



ShopTalk

Summer 2004
Vol. 14, No. 2
Pub. #04-04-002

A PUBLICATION FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATORS

Annual Report Data Serves Public and Businesses

If your facility is like 7,000 others across Washington state, you took the time last spring to gather information, fill out forms and submit your Dangerous Waste Annual Report. But do you ever wonder what happens to those numbers, or why we all go through this annual task?

Annual reports contain information about the generation and management of dangerous waste regulated by the state and federal governments. The Department of Ecology now has data from 1995 to 2003 residing in the [TurboWaste.Net](#) annual reporting software maintained by the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program.

Previously, staff had to spend weeks collecting and compiling the data, reading paper reports, finding and correcting errors, and keying the information into the database. Now [TurboWaste.Net](#) on-line reporting allows the person with first-hand knowledge — **you**, the reporter, to enter the data and correct some common errors before it reaches Ecology. That frees up staff for valuable customer service and the critical validation tasks.

Ecology uses the data for required reports, such as the biennial report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We also use it to provide periodic reports to the state Legislature, such as *Reducing Toxics in Washington* (Pub. #02-04-034) and the *Dangerous Waste Annual Report Summary* (Pub. #03-04-024). You can find these reports, and others, on the Ecology Web site at (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs.shtm>).

Dangerous waste inspectors and technical assistance staff have immediate access to the final reports you submit electronically. In fact, once you have made your final submittal, staff see the same information on their computer screen as you see on yours. This increases Ecology staff efficiency and accuracy with inspections and technical assistance.

For example, Ecology's Technical Resources for Engineering Efficiency (TREE) team offers technical assistance to hazardous waste generators. Annual report data can confirm when waste reduction efforts have been successful. Inspectors can use annual report data to check against the current data collected at facility inspections. The information can alert inspectors and technical assistance staff to important process information ahead of facility visits, saving time and money.

Data analysis reveals trends in waste generation and management. Ecology uses annual report data and pollution prevention plan data to design technical assistance projects for different types of businesses and for different regions of the state.

In the broader view, the data helps Ecology make policy decisions and do its best job at

ensuring safety and protecting human health and the environment. Data on long-term trends can often help us answer questions such as:

- ✓ How much waste is generated in our state? Where does it go?
- ✓ What processes generate what types of waste?
- ✓ How much Treatment, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) capacity is needed?
- ✓ Which states do we depend on to take our wastes?
- ✓ How many inspectors do we need in each region?

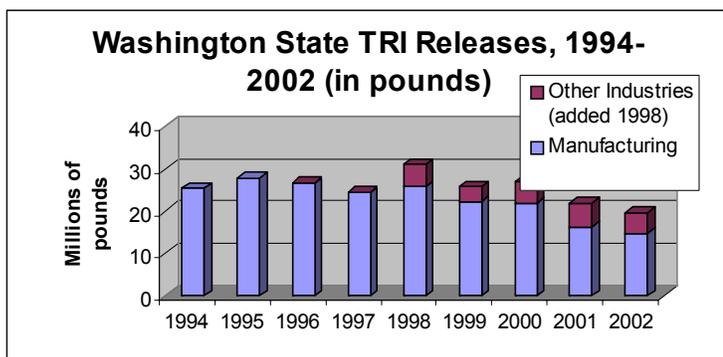
This data partnership between Ecology and the state's dangerous waste generators means Ecology is able to respond to requests from the public for data, and to demonstrate accountability to the citizens and businesses of Washington. And it all begins with that annual report.



Lori Gonzalez, Ecology's receptionist, checks the mail during annual report submittal time. The new TurboWaste.Net electronic filing will make this scene just a memory.

TRI Reports Show Toxic Releases Continue to Decline

The *Chemicals in Washington State Summary Report 2002* (Ecology publication #04-04-020) is now available. The data in the report shows a continuing decrease in the amount of toxic chemicals reported released by the 323 industrial facilities in Washington that are required to file the federal Toxics Release Inventory report. In the year 2002, 19.8 million pounds of toxic chemicals were reported released to the air, land and water in the state. This was a decrease of 2.5 million pounds from 2001. Since 1994, total releases of all reported chemicals by manufacturing sectors decreased by over 42%. (See following chart.)



Facilities that are required to file the federal Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) report are those that meet certain criteria for number of employees, industry category and use of listed chemicals. A report must be filed for each of over 650 toxic chemicals or chemical categories used in amounts above threshold quantities.

A facility may show changes in its annual reported amounts for a variety of reasons. Washington TRI reporters are required to develop pollution prevention plans. In many cases, implementing pollution prevention options result in a decrease in releases. Changes in measurements of releases at a facility or changes in methods for estimating releases may result in changes. Economic factors, such as those affecting the aluminum industry, may also impact releases.

Of the 323 facilities filing TRI reports in Washington, 126 reported decreases for 2002 as compared to 2001. Eighty-four facilities showed increases from 2001 to 2002. The remainder either showed no change or did not report in 2001.

The *Chemicals in Washington State Summary Report 2002* also summarizes the information filed under Section 312 of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. Section 312, also known as the Tier Two - Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory report, covers hazardous chemicals that are stored statewide.

The report is available at (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0404020.html>). A printed copy can be requested by calling 1-800-633-7585. Also available through this

number is the Toxics Release Inventory Display System or TRIDS. TRIDS is an educational graphic display of the TRI data by facility and chemical produced, supported by a grant from EPA. TRIDS is preloaded with Washington's data, but data for any state can be downloaded from EPA's Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/tri/>)

Upcoming Changes to the DW Regulations

Proposed amendments to the *Dangerous Waste Regulations* are available for public review and comment through September 10. Most of the changes are federal requirements that Ecology must adopt to remain current with the federal rules. Other changes update state requirements and make technical corrections. Highlights include:

- ✓ Mercury-containing equipment will become "universal waste" with simpler handling requirements.
 - ✓ "Knowledge" as used for waste designation will be defined to help generators know when they can use knowledge instead of testing their waste.
 - ✓ Financial responsibility requirements will be extended to recyclers and used oil processors.
 - ✓ *Chemical Testing Methods* is being modified to clarify when persistent wastes designate as dangerous wastes.
 - ✓ Some wastewater treatment unit ("PBR" units) operators will be able to accept more off-site wastes for treatment at their facility.
 - ✓ Used oil testing requirements are being modified to make it easier for Ecology to request a chlorinated compounds test instead of requiring full designation testing.
 - ✓ The rule will clarify that used oil generated by conditionally exempt small quantity generators that is to be burned for energy recovery or re-refined must be managed under the used oil rules in WAC 173-303-515.
 - ✓ New corrective action management unit (CAMU) requirements, including the provision that allows "CAMU-eligible" waste to be managed off-site, will be adopted.
 - ✓ SIC codes are being changed to NAICS codes.
 - ✓ The "once listed, always listed" rule will change, and some listed waste residues that no longer exhibit the characteristic for which they were listed may be exempt after proper treatment.
- For a copy of the proposal go to <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/activity/wac173303.html> or call Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752 for a paper copy. For more information about the proposed rule changes, contact Chipper Hervieux at (360) 407-6756 or pher461@ecy.wa.gov Comments on the proposed amendments are due on September 10, 2004.

Clark County Wins Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices

Clark County is committed to pollution prevention and sustainability. That commitment shows up throughout the county's operations, especially in school programs. These efforts won the county the 2003 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices.

Last year, the county reached 11,000 students with its environmental education programs, "Recycleman and the Dumpster Divers" and the "Mother Nature Puppet Show." Clark County also joined with the City of Vancouver to create an interactive educational exhibit, "The ABCs of PBTs," at the city's Water Resources Education Center.

The county piloted a program to collect hazardous waste door-to-door from elderly and disabled residents. It began a permanent program for re-using and recycling old computers and electronic goods, diverting 3,200 pounds of computer equipment in the first year. Clark County has reduced air emissions by switching its fleet to bio-diesel (petroleum blended with fats and vegetable oils) and by investing in electric/gasoline hybrid cars.

The new Clark County Public Service Center shows what can be done in designing a building to conserve resources — using sustainably harvested wood and recycled building materials, operating with renewable power and furnishing with recycled fabric. It was the first public building in the area to be certified by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) rating system, which assesses the environmental sustainability of building design.

For more information, visit their Web site at <http://www.co.clark.wa.us/recycle/index.html>



Charley Masco, Clark County public works operations manager, and Anita Largent, solid waste manager, accept the Governor's Award from Governor Gary Locke.

Draft Beyond Waste Plans Available Now

The Department of Ecology has just released a draft summary of the Washington State Hazardous Waste Management Plan and Solid Waste Management Plan. These plans are required by state law. Comments are being accepted on the plans until August 13, 2004. The draft documents and comment form are available on Ecology's Web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/> The long-term vision of the plans is that wastes will be used as resources. To get to that preferred future, some short-term recommendations include:

- ✓ Encourage new businesses to adopt sustainability practices.
- ✓ Form a work group on low-interest loans for pollution prevention technologies.
- ✓ Collaborate with affected parties to explore changes to hazardous waste fees and taxes.
- ✓ Modify the *Dangerous Waste Regulations* to encourage waste reduction and toxics minimization.

- ✓ Encourage pollution prevention planners to address hazardous substance use, including toxicity and risk, in their pollution prevention plans.

There are other recommendations in the plans that may be of interest to hazardous and solid waste generators. In addition to the five-year recommendations there are thirty-year goals for various aspects of waste management. Ecology would appreciate any comments on the draft plans to ensure the plans reflect the interests of the groups implementing waste management in Washington. For questions about this planning effort, please contact Miles Kuntz in the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at (360) 407-6748 (miku461@ecy.wa.gov) or Cheryl Smith in the Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program at (360) 407-6654 (cstr461@ecy.wa.gov).

Q I enjoy the training workshops Ecology puts on for dangerous waste generators, but are there other training resources available for my staff who work with hazardous substances?

A There are both commercial and not-for-profit training agencies that offer classes in Washington. In addition to the generator workshops, Ecology has held courses covering the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) system. Region 10 of the Environmental Protection Agency also holds some classes, including a web-based TRI training for remote locations (<http://www.epa.gov/region10>).

The Northwest Environmental Training Center (<http://www.NWETC.org>) offers classes in state and federal environmental regulations, chemistry for environmental professionals, and waste characterization.

The University of Washington offers some training through the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. The address is Northwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety, Region X, OSHA Training Institute Education Center, University of Washington (<http://depts.washington.edu/ehce>).

You can also search the Environmental Services Directory (<http://www.esdwa.com>) for training opportunities. And the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (<http://www.pprc.org>) provides information on upcoming training opportunities throughout the region, as well as research in specific topics.

Generator Workshop Assessment

Ecology staff are planning the next round of the annual Dangerous Waste Generator workshops. We would be interested in knowing what you consider to be the most valuable content. You may be contacted by Ecology staff for your input, or you may call Mariann Cook Andrews to share your thoughts, (360) 407-6740, maco461@ecy.wa.gov



Department of Ecology

Remember, your business is liable for all hazardous wastes generated. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a hazardous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling hazardous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, also at the following numbers:

- Bellevue: (425) 649-7000
- Lacey: (360) 407-6300
- Yakima: (509) 575-2490
- Spokane: (509) 329-3400

If you need this information in an alternate format, please call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711, or 800-833-6388 for TTY.

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