

Update on PRTR Activities



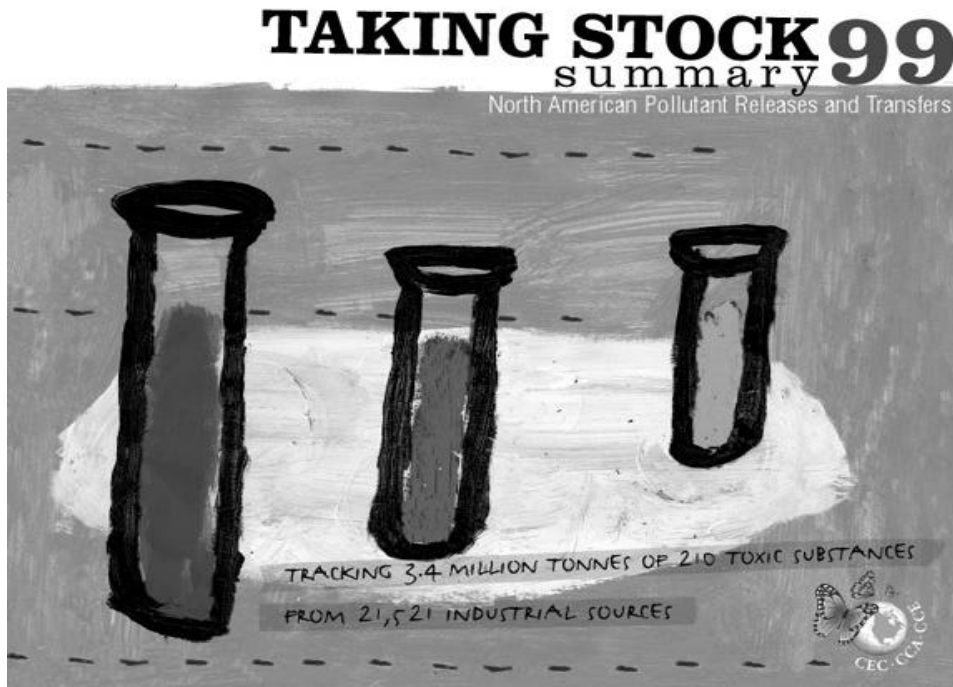
Erica Phipps, Program Manager
Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America

Meeting of the Consultative Group
for the North American PRTR Project
Cuernavaca, 16 October 2002

Taking Stock

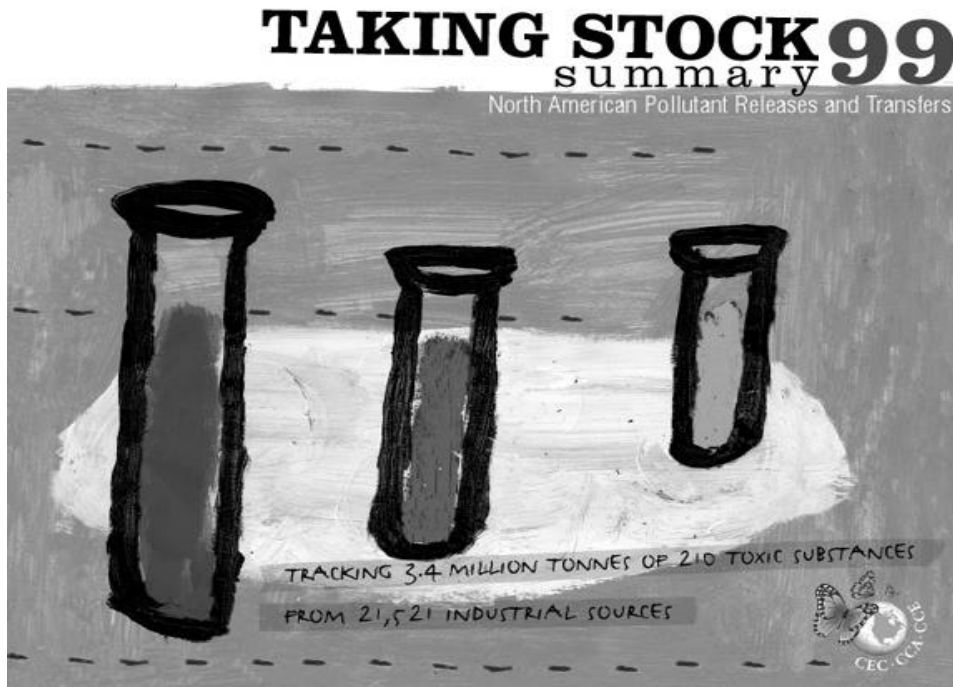
- Provides a North American picture of chemical releases and transfers
- Published annually
- Analyzes common elements of TRI, NPRI; will include RETC data in the future
- Based on matched data set of common chemicals and industry sectors

Taking Stock 1999 - Findings



- Almost 3.36 million tonnes of chemicals released and transferred in 1999
- Over 1 million tonnes of transfers sent for recycling
- 14% of total releases were carcinogens

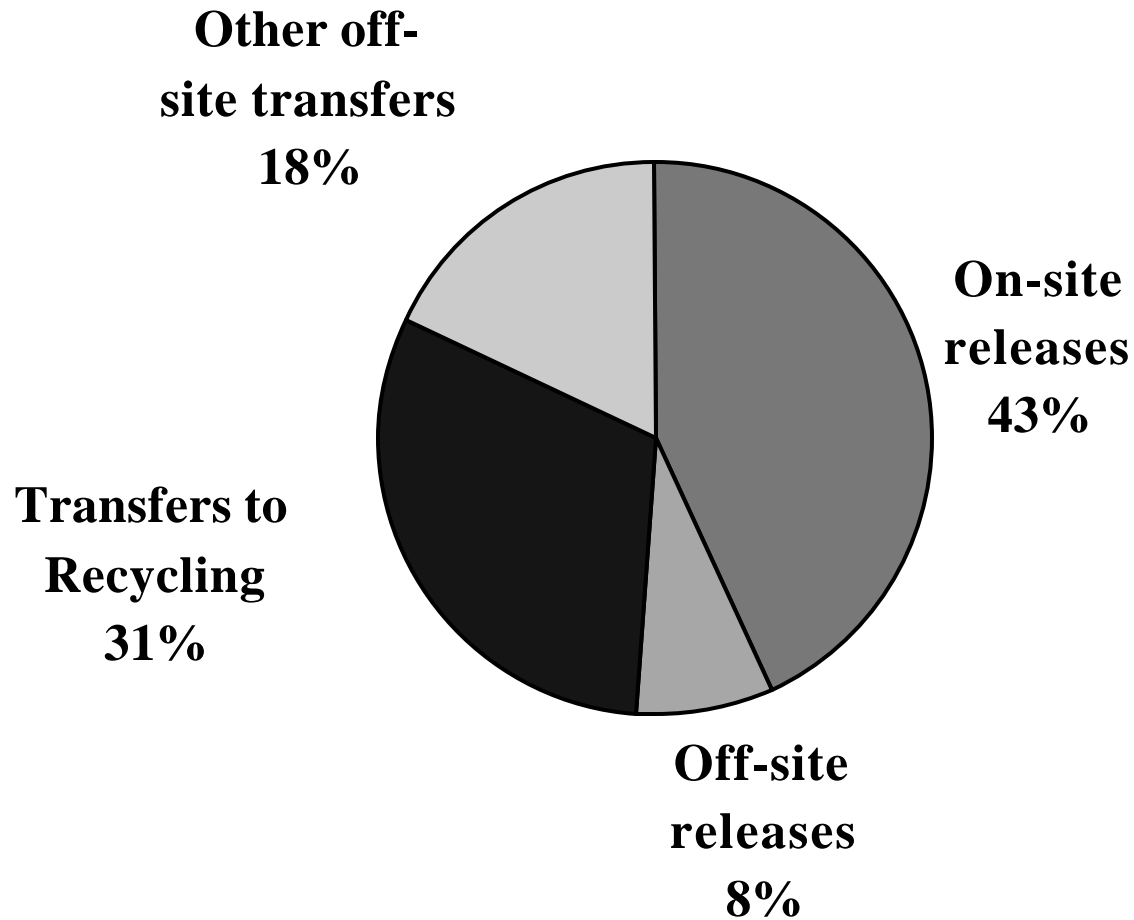
Taking Stock 1999 - Findings



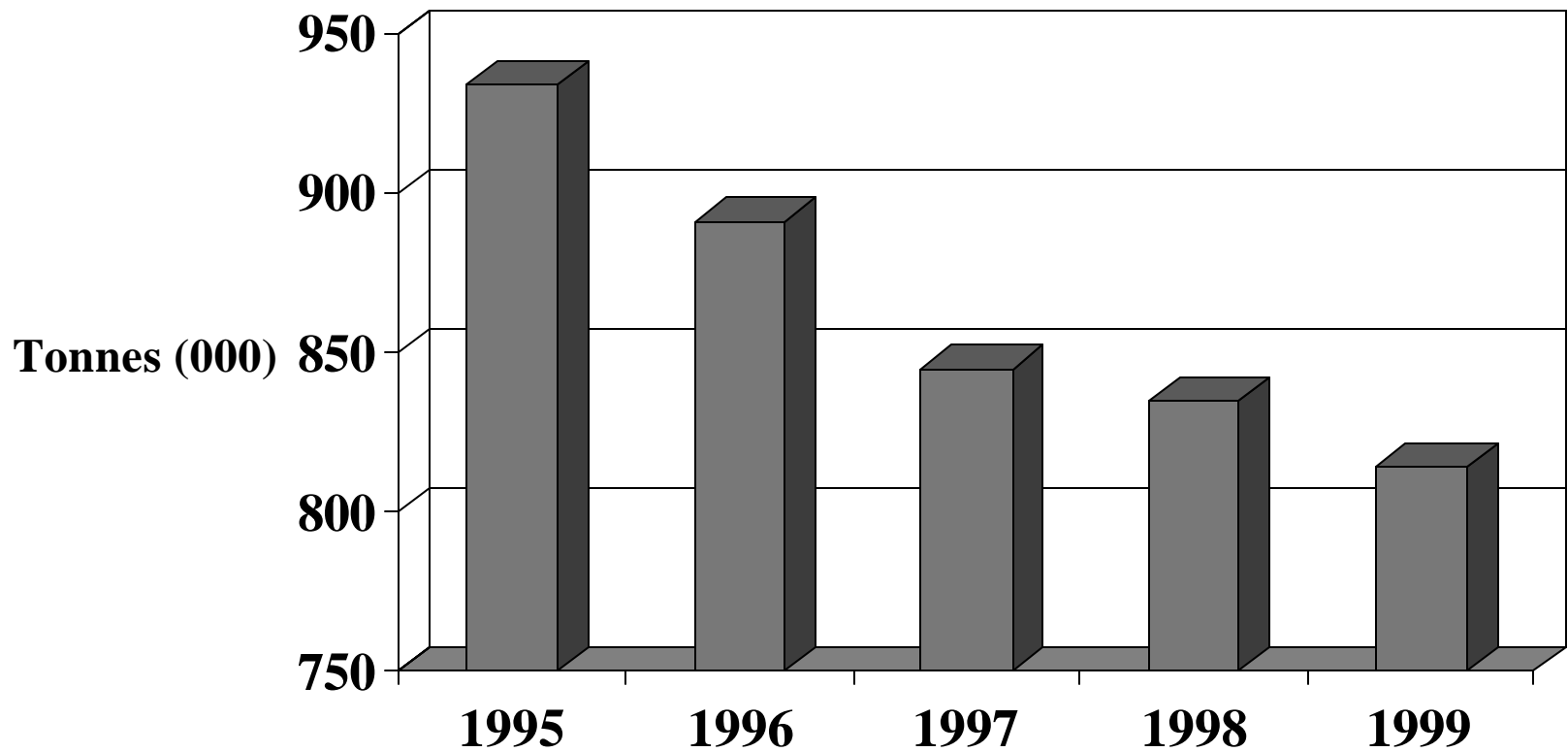
- Facilities in Ohio, Texas, Pennsylvania and Ontario reported 25% of total releases on- and off-site
- Primary metals, chemicals and electric utilities had the largest total releases and transfers

Total reported amounts- 1999

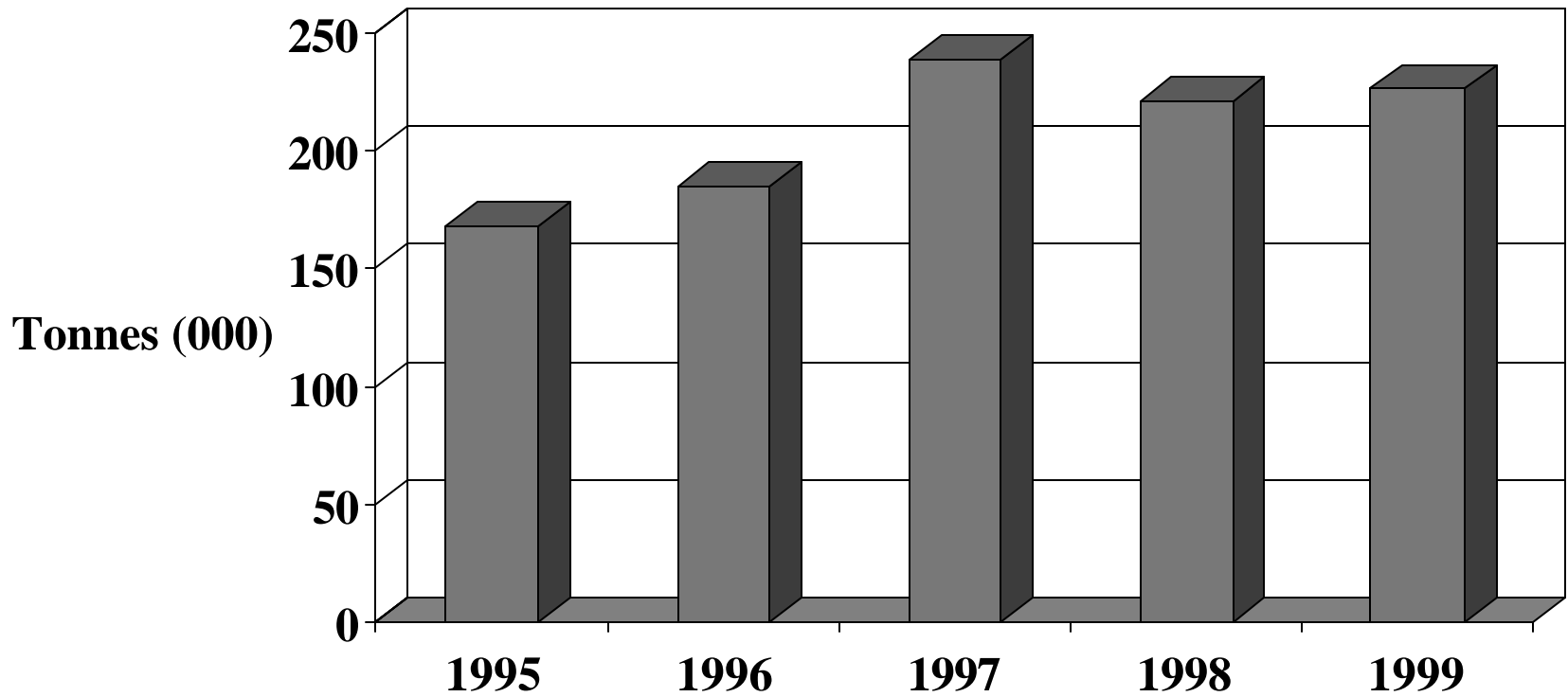
3.36 million tonnes



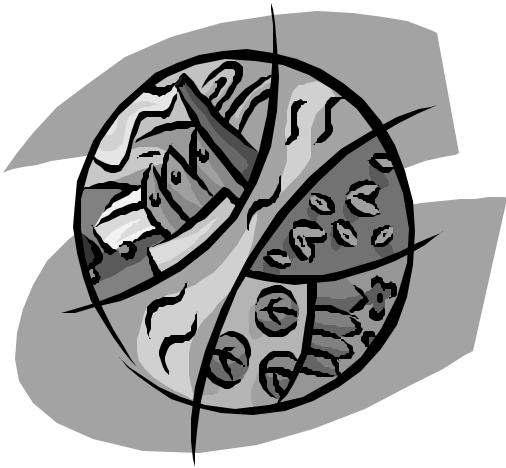
13% Reduction in On-Site Releases



35% Increase in Off-site Releases

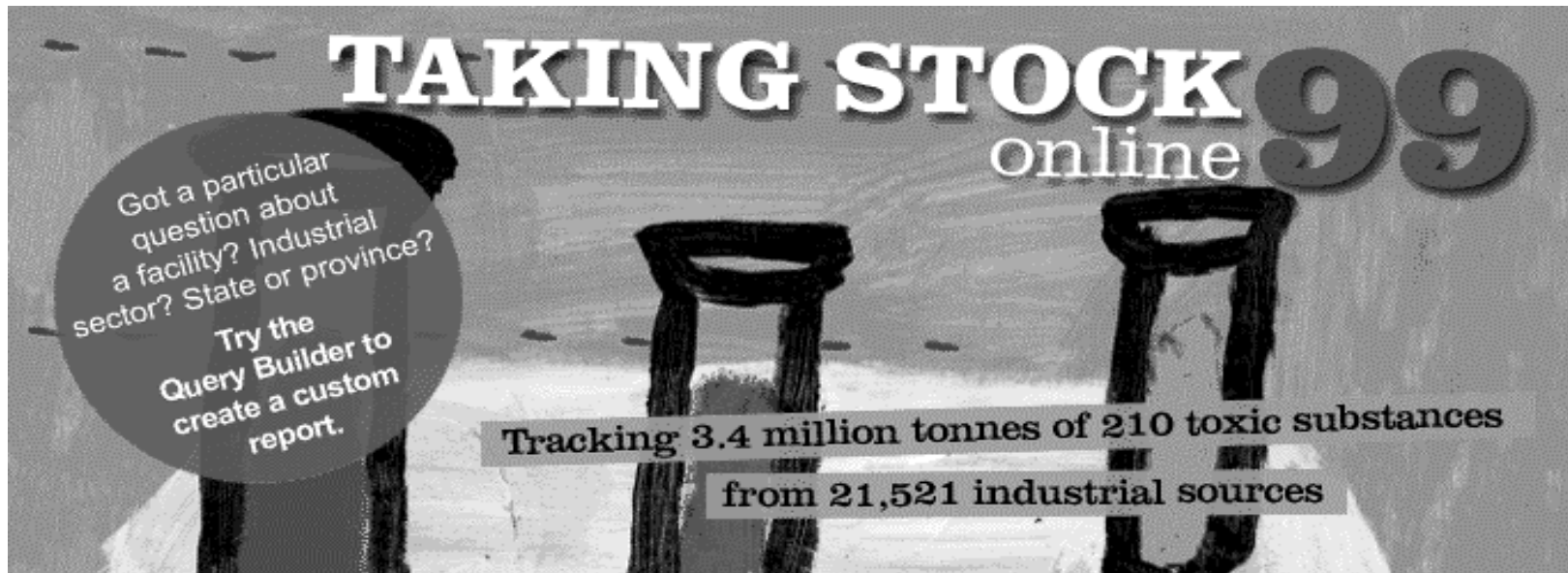


Taking Stock 2000



- Over 200 chemicals
- Six year trend now possible (1995-2000)
- Analyses by chemical groups - metals, carcinogens, CEPA toxics, California Proposition 65
- Data on persistent bioaccumulative toxics (PBTs)

Taking Stock On-line



Users can generate their own queries of the matched data sets used in *Taking Stock* on the web at:

www.cec.org/takingstock/

Taking Stock 2001

- Meeting of Consultative Group
- Governmental Meeting
- Written comments (by 18 November)
- ‘Response to Comments’ document
- Target date: Winter 2003/2004

Uses of PRTR Data: Academics

- Academics workshop, Montreal, 23 March 2002
- 25 participants from throughout North America
- Discussions focused on:
 - Uses of PRTR data in conjunction with economic and social measures
 - Relationships between PRTR data and measures of environmental health
 - Uses of PRTR data to assess impacts of public policy

Academics Workshop Outcomes

- Workshop Summary
- Workshop Statement
 - Conclusions/observations about the utility of PRTR data for research
 - Opportunities for further research
 - Recommendations for improvements in PRTR data, access
 - Recommendations to facilitate information sharing and collaboration among researchers

Action Plan on PRTRs



- In June 2002, Council adopted *Action Plan to Enhance Comparability Among PRTRs in North America* (Res. 02-05)
- Ongoing efforts on comparability stem from Council Resolution 97-04
- *Action Plan* 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

Action Plan Highlights

- *Actions* to improve comparability
- *Actions* to increase the amount of matched data
- *Actions* to improve data access

Reporting Thresholds

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

Industry Classification Codes

- **US SIC codes:**
 - reported by NPRI and TRI
- **Mexican CMAP:**
 - unique to Mexico
- **NAICS (North American Industrial Classification System):**
 - Already in use by NPRI
 - Adoption by TRI and RETC called for in Action Plan

Reporting on Accidental Spills

- NPRI:
 - reports amount of spill by type of release/transfer
- TRI:
 - includes amount of spill in type of release/transfer
- RETC:
 - in voluntary system, one number is reported without breakdown by release/transfer type
 - proposed mandatory system has breakdown by release type (does not include transfers)

Industry sectors reporting to PRTR

- NPRI:
 - all industry sectors with a few exceptions
- TRI:
 - 27 industry sectors (including manufacturing, electric utilities, hazardous waste management)
- RETC:
 - 11 industry sectors (federal level)

Action Plan encourages Mexico and US to require other industry sectors to report

Chemical Lists

- NPRI: over 250 substances
- TRI: over 600 substances
- RETC: over 100 substances

206 match between NPRI/TRI

55 match among NPRI/TRI/RETC

Action Plan calls upon all countries to consider adding chemicals that appear on the other national PRTR lists

Public Access

- NPRI and TRI:
 - data available on Internet and in printed reports
- RETC:
 - facility-specific data currently not available to the public

Action Plan encourages Mexico to make RETC data publicly available

Data Confidentiality

- NPRI and TRI:
 - facility submits written request on grounds of trade secrecy
 - NPRI: if granted, all data held confidential
 - TRI: if granted, only chemical name held confidential
- RETC:
 - under discussion

Action Plan encourages Canada to make facility names and chemical amounts publicly available for forms claimed as confidential; calls for assistance to Mexico in designing its confidentiality provisions