



# National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials

*Concerned with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act*

June 1, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Mail Code: 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: CAFOs and Emergency Release Reporting

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO), which is made up of members and staff of State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCS), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), various federal, state and local agencies, private industry and the vast number of volunteers that perform emergency planning and emergency response activities for their communities. Our membership is dedicated to working together with regulated facilities, transportation entities and communities at large to improve community preparedness for emergency events including hazardous materials releases.

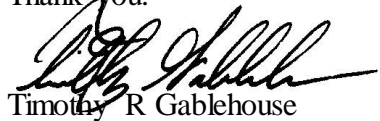
NASTTPO over the past several years has had the opportunity to work with various industry groups on emergency preparedness related rulemaking programs at EPA. These experiences have taught us that the most important thing to LEPCs and first responders is not detailed regulatory requirements for a facility's relationship to these groups, but rather the simple act of open dialog and coordination. Following the DC Circuit decision in *Waterkeeper Alliance v EPA*, we have had meaningful and encouraging discussions with the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association along these lines. NASTTPO believes that open dialog and coordination can be more effective than release reporting for farms that do not handle quantities of EPCRA EHS chemicals but are nevertheless expected to report regarding animal manure management.

We have had experience with EPCRA emergency release reports as well as CERCLA continuous release reports from farms primarily regarding ammonia from animal manure management. These reports are of no particular value to LEPCs and first responders and they are generally ignored because they do not relate to any particular event. (This should be contrasted to the few farms that utilize gas chlorine for water treatment where emergency release reports are useful because they are event specific.)

LEPCs and first responders do not need more generic data. They need information that is locally relevant and upon which they can act. This goal is best obtained by a program that promotes coordination between the regulated facilities and these local groups. Recent discussions suggest that such a program involving farms may be achievable.

We are in favor of reducing regulatory burdens if coordination on the information needs of LEPCs and first responders occurs. The information we want from farms is community-specific. Only the LEPC and local first responders can determine what information they need from a farm as part of their emergency planning process. What we really need is coordination between the farm and local responders and LEPCs. We want them to talk to each other.

Thank you.



Timothy R Gablehouse

President

410 17<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 275

Denver CO 80202

(303) 572-0050