



State of Louisiana

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Environmental News

DATA SHOWS DOWNWARD TREND IN TOXIC EMISSIONS

BATON ROUGE -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality released a report today that showed a continued trend of an overall reduction in the release of toxic chemicals into the environment. The annual report uses data from 2002 and is known as the 2002 Louisiana Environmental Inventory Report. The comprehensive report compiles environmental inventory data from the Toxic Release Inventory, Toxic Emissions Data Inventory and Emissions Inventory.

Since 1995, TRI core chemical releases have decreased. Air releases have decreased by 53 percent, water by 2 percent, land by 15 percent and injection by 35 percent. For 2002, there was a total decrease of 35 percent (55.9 million pounds) in toxic chemical emissions. Since 1991, toxic air pollutants reported to TEDI decreased by 63 percent. The criteria air pollutants; volatile organic chemicals and nitrogen oxides reported to EI decreased 40 percent and 25 percent, respectively.

Since 1986, regulated facilities in each state have been mandated to provide release and transfer information to state agencies and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Louisiana report provides the public with information on the uses, locations and amounts of hazardous and toxic chemicals manufactured and released each year. The data represents 376 TRI facilities that reported toxic releases. The TRI chemical list encompasses 640 chemicals and chemical categories. More than 360 facilities reported TEDI data and more than 900 facilities reported EI data.

The report also contains information on mercury, ozone, the Environmental Leadership Program, terms, contacts and references. It is available on the DEQ website at www.ldeq.org.