

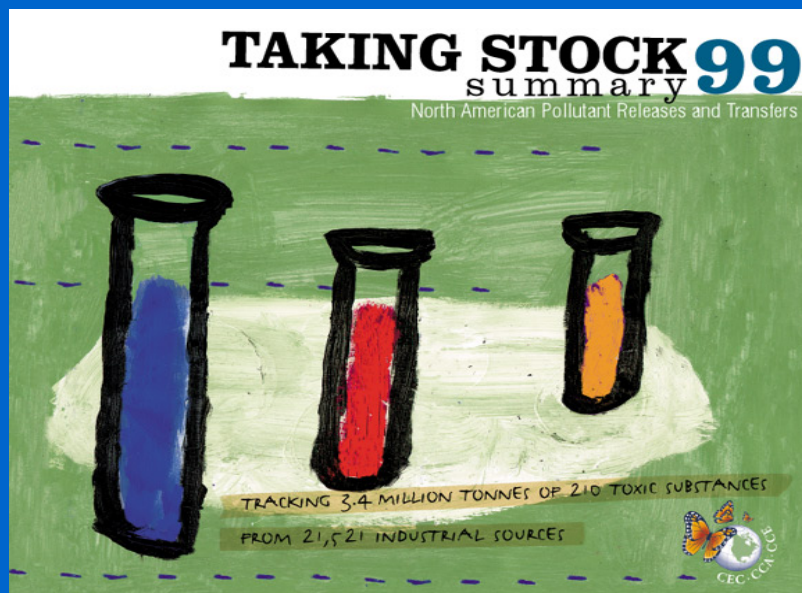
# Update on PRTR Activities



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Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America

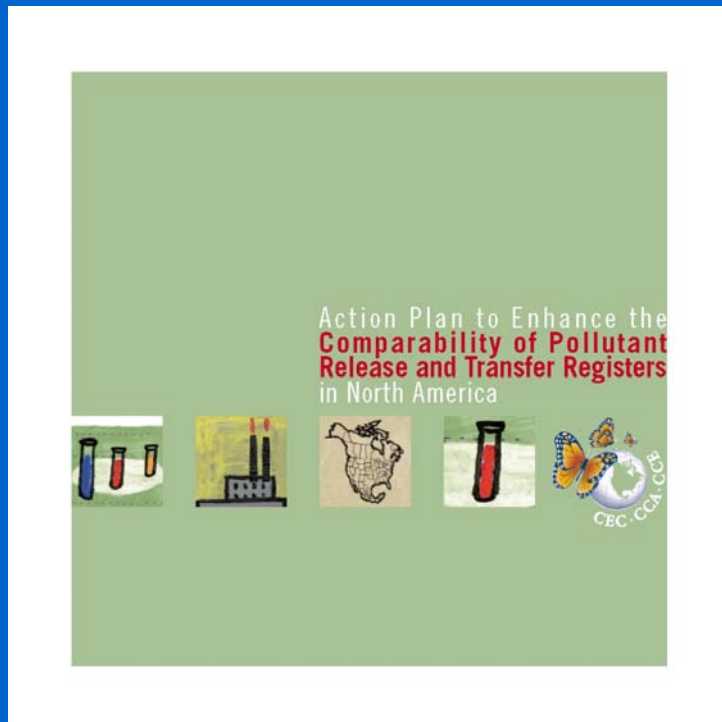
Joint SMOC-PRTR Public Meeting  
Cuernavaca, 17 October 2002

# Taking Stock



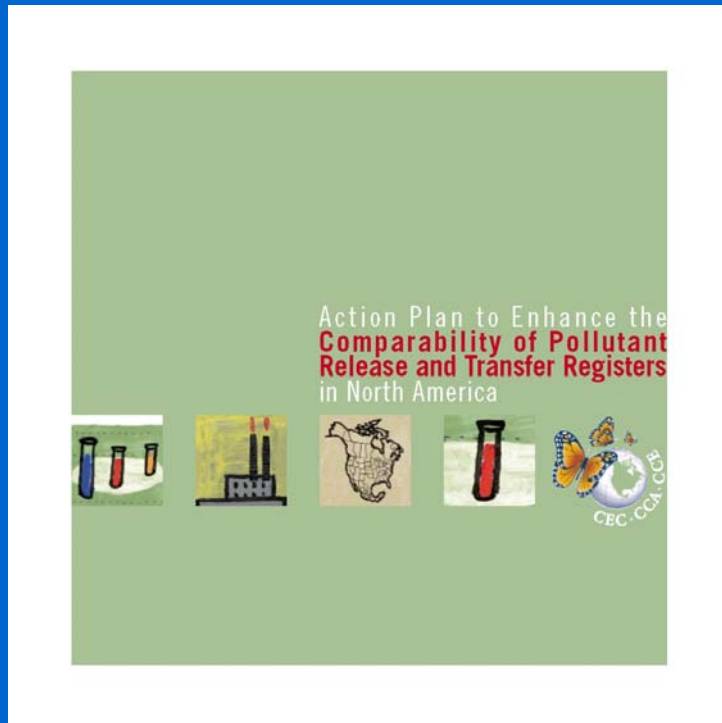
- Provides a North American picture of chemical releases and transfers
- Analyzes common elements of TRI, NPRI; will include RETC data in the future

# Action Plan on PRTRs



- *Action Plan to Enhance Comparability Among PRTRs in North America* adopted by Council in June 2002 (Res. 02-05)
- Developed through collaboration among the national programs

# Action Plan on PRTRs



- Outlines areas where comparability is lacking or could be improved
- Describes specific actions to be taken by the national PRTR programs

# Issues of Comparability

- Matching data between national PRTRs requires comparable:
  - Chemical lists
  - Reporting thresholds
  - Industry sectors
  - Industry classification codes
  - Parameters for reporting releases and transfers
- Data must also be reported on a mandatory basis, and must be publicly accessible

# Progress to date

- Reporting of :
  - off-site transfers by individual transfer site (NPRI, 1996)
  - pollution prevention activities (NPRI, 1997, 2002)
  - additional industry sectors (TRI, 1998)
  - transfers to recycling and energy recovery made mandatory (NPRI, 1998)
- Expansion of chemical list (NPRI, 1999)
- Addition of PBTs (NPRI and TRI, 2000)

## Progress to date

- Net result: increase from about 40 % to 60 % in amount of data that can be included in the matched data set (TRI-NPRI)
- Key development in Mexico with passage of legislation for mandatory and publicly accessible RETC (December 2001)

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## *Action Plan* – Highlights

- Industry classification codes
- Industry sectors
- Reporting on comparable release and transfer types
- Public access/data confidentiality
- **Reporting thresholds**
- **Chemical lists- PBTs**



# Reporting Thresholds

<b>Threshold type</b>	<b>TRI</b>	<b>NPRI</b>	<b>RETC</b>
<b>Manufacture, process, otherwise use</b>	All chemicals	Most chemicals	None
<b>Releases and transfers</b>	None	Applies to polycyclic aromatic compounds	None
<b>On-site releases</b>	None	None	All chemicals
<b>No chemical threshold</b>	None	Dioxins/furans and hexachlorobenzene	None
<b>Number of Employees</b>	10 or more (all chemicals)	10 or more (most chemicals)	No employee threshold

# Reporting Thresholds

- Status:
  - NPRI-TRI data comparable for those chemicals with activity-based thresholds (i.e. amounts manufactured, processed or otherwise used)
  - RETC not comparable to NPRI or TRI

Action Plan and Council Res. 02-05 encourage RETC to adopt activity-based thresholds as an important step towards trilateral comparability

# Chemical Lists - PBTs

- NPRI:
  - 23 PBTs added in 2000, some with “release/transfer” thresholds, one with MPU threshold
- TRI:
  - 6 PBTs added in 2000; reporting thresholds lowered for additional 11 (all with MPU thresholds)
- RETC:
  - No new additions; all thresholds based on “on-site releases”

# PBTs

- Status of comparability among newly added PBTs:
  - 7 are common to NPRI and TRI, of which 3 have comparable reporting: acrolein, **mercury** and xylenes
  - none match trilaterally
  - **Dioxins/furans** and **hexachlorobenzene** have different reporting definitions (NPRI-TRI)

Action Plan calls for analyses of the unique features of each system to identify potential modifications that would enhance comparability

# PRTR reporting of SMOC substances

SMOC Substance	Mexican RETC	US TRI	Canadian NPRI
DDT	Yes	No	No
Chlordane	Yes	Yes – starting with year 1988 – as of 2000 more sources covered due to lowered reporting threshold	No
PCB	Yes	Yes – starting with year 1988 – as of 2000 more sources covered due to lowered reporting threshold	No
Mercury	Yes – inorganic compounds and elemental form	Yes – starting with year 1988 – as of 2000 more sources covered due to lowered reporting threshold	Yes – starting with year 1995 – as of 2000 more sources covered due to lowered reporting threshold
Dioxins/furans	Yes – 2 congeners	Yes – 17 congeners starting with year 2000	Yes – 17 congeners starting with year 2000, reported as TEQ
Lindane	Yes	Yes – starting with year 1988	No
Lead	Yes	Yes – starting with year 1988 – as of 2001 more sources covered due to lowered reporting threshold	Yes – starting with year 1995- as of 2002 more sources covered due to lowered reporting threshold

\* NPRI/TRI reporting thresholds are based on amount of activity/use. RETC reporting thresholds are based on amount of on-site releases, which are not comparable to NPRI/TRI thresholds.