1991
 - Use the EPA Audit Policy and eDisclosure process to correct errors w/o fear of fines



EJ and TRI Recommended Actions

- 1. Characterize your Environmental Justice Risk
 - How is your facility publicly represented by EPA & NGO's (as well as neighboring facilities):
 - RSEI releases, RSEI hazard rating, and RSEI scores
 - TRI & ECHO
 - Analyze & compare Environmental Indicators and EJ Indexes surrounding your facility
 - Compare results to thresholds for further agency investigation and/or potential permitting prohibitions
- Audit and improve historical TRI and Annual Air Emission Inventory (EI) release estimates

- 3. Minimize (improve) modeled impacts of PM2.5 & air toxics
- 4. Evaluate P2 opportunities to reduce future RSEI/NATA scores
- 5. Develop materials to improve communications with your community, regulators, management, and shareholders
- 6. Conduct multimedia compliance audits and improve compliance programs to minimize enforcement risk from increased agency inspections of high EJ score facilities

