TRI Data Exchange (TDX) – Alternative Method for Participating

Background

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program enacted under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986. Each year, approximately 21,000 U.S. facilities submit TRI reports to EPA and the States on releases and other waste management of certain toxic chemicals. Over 94% of the TRI reports for Reporting Year 2009 were prepared and submitted to EPA through the use of TRI-MEweb (TRI's online reporting software) and EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX).

Under EPCRA, a facility is required to submit its TRI reports to both EPA and the State in which it is located. However, through the use of the TRI Data Exchange (TDX),[1] a facility located in a participating TDX State[2] can meet its dual EPA/State reporting requirement by submitting each TRI report just to EPA, which then transmits the TRI report to the appropriate State on the facility's behalf.

To date, States wishing to participate in TDX have been required to establish operational nodes on the Exchange Network.[3] Twenty-nine States currently participate in TDX node-to-node exchanges and have been able to reduce their TRI data processing burdens, as well as the reporting burden on TRI reporting facilities. At the same time, other States and Territories have indicated that they would like to participate in TDX, but that they are unable to establish and maintain an operational node. In response, EPA will be offering an alternative method for participating in TDX, which does not depend on States/Territories having a node.

What is the alternative method for participating in TDX and how will it work?

Starting in early April 2011, States and Territories will be able to participate in TDX through a data "Download Method," rather than relying only on traditional node-to-node data transfers. This new download method will allow a participating State/Territory to obtain copy-of-record TRI data through a Web-based application – the TDX Viewer – and download the data in XML format to a desktop computer. While a node is not required, a State/Territory that wishes to utilize this TRI data download method will need to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with EPA. In addition, the State/Territory point of contact will need to establish a CDX account (http://cdx.epa.gov) and request access to the TDX Viewer in order to obtain the copy-of-record TRI data.

Will current TDX participants be affected?

Current TDX participants who are relying on node-to-node transfers of TRI data are not required to take any action. EPA will continue to support these node-to-node exchanges, and States/Territories are still encouraged to establish and maintain an Exchange Network node, if feasible. If current TDX participants wish to utilize the new TRI data download method – in addition to or instead of node-to-node exchanges – they will be required to sign a revised TDX MOA.

Is more information available?

For more information, please contact Shane Knipschild at Knipschild.Shane@epa.gov or 202-566-0953.

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[1] The TRI Data Exchange (TDX) was previously known as the TRI State Data Exchange (SDX). The name has been changed to reflect anticipated participation by Territories and Tribes at some point in the future.

[2] A TDX State is one that participates in the Environmental Information Exchange Network and has a Memorandum of Agreement with the TRI Program regarding the exchange of TRI data.

[3] For more information on node-to-node exchanges, see http://www.epa.gov/tri/stakeholders/state/state_exchange/index.htm.