

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1996

Source
SJR 38

Legislative
Resolve No.
50



Opposing the proposed expansion of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's toxics release inventory program.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the United States Environmental Protection Agency has proposed new rules to expand the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program; and

WHEREAS this expansion could add electric utilities, waste management facilities, mining, oil and gas exploration and production, materials recovery and recycling, and some warehousing activities to the list of facilities required to report toxic chemical releases under the TRI program; and

WHEREAS only manufacturing facilities must currently report under the TRI program and there are significant fundamental differences between manufacturing facilities and the facilities threatened with addition to the list; and

WHEREAS nearly all of the produced water, natural gas, and other miscellaneous materials from oil and gas exploration and production facilities are discharged to deep disposal wells far below the groundwater aquifer; and

WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency's profiles of various industries not currently required to report under the TRI program assume that typical releases remain constant;

this is not the case for at least some operations where the concentrations of chemicals in wastestreams change constantly; and

WHEREAS the only way to monitor these varying discharges would be for operators to perform regular, expensive wastestream tests; and

WHEREAS the information gained from these tests would not benefit communities significantly because much of the information regarding on-site hazardous substances is already required to be reported to local emergency planning committees, the Alaska State Emergency Planning Commission, the State Fire Marshall's office, and local fire departments; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature considers this proposed rule-making would result in an unnecessary, duplicative reporting burden; and

WHEREAS this expanded reporting requirement will force companies operating in Alaska to redirect financial resources to a reporting effort with far less benefit than current reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska has been implementing changes to minimize the cost burden on marginal oil and gas projects and those nearing their economic end;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Environmental Protection Agency cease from imposing additional, duplicative reporting mandates on industry; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Environmental Protection Agency continues with the implementation of the proposed rule, the Alaska State Legislature requests that oil and gas exploration and production be exempted from the TRI program reporting requirements.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert Dole, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to Carol Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.