Name: _____ Date: _____

Investigating Chemical Releases in Your Community

Part 1: In Your State

Directions:

1. Go to the TRI Program homepage at www.epa.gov/tri. Scroll down to the TRI Toxics Tracker tool at the bottom.
2. Under the "Address/State, County, City or ZIP Code" tab, click on the 'State' dropdown menu and choose your state.
3. Click "View Search Results."
4. Click "Facilities Summary" from the left navigation bar. Use the information to fill out the chart below.

Key Terms

Facility: A place where chemicals are used to make products or other chemicals. The law requires some facilities to submit data about what they do to EPA's TRI Program. On this worksheet, these are called "TRI facilities."

Release: Refers to different ways that toxic chemicals from industrial facilities enter the air, water, and land.

Production-related waste managed: Chemical waste created due to normal production processes at a facility. Facilities decide what to do with this waste.

Environmental media: Refers to the air, water, and land.

YOUR FINDINGS	
State Name:	**Number of TRI Facilities:**
Total production-related waste managed quantity (in pounds):	
Top-ranked facility based on quantity of total disposal or other releases:	
Environmental media into which top facility reported releasing chemicals:	

Consider these questions:

1. Look at the map displaying the location of TRI facilities in your state. Are they spread out throughout the state or clustered in one area? What factors might influence the distribution and location of these facilities?

2. Scroll down to the chart titled "Total Disposal or Other Releases Over Time." Have releases in your state increased or decreased over time?

3. To what industry sectors do the 10 facilities that release the largest quantities of TRI chemicals belong?

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Part 2: Near Your Home or School

Directions:

Now, look at the chemicals managed by facilities close to where you live or go to school.

1. Click the "'New Search"' button in the left navigation bar in TRI Toxics Tracker.
2. Enter the ZIP code or select the city/county of your house or school using the menus.
3. Click "View Search Results." (Note: if there aren't any TRI facilities in your ZIP code, choose a different location.)
4. From either the results map or the facility list under "Facilities Summary," choose one facility, then click "Releases" in the left navigation bar. *(Note: the results should now be about just the one facility.)*
5. Identify two chemicals reported by this facility. Fill out the chart below.

YOUR FINDINGS	Chemical #1	Chemical #2
Name of facility:		
ZIP code or city/county name:		
Name of chemical		
How much of this chemical was released (total) in pounds/year?		
- Into air?		
- Into water?		
- Into land?		

Note: facilities report dioxin and dioxin-like compounds in grams; all other chemicals are reported in pounds.

Consider these questions:

1. Why might 10 pounds of Chemical #1 released to air be of more concern to a nearby community than 30 pounds of Chemical #2 released to water?

2. For Chemical #1, why might the quantities released into the air, water, and land differ from one another within a given year?

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3. Which chemical was released in the largest quantities, Chemical #1 or #2? Do the TRI data give any indication of how the chemical is used at the facility?

4. What are the primary health effects associated with Chemical #1 and Chemical #2? Why might students at your school be affected differently by these chemicals?

Part 3: Reported Pollution Prevention Activities

Facilities are required to tell EPA about any new pollution prevention (P2) activities they implement to reduce or eliminate the creation of chemical waste. Using your previous ZIP code or city/county search, fill out the chart below.

Directions:

1. At the bottom of the left navigation bar, click the link to open the full version of Toxics Tracker.
2. Click the "Continue with my existing selection" button in the overlay that appears.
3. Click on "Summary" in the left navigation bar and then the "Facility List" tab to view a count of the pollution prevention activities by facility.
4. Click on the Pollution Prevention tab from the left navigation options and explore the information in the tabs. (Tip: Using the Filters and Options button on the top left corner may be handy)
5. Fill out the chart on the next page. *(Note: the full version of Toxics Tracker displays the most recent 3 years of data by default.)*

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Your Findings	
Which facility implemented the most P2 activities in the last 3 years?	
Across all facilities in your state, which chemical reported the most P2 activities?	
In the most recent year, what was the most-reported pollution prevention (source reduction) category?	
For each of the P2 activities implemented, facilities have the option to report optional details. Choose a facility and corresponding comment. Write those here.	

Reflection:

Now that you've completed this worksheet, what questions do you have? What items do you want to follow up on? Where can you look to get more information?