

Transcript for ECHO Chemical 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 examine differences in the universe of chemicals found in TRI and DMR data. This tutorial may be useful for you if you are evaluating how well each data set characterizes pollutant discharges, for example, examining which discharges are captured in DMR that are not captured in TRI and vice versa.

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.

Chemical Universe Chart

Now let's review the chemical universe chart to see the chemicals reported in the TRI and DMR data. TRI has a set list of reported chemicals. The count displayed here represents the chemicals that are reported as surface water discharges to TRI.

The orange slice of the TRI chart is the count of chemicals only reported to TRI and not found on DMRs. These chemicals are likely not found in the DMR data because NPDES permits do not require monitoring for these chemicals at effluent monitoring locations. However, the TRI data could be used to review the existing permit to ensure compliance with applicable water quality standards.

The DMR Chart has three categories for chemicals: Chemicals also reported to TRI, Non-TRI chemicals (chemicals not on the TRI list), and TRI-listed chemicals that are in DMR data but not reported to TRI. This third category should be further reviewed to determine if the facilities reporting these chemicals on their DMRs should also report these releases to TRI. It is important to keep in mind the TRI reporting requirements for industry classification, number of employees, and chemical activity when examining these differences.

To further review the chemicals 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 chemicals 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.]

It is important to note, that we are currently displaying the charts to show counts of chemicals. You can change the comparison metric using the menu at the top of the chart. Let's see how the comparisons change if we select the "total pounds" metric. *[Using the Tab key, navigate to top of Chemical Universe Panel, and use the Arrow buttons to select "total pounds" from the "Select Metric" dropdown, then use the Tab key to select the Refresh Charts button to the right, and press Enter].*

Conclusion

In this tutorial, we demonstrated how you can use the Chemical universe comparison charts to examine differences in the scope of the TRI and DMR data. *[Using Tab key, navigate to Tutorial link and press Enter].* Click on the tutorial links to view demonstrations of other charts in the dashboard. *[Using Tab key, navigate to the Help link.]* Please refer to help content for more information.