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Industrial Pollution and Tribal and Indigenous Communities

BACKGROUND

Industrial emissions of toxic substances to the air, land and water are everyone's concern. It's considered a citizen's "right to know" the volume of toxic chemicals released and transferred by industrial facilities across North America. This right is enshrined in national pollution reporting systems called Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs).

As an international organization created by Canada, Mexico and the United States, the CEC maintains certain core programs dealing with chemical pollutants in the three North American countries. One of these long-running CEC initiatives is the North American PRTR program.

Do you want to find out about industrial sources of pollution in or near your community?

Would you like to know more about toxic emissions to the air, water, or land where you live?

Are you concerned about exposure to certain chemicals?

A main goal of the CEC's PRTR program is to track and publish information on the emissions of toxic pollutants to the air, water, or land from industrial facilities in North America. Every year, the CEC publishes the *Taking Stock* report, based on data from the US Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), and Mexico's *Registro de Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes* (RETC).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Commission for Environmental Cooperation
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INVITATION

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) invites you to the annual meeting of the Consultative Group for the North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Program to be held in San Diego, California, 28–30 November 2006.

This year's meeting includes a special session intended to increase the engagement of the public in the CEC's PRTR work while illustrating how PRTR data can be used by tribal and indigenous communities.

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

- To provide information about the national PRTR programs in North America, and present the status of industrial pollution based on the *Taking Stock* report;
- To present some cross-border initiatives being undertaken by industry;
- To raise awareness among North American tribal and indigenous communities about industrial pollutants and identify related information needs;
- To facilitate dialogue and partnerships across North America and enable all stakeholders to benefit from sharing knowledge and experience.

FEATURED SESSIONS

- ❖ Presentations of case studies and research relating PRTR data to tribal and indigenous communities and their health:
 - How can PRTR data help inform decision-makers (e.g., tribal leaders)?
 - What chemical and health-related information do tribal and indigenous communities need, and what is lacking?
 - What role can PRTR data play in initiating discussions with industrial facilities?
- ❖ Special session (Thursday, 30 November) for representatives of tribal and indigenous communities only:
 - Hands-on demonstrations of the national PRTR databases and the CEC's North American PRTR database, followed by a question-and-answer session.
 - In-depth discussions with national representatives regarding PRTR and other chemical information needs of tribal and indigenous communities, and identification of opportunities for trilateral collaboration.

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