

TRI-2005-0073

1045 Woodstone Drive
Kingsport, TN 37663

January 6, 2006

Office of Environmental Information Docket
Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

01-12-06 11:50 AM

Attn: Docket ID No. TRI-0073

Dear Administrator Johnson:

I strongly oppose the "Burden Reduction Proposed Rule." It would be my hope that the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reporting requirements be upheld or strengthened (many industrial chemicals are not even covered by it now), not weakened. My rationale is as follows:

The reporting "burden" is small compared to citizens' exposure burden and health risk. (In one recent year, for example, total toxics releases and waste handling reported to TRI were more than 180 pounds for every citizen of Tennessee).

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect public health, not to make life as easy as possible for polluting industries

Raising the reporting threshold by a factor of ten could put many citizens in affected communities at critical exposure risk, without having any way of knowing about it.

Some companies might plan heightened releases or disposal of toxic wastes during the off years when no reporting would be required, putting communities at greater risk

Proper emergency response planning will be made the harder, and less effective, if information is a year older rather than current.

Tennessee is usually among the states with the highest toxics releases (in the top ten); Tennesseans would be more affected than citizens in most other states by a loosening of reporting rules.

I strongly support a citizen's right to know if there are harmful toxins in the environment.

Sincerely,



Phyllis L. Cairnes

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