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National Priority Chemicals Trends Report (2004-2006)

Foreword

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FOREWORD

Why We Publish This Report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Solid Waste (OSW) annually produces this National Priority Chemicals Trends Report to assist states and EPA's regional offices identify opportunities for reducing certain chemicals that we call Priority Chemicals or PCs in wastes, as well as to inform the public about PCs. These 31 chemicals (28 organics and three metals/metal compounds) are frequently released to the water, air, and land as industrial wastes, byproducts or impurities.

About This Report

In this Report, we analyze the trends for the quantities and management of PCs that industrial and federal government facilities reported to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)* for reporting years 2004 through 2006 and present data derived from the 2005 Hazardous Waste Biennial Report. We discuss our goal to reduce PCs in wastes, as well as present analyses for the 10 PCs and the five North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes in which facilities reported the largest quantities of PCs for 2006. An index and list of exhibits at the back of this Report provide useful references.

Immediately below, you will find a Customer Feedback Survey. We would be grateful for your comments so that we can continue to improve the National Priority Chemicals Trends Report as a tool for environmental improvement through even greater reductions in PCs.

Changes to This Year's Report

For the first time, we are able to present Hazardous Waste Biennial Report (BR) data applicable to PCs. BR data are reported for waste streams containing hazardous constituents or chemicals in wastes. Often, multiple chemicals are contained in a waste stream. We have developed a methodology by which to estimate the quantity of individual PCs contained in waste streams. This allows us to supplement the TRI data and provide a more complete picture of the national quantity of PCs and to provide, for the first time, data for the PCs that are not reported to TRI.

In addition, we focused this year's Report on the most recent three years (rather than five years) of data for the PCs and industries that accounted for the majority of non-recycled PCs generated. While this "streamlined" approach omits some information, we believe that it shows industries and waste streams that might offer the most promising waste minimization opportunities.

Your Comments Requested

Immediately below, you will find a Customer Feedback Survey. We would be grateful for your comments so that we can continue to improve the *National Priority Chemicals Trends Report* as a resource for environmental improvement through continuing reductions in PCs entering the environment.

* TRI is a publicly available EPA database that contains information on hazardous chemical releases and other waste management activities reported annually by certain regulated industries and federal facilities. TRI was established under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) and expanded by the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.