

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

**Integrating North American Air Emissions Data:
Overview of the CEC's PRTR
and Air Quality Efforts**

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Orlando Cabrera-Rivera and Danielle Vallée
Air Quality and Pollutant Releases Program



Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

- International organization created by Canada, Mexico and the United States under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC).
- Its mandate is to address regional environmental concerns, help prevent potential trade and environmental conflicts, and promote the effective enforcement of environmental laws.



CEC's Air Quality and Pollutant Releases Program

Projects that create an infrastructure allowing the three Parties to:

- exchange information
- reach a common vision
- work cooperatively on addressing environmental issues

Enhancing North American Air Quality Management: Provide a more complete North American picture of air quality and air emissions that support decision-making on air quality management

North American Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers Project: Integration of North American PRTR data (TRI, NPRI, RETC) and improved understanding of the sources and management of toxic chemicals of common concern

Focus on: Capacity-building, Information for Decision-making, and Assessment of Emerging Trends.



The CEC's Vision for North American Air Quality Management

Working with the three countries of North America towards:

- Engaging in building capacity to ensure self-sustaining inventory, monitoring and other air quality efforts;
- Developing accurate, meaningful, and comparable data and analyses at the local, regional, and North American levels;
- Providing a more complete picture of the sources and amounts of air pollution in North America to support access to air quality information;
- Facilitating coordination and effectiveness of emissions reduction and air quality policies, regulations and strategies to improve North American air quality and public health.



Program to Enhance North American Air Quality Management

Current Activities:

- North American Air Working Group
- Supporting the compilation of and updates to Mexico's National Emissions Inventory
- Comprehensive assessment of North American air emissions inventories and monitoring networks to support the development of a North American air quality strategy
- Air quality information, Greenhouse gases, other pollutants of common concern
- Information management (improved access, mapping, value-added data)



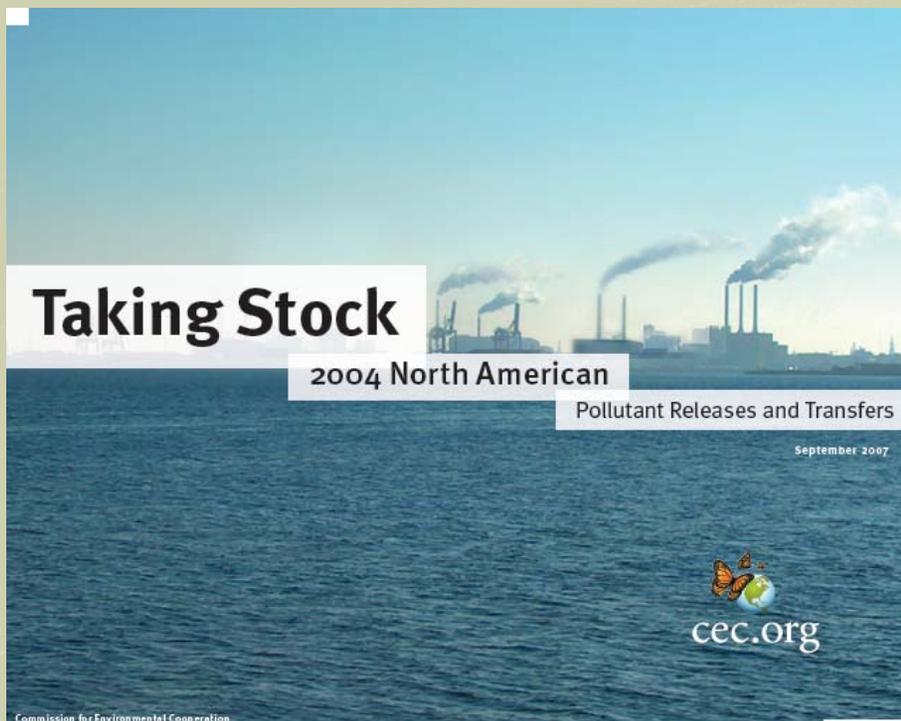
CEC's North American PRTR Project

Current Activities:

- Provide information (*Taking Stock* report and website)
- Promote comparability and quality of PRTR data in North America
- Ask for stakeholder input via the annual meeting of the North American PRTR Consultative Group (general public, NGOs, industry, governments, media)
- Support other initiatives, including work under the Air Quality Program
- Promote international linkages



Taking Stock Report and Website



- North American industrial releases to air, land and water
- Transfers off-site to recycling or other management
- Analyses by industry sector, chemical
- Trends analyses, Special Feature chapter
- Raise awareness of health & environmental issues
- Enable increased collaboration across borders and industry.



There is a need to integrate North American air emissions data

The ability to integrate data that are comparable across inventories and borders should allow for their expanded use and ultimately, yield a better understanding of the air pollution picture in North America.



North American PRTRs and NEIs: Data for the 2005 Reporting Year

Program	Sources	Air	Pollutant
US TRI	~ 24,000	~ 15,300	HAP
US NEI	~ 85,200	~ 85,200	CAP/HAP
Canada NPRI	~ 8,600	~ 7,900	CAP/HAP
Mexico RETC	~2,400	~1,690	HAP
Mexico NEI		~6,000	CAP



Key challenges to integrating North American air emissions data

- Data quality
- Synchronicity and accessibility of the data
- Number and diversity of NA inventories.

Such issues are common among inventories within one country; but they are accentuated across borders, due to each country's needs and uses of air emissions data and to differing jurisdictional landscapes.





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Assessment of needs and information gaps to develop a strategy for action

Part 1: Comprehensive assessment of air emissions inventories and monitoring networks in North America

Part 2: Recommendations and development of a strategy (roadmap) to build the capacity for comparable and accessible air emissions information across North America.



Benefits of the Assessment

- Enhanced data quality and better baseline information for use in national modeling and regulatory decision-making
- Enhanced accessibility to air emissions data, allowing greater input by a variety of stakeholders
- Greater comparability of data across borders, enabling a more accurate picture of air pollution
- Information to help inform decisions relevant to the shared environmental interests of the three countries.



CEC's Air Quality and PRTR Program

Contact:

Orlando Cabrera Rivera
Program Manager
Air Quality/PRTR

Telephone: (514) 350-4300

Fax: (514) 350-4314

Email: ocabrera@cec.org

www.cec.org

