

## **Eugene Toxics Right-To-Know Program**

### **Background:**

The Eugene Toxics Right-to-Know program was adopted by local voters in November 1996 as an amendment to the Eugene City Charter. It was included on the ballot via the citizen initiative process. The initiative was a response to the perception that information concerning the use of hazardous substances in the community, and in particular the releases of those substances into the local environment, was not readily accessible to citizens under existing reporting regulations.

### **Purpose and Goal Statements:**

Provide the public, industry, and the board with information and support about toxic material use which is available on an accurate, complete, and timely basis.

Ensure the program is fully self-supported by using efficient and effective notification media for industry responsibility.

### **General Provisions:**

Unlike other hazardous substance reporting programs, the Eugene Charter Amendment requires affected businesses to provide materials balance accounting, meaning that inputs and outputs of hazardous substances must be reported and must balance.

These reports are required on an annual basis, and are to be made available, in an accessible format, at the Eugene Public Library.

Procedures are provided for the reporting (or non-reporting) of trade secret chemicals.

Penalties for noncompliance are provided. Reporting businesses are to be audited once every three years on a random basis. The program is governed by a seven-member appointed board. It is supported by fees assessed to the reporting businesses and to local manufacturers meeting the employee requirement but not meeting the usage threshold requiring materials balance reporting.

### **Who is Affected:**

To be required to report under the program, a business must:

1. Operate a stationary facility located within the Eugene city limits;
2. Employ the equivalent of ten or more full-time employees;
3. Be engaged in manufacturing; and
4. Have inputs totaling 2,640 pounds or more of hazardous substances in a calendar year.

To be required to pay a fee, a business must meet criteria 1 through 3 above.

State and federal facilities and public educational institutions are exempted.

As of 2002, 42 facilities are reporting and paying fees, and another 32 are required to pay fees but not required to report.

### **Time Line:**

The Toxics Board began meeting early in 1997. Calendar year 1998 was the first reporting year under the program. Reports are due on April 1 each year, and fees are due on May 1.

**Program Cost:**

The program operates with only one paid staff position, working on a less-than-full-time basis. Program costs run approximately \$80,000 per year. Fees for 2002 were \$10.79 per FTE. Among fee-paying companies, employment ranged from 11 FTE to 710 FTE.

**Toxics Right-to-Know Program**

**1705 W. 2nd Ave.**

**Eugene, Oregon 97402**

**(541) 682-7118**