Addressing the Needs of North American PRTR Data Users

Discussion

North American PRTR Data Users' Needs – Working Session

Format:

1. Short group discussions (per table)

2. Prioritization of data user needs relating to:
- data access
- data completeness and quality
- data understandability
- other (e.g., reporting forms/requirements)

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- It would be useful to create linkages between national and sub-national datasets

- More awareness of PRTR data is needed (of the public, but also among various government agencies, at local and regional levels)

- The quality and reliability of the data should be improved (through 3rd-party monitoring and verification of data, estimation methods, etc.)

- Internal facility reports, in addition to PRTR data, could benefit company/facility transparency. Facilities should be encouraged to report voluntarily if below PRTR reporting thresholds.

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- Reporting thresholds and other criteria for reporting (such as excluded sectors and activities) should be reviewed and revised

- The integration of toxicity information with PRTR data would enhance the understanding of pollutant impacts (to address issues created by high thresholds, pollutant mixtures, and cumulative or chronic exposures)

- Need more details about cross-border transfers and the final disposition of those pollutants

- There should be a mechanism in the national PRTR data to allow for user feedback.