Transcript for ECHO Facility Universe Comparisons in the TRI and DMR Comparison Dashboard Tutorial with Accessible Instructions

The tutorial narration is spoken over a video recording capturing movement on the screen. Specific actions are described within brackets. The TRI and DMR Comparison Dashboard presents data in a visual format accompanied by data downloads, as comma separated variable (CSV) files that can be opened in Microsoft Excel or another spreadsheet software.

Introduction

[*Begin on TRI and DMR Comparison Dashboard* https://echo.epa.gov/trends/loading-tool/comparison-dashboard/ *in an Internet browser.*]

In this tutorial, we will use the TRI and DMR Comparison Dashboard to further examine differences in the universe of facilities found in TRI and DMR data. This tutorial may be useful for you if you are reviewing facilities reporting water discharges to either of these programs, for example, to identify potential non-reporters.

As we compare the TRI and DMR facility universes, keep in mind that while there is overlap, DMR and TRI are different data collections and serve different purposes. In situations where data from a given facility appear in one data set, but not the other, it does not automatically indicate that the facility is noncompliant or has made a reporting error.

Overlapping Facility Universe

Let's examine the facility universe charts and modify them to focus on the facilities with data in both systems.

The TRI chart has three categories of facilities: Direct dischargers, Direct & Indirect dischargers, and Indirect dischargers.

It may be surprising to see the TRI Indirect dischargers who have DMR data for surface water discharges but are not reporting direct discharges to TRI. As we had noted previously, facilities that report DMRs have permits to discharge directly to receiving waters. So why do these facilities not report direct discharges to TRI? One possible explanation for this scenario is that facilities may have multiple waste streams that are handled differently. For example, process wastewater containing toxic chemicals may be sent to a POTW for treatment and management. These chemical releases would be reported to TRI as Indirect Discharges. Meanwhile, the DMR data for these facilities may represent direct surface water discharges of other wastestreams at the facility that are monitoring for pollutants, such as monitoring for solids in stormwater, that are not required to be reported on TRI forms.

To further review the facilities in any category, simply click on the portion of the chart that you are interested in, and a file will download containing information for the facilities in that category.

[*Using the Tab key, navigate to the Download All Facilities button and press Enter to download a CSV file. Data in this file can be filtered to match the metrics shown in the pie charts.*]

Non-overlapping Facility Universe

Now we will modify the charts to show the facilities that only have data reported to one of the two systems.

On the DMR chart, there are three facility categories: POTWs, Non-TRI Industries, and TRI-Industries but no TRI forms.

We do not expect to see TRI reports for POTWs and facilities in "Other Non-TRI Industries" because they are outside of the scope of TRI reporting requirements.

However, "TRI industries but no TRI forms" is a category to further investigate for potential TRI non-reporting issues. These facilities may be subject to TRI reporting, or they may be exempt from TRI reporting because they do not meet one of the TRI reporting thresholds.

On the TRI chart, we again have three categories of dischargers. We would expect facilities that report direct discharges to TRI to have a NPDES permit and report DMR data. Therefore, facilities in these categories should be reviewed further to determine why they are not showing up in DMR data.

[*Using the Tab key, navigate to the Download All Facilities button and press Enter to download a CSV file. Data in this file can be filtered to match the metrics shown in the pie charts.*]

Conclusion

In this tutorial, we demonstrated how you can use the Facility universe comparison charts to examine differences in the scope of the TRI and DMR data.

[*Use the Tab key to navigate to the Tutorial link and press Enter.*] Click on the tutorial links to view demonstrations of other charts in the dashboard. [*Use the Tab key to navigate to the Help link.*] Please refer to help content for more information.