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***Country Update:***  
***National Pollutant Release***  
***Inventory (NPRI)***

**CEC Annual PRTR Meeting—October 17-18, 2005**

Environment Canada  
Pollution Data Branch



***In addition to NPRI-Ontario Reg. 127 harmonization, other efforts are proceeding to achieve national harmonization of pollutant reporting in Canada...***

- Environment Canada and Alberta Environment have been operating a joint pollution data collection program on a trial basis for over 2 years
  - A formal agreement to implement a *single* system for facilities to report information on pollutant releases to both governments is being finalized
- BC, Quebec, and the Atlantic provinces are also interested in exploring opportunities for harmonization/collaboration with EC
- National harmonization of pollutant reporting will increase the usefulness, quality, and comparability of reported data while simplifying reporting for industry
- A *National Framework for Pollutant Reporting* has been proposed.



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# *“One Window to National Environmental Reporting System” (OWNERS)...*



- Is a secure, adaptable, online and consolidated environmental data reporting system, launched in March 2005.
- Currently incorporates 7 federal, provincial, municipal and industry environmental reporting programs
- Decreases the reporting burden on Canadian businesses and increases the accuracy and timeliness of environmental data collection
- Single collection point with distribution of information to each program
- **Out of over 8000 facilities that reported for 2004, less than 60 reported “off-line”**



# *Background*

- Green plan: “inform Canadians about releases of pollutants”
- Considered U.S. Toxics Release Inventory as a starting point but made important changes to tailor to Canada
- Consensus recommendations from multi-stakeholder group accepted by Minister
- First reports to be submitted by July 1, 1994 for 1993



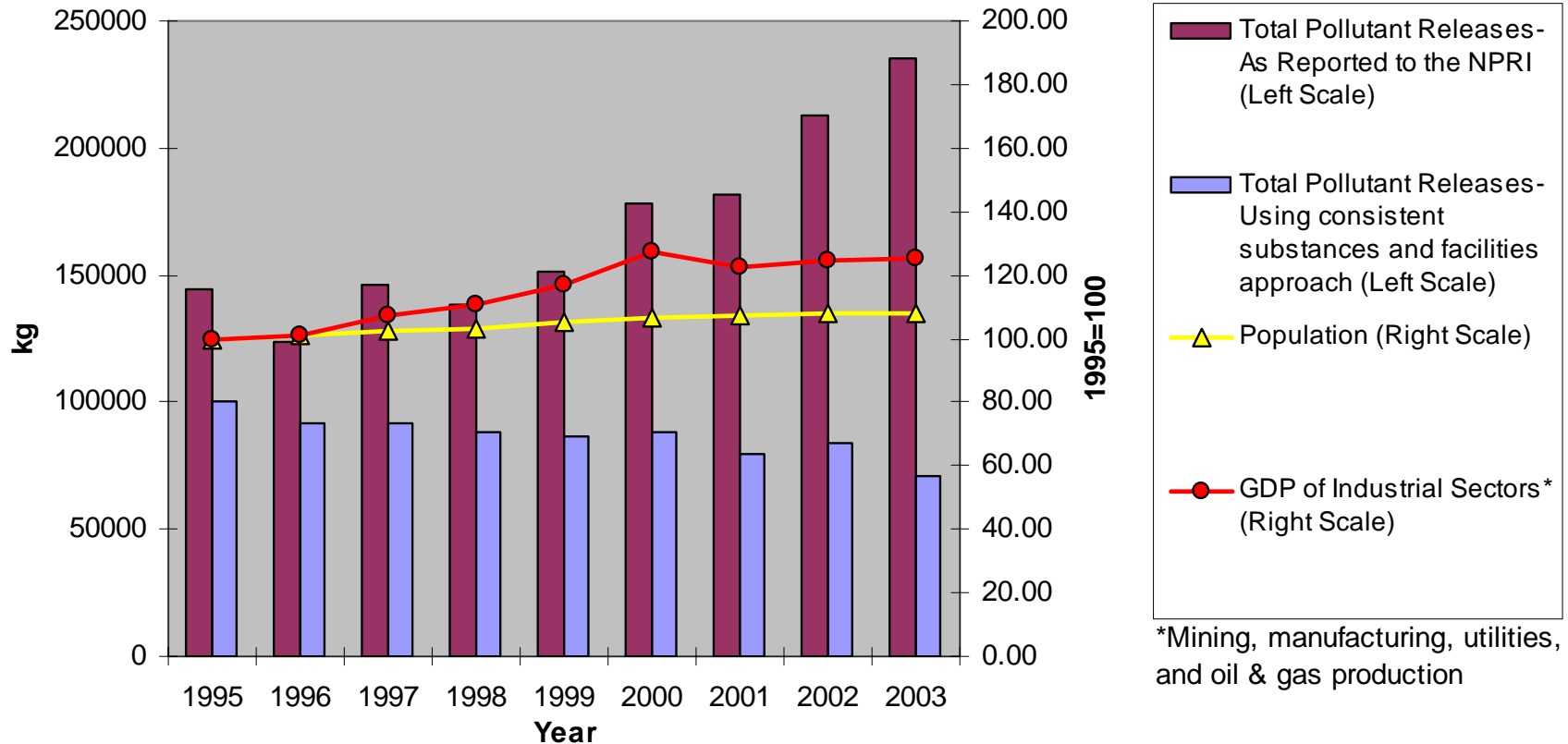
# *Trends in Reporting to the NPRI (1994-2004)*

Year	# of Reporting Facilities	# of Substances	# of Substance Reports	Changes
1995	1791	176	6463	
1996	1870	176	6846	
1997	1996	176	7508	
1998	2049	176	7679	
1999	2220	268	8691	First addition
2000	2428	268	11044	PBT
2001	2639	265	11907	
2002	4613	273	24311	Air poll.+
2003	8216	323	33203	Oil and gas+
2004	8425	323	33603	



# Canada, 1995-2003

## NPRI Pollutant Releases vs. Population and GDP



\*Mining, manufacturing, utilities, and oil & gas production

(Source: Environment Canada, National Pollutant Release Inventory; Statistics Canada)



# *Presentation of Information...*

- Environment Canada has consulted with stakeholders on changes to the presentation of information
- Substances sent to disposal on site originally included with releases on site while material sent off site for disposal included with transfers off site.
  - Identical activities were portrayed differently
- New Presentation:
  - Releases: air, water, land (spill & other)
  - Disposal: landfill, land application, underground injection treatment prior to disposal, transfer to sewer



# *Consultations on Changes*

- The National Pollutant Release Inventory has an on-going consultation process to address changes to the program
- Priority for changes are those related to harmonization with Ontario – these changes may also improve comparability of data between Canada and the US
  - Additional polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are being considered for addition to the list of reportable PAHs including those on the US Toxics Release Inventory
  - Exemption for mines is being reconsidered, including reporting of tailings





# *Importance of comparability*

- Comparability across North America is important for informing citizens, for policy development, and for risk management
  - Refinery Framework uses Canadian and US information to set performance criteria for emissions
  - Canada uses information from Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to analyse relative performance



## *Early Efforts at Harmonized Reporting...*

- Reporting software distributed on CD to reporting facilities
  - Environment Canada and Canadian Chemical Producers Association: common form that generates separate reports for each
- Informal agreement with Ontario to add Ontario specific fields and substances to the reporting form for 2001
  - Separate reports
- Informal agreement with Alberta to collect their data using NPRI form for 2002