

EPA's Proposal to Update the Air Emissions Reporting Rule: Five Things to Know

July 25, 2023 – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to update its Air Emissions Reporting Requirements rule. This rule requires states to collect data on emissions of air pollutants and submit the data to the Agency. The data are the basis for EPA's National Emissions Inventory, which the Agency uses as it develops and reviews regulations, conducts air quality modeling, and conducts risk assessments. Other federal agencies, along with state, local, and tribal air agencies, and the public, also use the data the inventory provides.

The proposed updates would ensure that EPA has readily available data to identify places where people are exposed to harmful air pollution and to develop solutions. It also would provide communities data to understand the significant sources of air pollution that may be affecting them – including data on highly toxic chemicals that can cause cancer and other serious health problems.

Here are some key things to know about the proposed rule:

- 1. It would require air toxics (hazardous air pollutant) emissions reporting.** While most states voluntarily report air toxics emissions data to EPA now, reporting is not consistent nationwide. The proposal would require many industrial facilities to report air toxics emissions data and offers states the option to report emissions on behalf of the industry sources in their states.
- 2. It would mean that more facilities must report emissions every year** by using the same emissions thresholds every year to determine whether a facility's detailed emissions information must be reported.
- 3. It would fill reporting gaps for some portions of Indian country and federal waters.** The proposal would require industry to report emissions for certain facilities that operate in those areas and that currently are not reported.
- 4. It includes provisions to limit the burden on small businesses.** The proposal includes flexibilities such as allowing certain small businesses to report a facility's total air toxics emissions instead of detailed data and exempting many collision repair shops from air toxics reporting requirements.
- 5. It would provide EPA information that would help the Agency improve its estimates of emissions from prescribed fires.** EPA is committed to helping communities and our federal, state, local, and tribal partners manage the health impacts of smoke from wildland fires, including prescribed fires. Prescribed fire is a land management tool that can reduce the likelihood of catastrophic wildfires by reducing the buildup of unwanted fuels.

EPA will take comment on the proposal for 70 days after it is published in the Federal Register. The Agency also will hold a virtual public hearing. To read the proposal, or for a more detailed fact sheet, visit [the Air Emissions Reporting Rule website](#).