

# **Update on the North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Project**



**Meeting of the Consultative Group  
12-13 December 2001, Montreal**

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(CEC) of North America**

# CEC Project Update

- ***Taking Stock* reports, website**
- **Recent / ongoing activities**
- **Trilateral cooperation to enhance comparability of PRTRs**
- **Increasing communication among Consultative Group members**

# ***Taking Stock -1998***

- published in July 2001
- new 2-volume format
- additional sectors (e.g. electric utilities, hazardous waste management)
- data on recycling, energy recovery

# ***Taking Stock website***

- launched in July 2001
- ‘query builder’ function allows users flexible access to the matched North American data sets
- *Suggestions for improvement welcome*

**[www.cec.org/takingstock/](http://www.cec.org/takingstock/)**

# ***Taking Stock -1999***

## **What's new in the upcoming report?**

- five years of data (1995-1999)
- continuation of 2-volume format
- covers additional chemicals
- analyses of ozone depleters, CEPA toxic, California Prop. 65 lists
- adjustment analysis
- target date: Spring 2002

# Development of *Taking Stock* - 2000 Report

- Meeting of Consultative Group
- Governmental Meeting
- Written comments (by 15 January 2002)
- 'Response to Comments' document
- Special feature report - topic to be selected
- Target date: Winter 2002/2003

# Support for PRTR Activities in Mexico

- guidance manual on release estimation
- 'Roundtable Discussion' on RETC program, March 2001
- support for stakeholder involvement
- linkages with international activities

# Ad Hoc PRTR Group

- informal, trinational group of individuals from industry, academia and public interest groups interested in advancing PRTRs and their use
- development of brochure
- planning for a second project



# Enhancing Comparability of North American PRTRs

- Identifying areas where action is needed to improve match-up of data from the national PRTRs
- Identifying options
- Developing action plan

# Enhancing Comparability of North American PRTRs

Issues under consideration:

- use of NAICS industry codes
- comparability of industry sectors
- mandatory reporting on comparable categories of releases, transfers
- comparability of chemical lists

# Enhancing Comparability of North American PRTRs

Issues under consideration (*continued*):

- reporting thresholds
- pollution prevention reporting
- standardizing names of parent companies and off-site transfer sites
- public access, disclosure

# Increasing communication among PRTR stakeholders

- *Questions for discussion:*
  - Is there interest in additional communication on PRTR developments?
  - What information would be of interest?
  - What means of communication would be of most useful?
- *Options for consideration:*
  - electronic discussion group
  - electronic bulletin board
  - *Trio* newsletter
  - other?



# ***We want to hear from you!***

*Please provide us with your ideas and suggestions on:*

- the new *Taking Stock* format
- the *Taking Stock* website
- enhancing comparability of PRTRs
- increasing communication on PRTR developments
- any other topics, issues of particular interest