



State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality



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M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

J. Dale Givens
Secretary

DEQ Reveals Drastic Reductions in Louisiana's Toxic Release Inventory For 1999

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has just released the 1999 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data. **Based on TRI total releases, EPA ranked Louisiana 12th among states for all reporting industries in 1999, compared to 10th for 1998.** This data is the compilation of toxic chemical release and waste management activities annually submitted to both the state and EPA by manufacturing industries and certain other industries subject to the reporting requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986.

A major change for the 1999 reporting year was EPA's removal of Phosphoric Acid from the list of TRI reportable chemicals. The delisting of phosphoric acid made a substantial impact in overall releases for the state, particularly the water discharges. In previous years, 95% of all phosphoric acid releases were reported as water discharges. Phosphoric acid had been the top chemical reported in the state, predominantly by the fertilizer industries, which reported 99% of all phosphoric acid releases.

DEQ Secretary Dale Givens said, "This agency has long felt that this compound should be removed from the list of TRI chemicals as several popular carbonated soft drinks contain phosphoric acid."

For reporting year 1999, a total of 149,834,312 pounds was reported for the state based on all releases. This figure, which includes all reportable chemicals and all facilities, represents a 20% decrease from reporting year 1998, and a decline of 79% from 1987 as shown in the chart below. In water discharges alone, approximately 15 million pounds was reported, representing a huge decrease of 58% from last year.

By media, statewide air releases for 1999 represented 48% of total releases (70 million pounds). Air releases decreased by 11% based on 80 million pounds reported in 1998. Water releases represented 10% of the state's total or 15 million pounds. As previously stated, water discharges dropped 58% from last year's 37 million pounds. On-site land releases represented approximately 11% or 16 million pounds, a 2% increase from 1998. Underground injection accounted for approximately 31% or 46 million pounds, representing a 13% decrease from 1998.

Today's announcement provides information to the public on approximately 650 chemical and chemical categories. In Louisiana, 250 of these chemicals and chemical categories were reported by 324 facilities. These companies submitted 2,292 forms, (including 107 certification statements). The reports were due in July 2000.

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ON-SITE RELEASES FOR ALL YEARS

