

Quick Reference: Pollution Prevention Act (PPA)

Codified: 42 U.S.C. §13101 et seq.

Regulations: None.

Date Enacted: 1990

Amendments: None

Implementing Agency: EPA

Purpose: To educate facilities about the benefits of pollution prevention control strategy and formulate a working relationship between the government, industry, and the community to move facilities beyond compliance on a voluntary basis.

Scope of Application: Because the Act amends the Toxic Release Reporting requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), it affects those facilities covered under EPCRA. In addition, the Act directly affects the companies that choose to participate in the programs established by the EPA under the Act and indirectly affect companies to the extent that it alters the EPA's vision for achieving environmental compliance.

Required Permit: None

State Implementation: No

Enforcement: There is no enforcement of the Pollution Prevention Act because the programs that it creates are voluntary.

Summary of the major provisions: The only affirmative requirement of the Act is an amendment to the toxic release inventory reporting requirements under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). This amendment requires facilities subject to EPCRA's reporting requirements to also report information on the pollution prevention and recycling activities at the facility for each toxic chemical. Other than the effect that the Pollution Prevention Act has through EPCRA, the EPA has also initiated several programs to develop and implement pollution prevention strategies in industry: the Environmental Leadership Program, the Common Sense Initiative, and the Regulatory Reinvention. For example, the Common Sense Initiative is a program that alters the EPA's approach to environmental policy. The Initiative uses an industry-by-industry approach to environmental protection instead of the traditionally favored pollutant-by-pollutant strategy. Also, the EXcellence in Leadership (XL) program is part of President Clinton's "Reinventing Environmental Regulation" initiative, announced by the President in March, 1995. The XL Program goes beyond command and control regulatory systems by granting industrial participants flexibility in meeting regulatory requirements in exchange for an enforceable commitment by the participants to attain greater environmental results than what would have been achieved through compliance.

Prepared by: Sanne Knudsen, College of Engineering, University of Michigan



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Phone: 734-764-1412, Fax: 734-647-5841, <http://css.snre.umich.edu>