



What did the report find about total toxic chemical discharges into Missouri's waters?

- In 2010, industrial facilities dumped more than 2 million pounds of toxic chemicals into Missouri's waterways.
- The Missouri River received the second highest amount of toxic discharges in the nation in 2010, with more than 12.7 million pounds of toxins dumped into it over the region where it flows. 672,000 pounds of toxins came from Missouri, the most toxins dumped into a single waterway in the state.

What types of chemicals are dumped into our water?

- Nitrate compounds account for the largest volume of toxic chemicals reported. Infants fed formula made with nitrate-laden water may be susceptible to methemoglobinemia, or "blue baby" syndrome. Studies have also linked nitrates to organ damage in adults.
- Other toxic chemicals that are being dumped into our waterways have been linked to cancer (e.g. arsenic), reproductive disorders (e.g. benzene), and developmental problems (e.g. mercury).

What waterways do reproductive and developmental toxins affect?

- Polluters dumped over 10,000 pounds of toxic chemicals linked to developmental problems into Missouri's waterways in 2010, making our state the 8th highest in the nation in terms of developmental toxin discharges.
- In 2010, 5,107 pounds of chemicals linked to reproductive disorders were discharged in the Upper Black River watershed, and 4,843 pounds into the Meramec River watershed, making them among the top dozen most contaminated watersheds in the nation in terms of reproductive toxin discharges.

Isn't it illegal to dump toxic chemicals into our water?

- The report does not analyze whether facilities exceeded their permits or otherwise violated the Clean Water Act by dumping millions of pounds of toxins into our waters.
- However, right now 66% of Missouri's streams do not receive the full protections of the Clean Water Act, and are open to even more toxic waste than was reported in the data.

Where did this data come from and what does it cover?

- The report analyzes data from the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) database from 2010. This is the most current and comprehensive data available.
- The data looks at self-reported industrial releases of toxic chemicals.
- The data only covers industrial facilities, so other sources of pollution are not included, like agricultural facilities and wastewater treatment plants.

What can we do to clean up toxic discharges?

- Switch to safer alternatives to the toxic chemicals and begin to phase out the most hazardous chemicals.
- Improve the enforcement of the Clean Water Act by ensuring that pollution permits are renewed on time, ratcheting down permitted pollution levels, and establishing a mandatory minimum penalty for Clean Water Act violations.
- The Obama Administration needs to restore Clean Water Act protections to the 72,000 miles of streams in Missouri left vulnerable by legal loopholes.



Environment Missouri is a statewide, grassroots environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water, and open space. www.EnvironmentMissouri.org.