Meeting of the North American
Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Initiative
26-27 February 2025
Novotel Centro Histórico,
Mexico City, Mexico

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2025 (MORNING)	
Time (CST)	**Session**
9:00 – 9:20	1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks** - *Orlando Cabrera, Head of Unit, Environmental Quality, CEC* - *Ing. Sergio Z. Hernández Villaseñor, Director General – Industry, Clean Energy and Air Quality Management Branch, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, Semarnat)*

9:20 – 11:00	2. **National PRTR Program Updates**
	 a) **Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI)**
	   - *Tristan Lecompte, Environmental Program Officer, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)*
	 b) **United States' Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)**
	   - *Alizabeth Olhasso, Chief, Data Analysis and Right-to-Know Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*
	 c) **Mexico's Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (Registro de Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes - RETC)**
	   - *Ernesto Navarro, Director, Industrial Regulation and RETC, Semarnat*

11:00 – 11:15	**Break**
11:15 –12:30	3. **Update on the North American PRTR Initiative, with a Demonstration of the *Taking Stock Online* Website, Database and Tools** - *Orlando Cabrera, Head of Unit; and Danielle Vallée, Project Lead, North American PRTR Initiative, CEC* Participants will learn about ongoing trinational collaboration to enhance the comparability of North American PRTR data and other activities, including improvements to Taking Stock Online. They will also have the opportunity to explore data on releases and transfers reported by thousands of facilities across the region.
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch (provided by CEC)**

Time (CST)	Session
WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2025 (AFTERNOON)	
14:00 – 15:30	4. **PRTRs and Pollution Prevention: How can P2 reporting be improved to make the information more useful?** Participants will have the opportunity to learn from and exchange with representatives of the automotive manufacturing industry, governments, environmental NGOs, and other experts. a) **Pollution Prevention (P2) Challenge, Phase 1: Presentation and results of the assessment of P2 data for the North American automotive manufacturing sector and supply chain** - *Danielle Vallée and Elizabeth Campos, Project Leads, CEC* b) **P2 and Circular Economy in the Automotive Industry** - *Alejandro Sosa, Director, Alianza Automotriz para La Sustentabilidad Ambiental (AASA)* - *Pablo Fernández, General Motors – President of the Circular Economy Working Group, AASA* c) **Best Practices for Waste Minimization and Managing Industrial Waste with the Decision Workflow Model for SDGs** - *Sarah Sajedi, Director of R&D; and Gary Vegh, Senior Toxicologist, ERA Environmental*
15:30 – 15:45	**Break**
15:45 – 16:45	*(continuation of Session 4).* d) **Pollution Prevention: Government Data Uses and Tools** - The NPRI and Pollution Prevention - *Tristan Lecompte, Environmental Program Officer, ECCC* - Applications of *RETC* Data in Mexico - *Saira Mendoza, deputy director of Information and Dissemination, SEMARNAT* - Demonstration of the U.S. TRI Toxics Tracker tool – *Charlotte (Charlie) Snyder, EPA, Data Analysis and Right to Know Branch* e) **Pollution Prevention Data Users, Uses and Needs: Environmental NGO Perspective** - *John Jackson, Great Lakes Ecoregion Network* f) **Ideas for Phase 2 of the P2 Challenge** - *Open discussion aimed at sharing ideas and suggestions for the second phase of the P2 Challenge, which will take place in 2025.*
16:45 – 17:00	**Closing Remarks and Adjournment of Day 1**

THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2025 (MORNING)	
Time (CST)	**Session**

9:00 – 10:30	**Brief recap of Day 1**
	- *Orlando Cabrera and Danielle Vallée, CEC*
	
	5. **What can the data for off-site transfers tell us?**
	   a) **North American Off-site Transfers Data: Issues and Gaps**
	     - *Orlando Cabrera and Danielle Vallée, CEC*
	   b) **Analysis of NPRI Off-site Transfers and Disposals Data**
	     - *Alicia Berthiaume, Physical Scientist, NPRI Development, ECCC*
	   c) **Off-site Transfers: Data Quality Efforts**
	     - *Velu Senthil, Director of Data Quality, U.S. Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)*
	   d) **Tracking Cross-border Transfers Using PRTR Data (Collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD)**
	     - *Orlando Cabrera and Danielle Vallée, CEC*

10:30 – 10:45	**Break**
10:45 – 12:00	6. **How can PRTR data be used to address concerns about industrial pollution and advance environmental sustainability?** a) **Processing of information for the *RETC*** – *Jose Luis Flores Santiago, RETC Data Integration, Semarnat* Participants will be invited to share their experiences, questions and ideas relative to: - Their uses of PRTR data and how the information can be improved to better meet their needs - Specific suggestions for how the CEC can support users' needs – such as data analyses, improvements to *Taking Stock Online*, outreach activities, etc.
12:00 – 12:15	**Closing Remarks and Meeting Adjournment**

Alicia Berthiaume is a research scientist with the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) in Gatineau, Quebec. She holds a Ph.D. in environmental science from Queen's University and has professional experience in federal chemicals management in Canada. Currently, her focus is on investigations to improve the NPRI as an indicator of environmental sustainability.

Orlando Cabrera-Rivera is the Head of the Environmental Quality Unit at the CEC. He oversees the development and implementation of North America-wide environmental quality projects and capacity building efforts under the CEC's cooperative work program relating to air quality, climate, chemicals management, pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs), and environmental health. Orlando has over thirty years of experience in the environmental management field and in the development and implementation of international, national, regional, and local environmental pollution management and policy initiatives. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from the Department of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Master of Science degree in land resources management from the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison.

Elizabeth Campos Sánchez has been a Project Lead at the CEC since 2021. Among other projects, she coordinates the Air Quality Improvement for Environmental Justice initiative. She holds a Bachelor of Biology from the National University of Mexico (UNAM) and a Master of Science degree in natural resource management and rural development from El Colegio de la Frontera Sur. Her background includes working as an environmental consultant, providing technical review and editing, and facilitating environmental education workshops. Her experience incorporates working in transdisciplinary environments, community engagement and environmental research. She is interested in data visualization and democratization, as well as geospatial analysis.

Pablo Fernández Maldonado is a Chemical Engineer and Manager, graduated from the *Tecnológico de Monterrey*. He holds a Master's degree in Environmental Management and Sustainability from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and another Master's Degree in Energy and Environment from the University of Leeds in England. Currently, Pablo is Environmental Manager for General Motors de México, where he leads the environmental team in its regulatory and corporate compliance activities through the environmental management system. This includes continuous improvement in water processes, implementation of Zero Waste programs, as well as mitigation of air emissions. He has had a particular focus on new projects, operational efficiency and asset remediation. Prior to GM, Pablo served as national coordinator for Safety, Health and Environment, as well as consulting for multinationals on issues related to the environment, sustainability, energy, workplace safety and occupational health.

José Luis Flores Santiago is a chemical engineer and graduate of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He has 8 years of experience in energy and environmental management systems and has worked in the implementation of energy efficiency programs in the industrial sector, and as the head of the annual operations unit at SEMARNAT. Currently, he oversees the integration of the Report on Pollutant Releases and Transfers at the federal level.

John Jackson has worked with citizens groups for over 50 years, helping them organize around issues such as toxics, waste management, water levels and conservation, particularly focused on the North American Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin. Much of his work relates to community right-to-know, for example: researching right-to-know legislation throughout the world; designing right-to-know bylaws for the cities of Windsor and Toronto (Ontario); and

helping citizens' groups use right-to-know provisions to protect their communities from toxic threats. He has participated in the multi-stakeholder committee set up by the Canadian government to develop its PRTR program, the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), and has served on the NPRI advisory committee for the past 40 years. John is chair of the Great Lakes Ecoregion Network, a transnational coalition of citizens in Canada and the United States working to protect and restore the Great Lakes. He is also coordinator of the Citizens' Network on Waste Management, co-chair of the Toxics Free Great Lakes Binational Network, and board member of the Canadian Environmental Law Association.

Tristan Lecompte is an environmental officer working for the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). He is responsible for developing contextual information and data visualization products on the pollutants reported to the NPRI, conducting quality control, and administering the NPRI Academic Challenge. Previously, he was also responsible for implementation and compliance promotion for the NPRI. Tristan began his career with ECCC in 2016, taking a short interval from 2019 to 2021 to work for the International Joint Commission where he supported the International Watersheds Initiative and the International Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board. Tristan graduated from the University of Ottawa with a bachelor's degree (Honours) in Biology and has since specialized in making organizational data accessible to the public through various online tools and reports.

Saira Mendoza Pelcastre is a Chemical Industrial Engineer and graduate of the National Polytechnic Institute. She has more than 10 years of experience in environmental issues, mainly in the areas of environmental regulation, air quality, and emission reduction programs. She worked at the Ministry of the Environment of Mexico City in the Department of Industrial Measurement Instrumentation and the Air Quality Projects sub-directorate. Saira currently holds the position of Deputy Director of Information and Dissemination at SEMARNAT.

Ernesto Navarro is a Chemical Engineering graduate of the *Universidad Iberoamericana* with 50 years of experience in various sectors, including the chemical sector, *maquiladoras* and the federal government. He has worked in manufacturing, engineering and process optimization, plant construction, human resources and risk management, among other areas. His experience in the environmental domain includes transportation and disposal of hazardous materials, remediation of contaminated sites, risk and environmental impact studies, and industrial regulation. He has worked in Spain, Texas and Mexico for companies such as Dupont, Zenith, Proctor Silex and Liberty Mutual Insurance. Ernesto has worked as a consultant for the CEC, in the General Directorate of Integrated Management of Hazardous Materials and Activities of the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), and in the National Meteorological Service of the National Water Commission (CONAGUA). Currently, Ernesto is Director of Industrial Regulation and RETC at SEMARNAT.

Alizabeth Olhasso began her career with EPA in 1998 and currently leads the Data Analysis and Right to Know Branch, which manages the right-to-know functions of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), annually collecting and reporting on the releases and waste management of hundreds of toxic substances from over 20,000 facilities in the United States. The TRI program provides online access to important data that can be used by the public, and EPA, to understand and act on environmental releases. In addition, Alizabeth's office manages and reports on chemical data gathered under the authorities of TSCA, primarily Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) also used by a vast number of stakeholders from government, communities, industry, academic, and private organizations. Alizabeth has served in many capacities throughout her career including EPA's

Toxics Programs, Children's Health, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Superfund (CERCLA), Strategic Planning and Financial Management, Office of Water and the Office of Enforcement. Prior to joining EPA, Alizabeth was an environmental consultant for IT Corporation and Roy F. Weston, where she provided consulting services to private industry, as well as working on government contracts including Superfund (CERCLA) cleanups. A graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Alizabeth holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology as well as a Master of Engineering in Environmental Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Sarah Sajedi is an award-winning entrepreneur and environmental management expert with over 30 years of experience in large-scale software development for air emissions calculation, water and waste traceability, and waste minimization. A Concordia University (Montreal) alumna and current PhD candidate, she co-founded ERA Environmental where, as CEO, she serves hundreds of clients in dozens of industries, including Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies such as Toyota, GM, and Stellantis. As ERA's Director of R&D, she spearheads several AI software engineering and Big Data algorithm development projects in partnership with Concordia University's and University of Waterloo's computer science departments, which have resulted in numerous publications and integration in ERA's environmental reporting software system.

Velu Senthil worked, early in his career, on developing virgin-recycled plastic containers for food storage as Research Engineer at a private packaging consortium. He moved to the Department of Energy to work on alternative transportation fuels and later joined the Environmental Protection Agency to work on developing industry-specific guidance documents and improving data quality for the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program. Presently, he manages TRI data quality and TSCA Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) data quality. Velu Senthil holds Master of Chemical Engineering (M. ChE) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) degrees.

Charlotte (Charlie) Snyder is a chemist in the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics at the US Environmental Protection Agency. She works with the Toxics Release Inventory program, focusing on the TRI National Analysis, pollution prevention, and green chemistry. Charlie's background is in chemistry, with a bachelor's degree from Skidmore College and a master's degree in Environmental and Green Chemistry from the George Washington University.

Alejandro Sosa is a chemical engineer and currently the director of the *Alianza Automotriz para la Sustentabilidad Ambiental.* He has worked with large companies for 42 years, 35 of which have focused on the areas of sustainability, social responsibility, circular economy, government relations and production facilities. He has been technical director of the *La Corona* soap plant and executive director of the GEMI Initiative, among other positions. He has had the honor of chairing the National Ecology Commission of COPARMEX, the National Commission of the International Chamber of Commerce, the Sustainable Development Commission of CANAJAD, and the Environment Commission of UNIDEM. He has been a national member of the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development (UN); the Advisory Council for Climate Change (UN); the Advisory Council on Chemical Substances (UN); the Roundtable on Sustainable Production and Consumption; and the Advisory Councils of CONIECO and CESPEDES, among others. He has been an authorized lobbyist for the Senate and House of Representatives and was vice president of the Commission on Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change at CONCAMIN. For more than 30 years, he has collaborated with the Sustainability Commissions of the most important business organizations in Mexico.

Danielle Vallée has worked with the CEC's Environmental Quality unit since 2006. She leads the North American PRTR Initiative, a cornerstone effort of the CEC since 1994, and ensures the development and implementation of the *Taking Stock Online* website, *Taking Stock* report series, trinational data quality and comparability efforts, and various outreach activities. Danielle has over 25 years' experience in managing international environmental projects that involve a strong public engagement component. She has a bachelor's degree in geography and a master's degree in public policy and administration (geography) from Concordia University in Montréal, Québec.

Gary Vegh holds a graduate diploma in Ecotoxicology, a Bachelor of Science specializing in Chemistry, and is candidate for a Ph.D. in Chemical Materials Engineering, focusing on the Life Cycle Assessment of Lithium-ion battery cathodes. As Senior Toxicologist for ERA Environmental's Sustainability and Analyst teams, he has decades of global consulting experience with a focus on sustainability and waste minimization strategies in the automotive sector. His expertise helps industries optimize their material use and reduce their environmental impact. In 2021, Gary was honored with the Shining Star Award by the Suppliers Partnership for the Environment (SP) in recognition of his leadership, long-term engagement, and commitment to advancing environmental sustainability across numerous SP initiatives.