



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage

NPI Update

July-August 2005

Issue 7

Welcome to the July-August 2005 edition of the National Pollutant Inventory Update newsletter.

The National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) provides information on the web about pollutant emissions from industrial facilities and diffuse sources, their possible impact and what you can do to decrease emissions.

The NPI is a cooperative programme implemented by the Australian, state and territory governments.

This newsletter informs the community, industry and government about NPI issues such as upcoming events and the progress of the NPI review.

[Find out more about this and earlier NPI newsletters.](#)

The NPI newsletter will only be available electronically and notification of its publication on the web will be provided by DEH's weekly 'Environment News' email.

[Subscribe to this email service through the DEH web site.](#)

The NPI helps everyone keep an eye on pollution – it's your right to know.

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If you have any feedback or comments about the NPI contact the Department of the Environment and Heritage or the relevant state or territory agency. Contact details are at the end of the newsletter.



www.npi.gov.au



NPI review and NPI NEPM variation

A review of the NPI commenced in March 2005.

At the meeting of the Environment and Heritage Protection Council (EPHC) on 1 July 2005, Australian Government, State and Territory Ministers agreed to the public release of the NPI review report.

The Department of the Environment and Heritage is seeking comments from interested individuals and organisations on its content. A template is provided for submissions; however, submissions will be accepted in any form.

- [Final report of the review of the National Pollutant Inventory](#)
- [Submission template](#)

Written submissions should be sent to:
Ms Debbie Lawrence
Environment and Sustainability Reporting Section
Environment Protection Branch
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787, Canberra 2601

or emailed directly to npi@deh.gov.au

The closing date for submissions is **Tuesday 30 August 2005**. Further information on the review process can be obtained from Ms Lawrence on (02) 6274 2179.

NPI NEPM variation

At the 1 July meeting, it was also agreed to prepare a variation to the NPI NEPM, having regard to the relevant sections in the NEPC Act. Feedback on matters pertinent to the NEPM and its structure, contained in submissions on the review report, will be considered in the variation process.

Scope of the NPI NEPM variation

The scope of the variation will cover:

- the inclusion of data on the transfer of substances from one location to another;
- changes to reporting time frames;
- inclusion of additional industries such as aquaculture and crematoria (others may be considered);
- technical adjustments to the substance list;
- threshold changes for mercury, PM10 and, if included on the NPI, PM2.5; and
- other matters identified in the NPI review report.

The inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions in the NPI (note that there are other mechanisms that could be used) will also be included in the scope of the NPI NEPM variation. Any decision about including greenhouse gases in the NPI will be informed by the outcomes of the Joint EPHC/Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE) Working Group on energy and greenhouse reporting.



NPI funding: Budget 2005-06

The 2005-06 Federal Budget includes \$10.4 million for initiatives to address waste and pollution issues. The NPI will receive a total of \$5.2 million over four years. "This is an example of the Australian Government working with industry to give Australians access to information about pollutant emissions in their local area", said Senator Ian Campbell, Minister for Environment and Heritage in his media release of May 2005.

2005-06 NPI reporting period

The NPI annual reporting period commences on 1 July each year for most reporters.

Every year Australian industrial facilities that use certain amounts of the 90 NPI substances must estimate and report their emissions directly to their state or territory environment agency.

The state and territory environment agencies review all NPI reports for accuracy and forward the data to the Australian Government. The reports are then displayed on the NPI public web site.

Do you need to report to the NPI?

The NPI Guide will help you find out if you need to report to the NPI and gives you general assistance on how to estimate and report your facility's emissions. Emission estimation technique (EET) manuals have been developed for each reporting industry sector. The NPI guide and the list of reporting industry sectors are available on the NPI web site.

- [NPI guide](#)
- [List of industry sectors](#)

Updated NPI manuals

In the 2004-05 reporting year, the following emission estimation technique (EET) manuals and calculation tools were updated. EET manuals contain detailed information on estimating emissions. It is important to use the latest version of the manual for your industry sector when calculating emissions. The NPI Guide should be used in conjunction with all manuals.

NPI Guide Version 3.1 - 24 September 2004

Fuel and organic liquid storage simple calculation tool Version 1.4 - 30 August 2004

Fuel and organic liquid storage Version 2.5 - 21 October 2004

Ferrous foundries Version 1.2 - 3 September 2004

Combustion in boilers estimation tool Version 2.4 - 5 January 2005

Fossil fuel electric power generation Version 2.4 - 15 March 2005

Municipal solid waste landfills - Version 1.2 - 12 May 2005

Beer Version 1.1 - 16 May 2005

Wine and spirit manufacturing Version 1.3 - 18 May 2005

Wine calculation tool Version 4.2 - 18 May 2005

Oil and gas Version 1.1 - 1 June 2005



Publication of 6th NPI summary report

This report gives an overview of the 2003-04 NPI reporting year, and examples of the different information you can get from the NPI web site

www.npi.gov.au

The report is available in hard copy, or online in pdf format.

[Read the summary report of 6th year data 2003-04](#)

One of the aims of the NPI is facilitating cleaner production. The report provides information about cleaner production, along with a case study of some innovative solutions the Toyota Motor Corporation has introduced to help reduce emissions.

Congratulations to Toyota Australia on winning the Business Environmental Responsibility and Leadership category of the Banksia Environmental Awards.



Searching the NPI website

The NPI helps you to find out more about pollution where you live. There are a number of ways you can search the NPI database for specific information.

For example, you may want to know how much chlorine is emitted in a particular area. If you search by location, you can search by postcode or for a specific local government area (LGA). New LGA boundaries have recently been loaded into the NPI database.

[List of LGA names](#)

You could do a search on Litchfield, NT, for example, and the database will produce all reported emissions in that LGA.

The substance search allows you to select the substance, chlorine, and the location you require. In the sources search, you can search by industry sector, such as 'Public order and safety services', or by air shed source such as 'Burning/Wildfires: Darwin, NT Airshed'.

You can also search by facility if you know the name of the facility, such as 'Humpty Doo waste disposal site'.

You can choose the reporting year for any of these searches.

Each Update edition will bring you more hints about how to query the NPI database.



Key dates

30 June 2005 - the 2004-05 NPI reporting year ended on 30 June.

1 July 2005 - the NPI reporting period commenced on 1 July. 2005-06 will be the eighth year of reporting and publishing NPI data.

30 August 2005 - closing date for submissions on the NPI review.

30 September 2005 - reporting facilities to provide information on the previous reporting period to the state or territory environment authority in its jurisdiction.

30 November 2005 - state and territory environment agencies review all NPI reports for accuracy and forward the data to the Australian Government.

NPI substances

90 substances are reported to the NPI. The substance fact sheets contain information about the health and environmental effects of the 90 NPI substances.

[Learn about individual substances](#)

NPI Contacts

If you wish to contact NPI Units in the states or territories, or the DEH, the NPI contact details are available on the web.

[Full current NPI contact details.](#)

International news

The United States Environmental Protection Agency released the 2003 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data on 11 May 2005.

The TRI is a database containing detailed information on nearly 650 chemicals and chemical categories that over 23,000 industrial and federal facilities manage through disposal or other releases, and waste management for recycling, energy recovery, or treatment.

For the 2003 reporting year, 23,811 facilities reported to the US EPA's TRI Program.

[More about the 2003 TRI data release.](#)

