



# TRI Data Exchange: Allowing Facilities to Simultaneously Report to both EPA and States

## A Need for the Network

Facilities in the U.S. are required to submit annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reports to both the U.S. EPA and the states. These reports are processed and reconciled independently by states and EPA. Facilities provide their TRI data in different formats - electronic submissions, disks, or a paper version. The dual submission of TRI reports and the time associated with processing the data is burdensome.

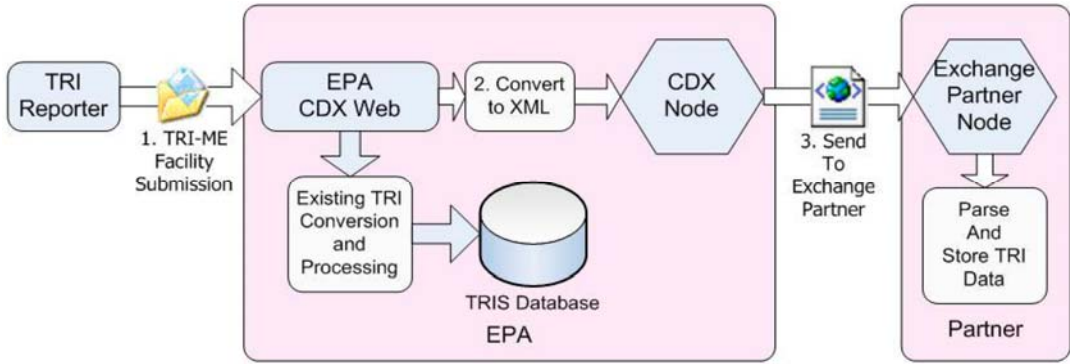
EPA developed TRI Made-Easy (*TRI-ME*) software that enables facility owners and operators to submit TRI reports electronically to EPA. However, this did not solve the dual reporting issue. Understanding the burdens related to double reporting and processing this data, the U.S. EPA and states began looking into new solutions.

## An Exchange Network Solution

The U.S. EPA partnered with the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) and four pilot states – Michigan, South Carolina, Indiana, and Virginia – to use the Exchange Network to begin to address burden reduction. This new TRI exchange allows facilities to use the *TRI-ME* software to simultaneously submit their TRI reporting data to U.S. EPA and the states via the Internet and web-services.

Facilities in the pilot states used *TRI-ME* to electronically submit their TRI data to EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX), where the data is converted automatically to XML and sent to EPA's node. The EPA node then pushes the data to EPA's TRIS database and invokes a web service to submit this data to the participating state node. Once the state node receives the XML file and processes it, a web service is sent back to EPA that initiates an automatic message back to the facility confirming that the data was received by EPA and the state.

### Automation of Entire TRI Reporting Process



## Seeing Results

The TRI Data Exchange was a successful use of the Exchange Network components to reduce burden associated with duplicative reporting requirements. The pilot states began implementation in the midst of the TRI reporting cycle in 2004 and had more industry participants than expected. The statistics below show the increased use of CDX/Exchange Network during the RY2004 TRI reporting cycle as compare to RY2003.

CDX Files	RY 2003	RY 2004	% Change
Michigan	404	592	46.5%
South Carolina	250	478	91.2%
Virginia	203	321	58.1%
Indiana	324	468	44.4%
Total	1181	1859	57.4%

The new TRI Data Exchange is creating significant benefits for all partners, including:

- Elimination of state data entry activities
- Synchronization of state and EPA data reconciliation processes
- Consistency between data in state and federal TRI databases
- Streamlined reporting processes that requires a single submission by the regulated community
- Greater burden reduction for facilities, states, and U.S. EPA as a result of the increased usage of the TRI-ME software
- Enhanced data quality through the elimination of duplicative data entry

ECOS and U.S. EPA recently conducted a Return on Investment (ROI) study to help quantify the cost savings for partners in the TRI data exchange. The results indicated a high ROI with the potential for significantly reduced operating costs. For more details on the benefits of the TRI exchange, you can download the ROI report at <http://www.exchangenetwork.net/benefits>. We encourage other states to learn more and join the TRI exchange for the upcoming reporting cycle by contacting:

**Ingrid Rosencrantz, U.S. EPA TRI Program**  
**(202) 566-0961**  
**[Rosencrantz.Ingrid@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Rosencrantz.Ingrid@epamail.epa.gov)**

[www.exchangenetwork.net](http://www.exchangenetwork.net)