Highlights of the 2001 NPRI Data

The year 2001 data is the ninth annual release since the inventory's inception in 1992.

For the 2001 reporting year, reports for 202 of the 266 NPRI-listed substances were submitted by 2 617 facilities. Additionally, the total number of substance reports reported by those facilities in 2001 was 11 808. Compared to information reported by facilities to the NPRI in 2000, this represented an increase of 182 (7.5%) in the number of reporting facilities, an increase of 765 (6.9%) in the number of reports, and an increase of 5 (2.5%) in the number of pollutants reported. These increases can primarily be attributed to an increase in compliance promotion activities from NPRI regional offices.

Overview of changes to the 2001 NPRI Data

The following changes were made to the NPRI substance list for the 2001 reporting year:

- addition of N,N-Dimethylformamide (CAS No. 68-12-2) to Schedule 1, Part 1, of the 2001 *Canada Gazette* notice
- amalgamation of the individual isomers of cresol (*m*-, *o*- and *p*-cresol) under the "cresol (all isomers)" listing
- changed qualifier for vanadium to "(except when in an alloy) and its compounds" from "fume or dust", and
- de-listing of phosphoric acid (CAS No. 7664-38-2)

These changes are above and beyond the significant changes that occurred in the 2000 reporting year when certain substances were listed at alternate thresholds because they pose serious risks to human health or the environment in relatively low quantities. Very limited data, if any, would be reported to the NPRI for these substances at the original 10-tonne and 1% concentration reporting threshold. Substances with alternate-reporting thresholds include mercury (and its compounds), 17 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and dioxins/furans and hexachlorobenzene (HCB).

Units of Measure

The units of measure depend upon the substance being reported. Generally, release, disposal and recycling quantities are reported in tonnes. However, for substances with alternate reporting thresholds, these quantities are reported in kilograms or grams.

Substance	Units
Schedule 1, Part 1 Substances	tonnes
Mercury (and its compounds)	kilograms
Polycyclic aromatic compounds (PAHs)	kilograms
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	grams
Dioxins/furans	grams (toxic equivalent)

A Note on the NPRI Data Files Distributed by Environment Canada

The NPRI data files for the 2001 reporting year are available in Microsoft (MS) Access and MS Excel format. Environment Canada has published the 2001 data as reported by facilities, which includes 'NULL' values. This affects how the information can be accessed and queried (for more information on this issue, see below). For previous years information, data is available in dBase format. In this file format, 'NULL' values cannot be stored and zeros were used as place holders.

More Information on ‘NULL’ values in the NPRI

With the addition of micro-pollutants (e.g. PAHs, Dioxins and Furans) for the 2001 reporting year the use of zero-nulls had to be discontinued as these pollutants could have valid 'NULL' and zero entries for the same 'Basis of Estimation' code.

Due to the current structure of the database, queries using Microsoft Access will work correctly only if you are using aggregate functions (e.g. Sum, , Count). If you attempt to perform an arithmetic operation (add, subtract, multiply, or divide) you will receive 'NULL' as the answer if any of the fields in your query contains a 'NULL' (highly probable). When using MS Access and attempting to perform an arithmetic operation on the NPRI data, you are required to use the undocumented NZ function (it converts a NULL to a zero) to achieve the correct result to your query. (e.g. NZ ([AIRSTA_V]) + NZ ([AIRSTO_V]), notice how each field is encapsulated by NZ. This can lead to very long queries and also severely limits the utility of the built-in query builder.)

Excel worksheets are recommended since Excel ignores ‘NULL’ valued entries