

FINAL VERSION	RI Mercury Reduction Commission 9/17/2004 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM RI DEM Conference Room A in Providence RI
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Type of meeting:	Meeting #5	Note: Open Action Items Summarized On Last Two Pages
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Attendees:	<p>Commission Members Present: Marcella Thompson (Chair), Peter Bleasby, Sheila Dormody, Claude Cote (for Sherry Mulhearn), Terry Gray, Andrew Knapp, Jamie Magnani (for Dan Beardsley), Robert Vanderslice (for Patricia Nolan), Howard Rosenberg</p> <p>Commission Members Excused: Eugenia Marks</p> <p>Commission Members Absent: Jason Linnell, Nicholas Tsiongas, Susan Kaplan (RIEDC)</p> <p>Commission's Keeper of the Notes: Elizabeth Stone</p> <p>Guests: Pam Horner (Osram), Matt Auten (RIPIRG), Mark Adelman (RI GOV), Beverly Migliore and Ron Gagnon (RI DEM), Jack Hogan (Auto Mfrs)</p>
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----- Agenda Topics -----

Agenda Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes	1 of 5 pages
Presentation to Outgoing Members	

Discussion:		
Call to order by Chair Marcella Thompson at 10:05 am. Reviews meeting agenda. Peter Bleasby indicates he has new business – an assessment of mercury sources in RI. Chair Thompson modifies agenda accordingly.		
Conclusions:		
Commission votes unanimously to accept August meeting minutes as amended above.		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Compose September meeting minutes, distribute electronically and address feedback comments with the commission members.	E. Stone and M. Thompson	10Sep04
Post final September meeting minutes on website	E. Stone	10Sep04

Discussion: August Meeting Minutes		
Conclusions: Needs correction regarding comments made by Sheila Dormody.		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
1. Amend report and send via e-mail as required by law.	M. Thompson, E. Stone	01Sep04
2. Govenor to appoint replacements for Peter Bleasby and Kate Canada as soon as possible.	M. Adelman	17Sep04

Discussion:

What has been done to address mercury waste to date?
What programs have worked and have not worked successfully? If not, what were the limitations?
What projects/programs are on-going?
How much does the program cost?

SEE ACTION ITEMS LISTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS AT END: THEY CONTAIN ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS THAT NEED MORE INFORMATION. These are points from discussion. Final report should appropriately credit all sources of information used in the development of the report

1. Identify current and projected sources of mercury hazards (Vanderslice, Linnell);

An Assessment of Sources of Mercury Emissions and Deposition in Rhode Island (Bleasby, Linnell). Report will touch on global, national and regional sources of mercury.

Need information on (Linnell): Provide life cycle of mercury: how persistent is it?

Report will address the largest sources of mercury emanating from within RI (Gray).

Need more information on (Gray):

RI emission levels: industrial sector such as crematoriums and other types of incinerators and residential (consumers) sources as well.

Actual emission levels in air, water, soil, select species and compare to other states' sampling data. (Gray, Gagnon)

Review of outline notes from section draft by Bob Vanderslice.

Commission will address the impacts and effects of mercury pollution on environment and health. There appears to be a lack of information about education and outreach regarding the health hazards of mercury. Specifically, mercury in fish. Chair Thompson re-asserts the commission's support for the Department of Health's efforts relative to mercury.

Need summary of DOH efforts (Vanderslice).

Need more specific information on exposure (dose/response) rates (Vanderslice).

2. Evaluate programs and efforts to reduce the sources in a cost-effective and efficient manner that does not place RI at a disadvantage (Knapp, Rosenberg, Gagnon);

Use NEWMOA database to start (Gagnon). Summarize what products (e.g. IMERC database, Lowell report) will be impacted by the upcoming July 1, 2005 deadline.

Include link between phasing out mercury use and energy efficiency advances. For some products that contain mercury for energy efficiency reasons, focus on collection. For other products, focus on finding adequate alternatives.

Discussion about the connection between enforcement and the ultimate success of RI's attempts to reduce the environmental and health risks associated with mercury.

3. Build upon effective efforts in other states and achieve a consistency with other states in terms of approach and timing of implementation (Linnell, Migliore);

Update information currently on the website (NY) (Migliore). Present information in an easy-to-read format comparing other states' regulations to each section of RI law (Linnell).

Discussion regarding CT law.

Discussion: Was NEWMOA draft legislation was too "broad brushed" an approach to managing mercury in products? Specifically, impact law may have on the semi-conductor industry and the use of stadium lighting at indoor/outdoor sporting facilities.

4. Availability and effectiveness to consumers and the public of programs for disposal and recycling (Gray, Cote, Magnini);

Reference to description of each mercury reduction program in the IMERC database. Elizabeth Stone indicated she could/would extract quantifiable results of these efforts.

Identify, document and evaluate all current programs in RI (Cote, Magnini).

Final report ultimately needs to highlight what is happening in RI right now in the form of mercury reduction programs and education/outreach.

Need specific information and examples (Hasbro: Knapp).
Summarize what are other states are doing too. Include electronic waste. (Cote, Magnini)
Include European Union's legislation and advances in handling electronic waste (and encouraging product design changes).
Andrew Knapp (Hasbro) still owes the commission information on how Hasbro disposes of mercury and to whom.

5. Availability and effectiveness to consumers and the public of programs for education (Marks, Horner, RI DEM staff)

The working group will frame a list of ongoing mercury reduction and education efforts in RI (Marks, Horner)
copies of any pamphlets/handouts DEM and DOH have produced on the topic of mercury
Reference to description of each mercury-related education/outreach program in the IMERC database
Elizabeth Stone indicated she could/would extract quantifiable results of these efforts.

6. Address mercury in automobiles (Dormody, Marks, Magnini, RI DEM staff)

Need information on whether these sources are located on the automobiles. (Dormody, Magnini)
Sheila Dormody, chair of the subgroup on mercury in automobiles, provides the full commission with a rough outline of where the subgroup is heading with its draft report. Sub-group has collected much information.
Subgroup is exploring the possibility of the auto recycling industry in RI to be the main responsible party for collecting auto-related mercury switches. The group has agreed there is a need for an economic and/or non-economic incentive in order to make this system work.
For efforts to replace mercury switches while the car is still in use other states have found efforts that focus on large fleets of cars with backing from upper management were more effective than efforts at broad outreach to general consumers. RIAG and NBC have already replaced mercury switches in all their vehicles. Efforts may be advanced through a non-economic incentive such as an awards program for participating fleets.
There will be a section in the report dedicated to HID lamps and navigation systems in today's cars. Peter Bleasby remarks that there are mercury free HID lamps just coming into the market and some auto manufacturers are beginning to use them.

7. Additional discussion points:

Should the commission focus first on fact finding or formulate a hypothesis needing factual support.
Is there a need to frame the issues" for legislators – so they can grasp the complexities of this issue?

Comments:

Open discussion about what should be the Commission's focus from now until the end of the year. Chair Thompson emphasizes the Commission's first obligation is to present a report to the Governor and General Assembly addressing six questions listed above. The Commission's second obligation is to continue discussions on bans, disposal and phase-outs so that consensus can be reached where there is controversy in implementation.

Discussion on whether or not the commission should be focusing first on fact finding or instead on formulating a hypothesis we will then need to factually support.

Discussion about the need to appropriately "frame the issue" of mercury for legislators – what story should we be telling them so they can begin to grasp the complexity of the issue?

Discussion of the European Union's efforts and advances in handling electronic waste (and encouraging product design changes).

Discussion on lack of infrastructure in RI's agencies to implement and move forward with many mercury programs – often times these types of programs are spearheaded by just 1 person (and are forced to compete with other priority issues on a daily basis).

Conclusions:

There is a lot of information needed quickly. Everyone needs to be mindful of how quickly time is passing!

Action items:

All attendees to forward all draft white papers to the commission as soon as possible. Distribute drafts to commission members BEFORE the next meeting so members have time to review.

Person responsible:

ALL

Deadline:

15Sep04

**Preliminary Agenda for September 24, 2004 at
DEM Headquarters**

3 of 5 pages

Discussion: Focus will be on background information for the Final Commission Report to Governor. Chair Thompson indicated the Commission will meet the 4th Friday in September (24th) and the 5th Friday in October (the 29th) in addition to October 15th.

Sheila Dormody announces the Subcommittee on Mercury in Automobiles will meet on September 8th at 2:30 pm in Conference Room B (4th Floor, Legal Office) at DEM.

Meeting minutes and other materials will be forward in coming weeks. All attendees were reminded to sign the attendance sheet and provide/update necessary contact information.

Conclusions:

Action items:

Person responsible: Deadline:

1. Complete and post Agenda for September 24, 2004

M. Thompson and E. Stone 13Sep04

Adjournment

Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:20 am.

Recorded by Elizabeth S. Stone of RI DEM
Reviewed and Edited by Marcella R. Thompson, Chair

Status of All Open Action Items from May Meeting

4 of 5 pages

Action Item:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Provide qualitative and quantitative information regarding the following: How much mercury waste do households generate? (15 - 30%) Quantify. How much household hazardous waste ends up in the landfill? (Need NJ Data)	ALL	OPEN
What percentage of households comply with existing recycling requirements (for other products)? (RI RRC to provide)	RI RRC	
Is possible decision not to exempt household consumers reasonably enforceable? How to address this issue?		
Recommend policy/procedure for appropriate collection of mercury-added products on the state level and define role of RI RRC.	T. Gray, R. Vanderslice	OPEN
Provide information on all existing mercury-related collection efforts inside and outside of RI.	ALL	OPEN

Status of All Open Action Items from June Meeting

Action Item:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Provide qualitative and quantitative information for the questions listed on page 4 of June's meeting minutes.	ALL	7/16/04
Decide whether households should be exempt from the disposal ban (policy)		
Decide whether or not to attach violation for non-compliance by household consumers.		
Prepare to discuss motor vehicle disposal ban.	ALL	
Obtain more detailed logistical and economic information re Maine's program	Dormody	
Diagram of car anatomy pointing to various parts that contain mercury.	Hogan	
Prepare a written presentation representing the Alliance's position on this issue. Forward to Chair Thompson as soon as possible.	Hogan, D'Adamo	
Provide qualitative and quantitative information for the questions listed on page 5 of June meeting minutes.	ALL	7/16/04
How much mercury is currently in the RI environment (air, water, soil, sentinel species)?		
What are the sources of mercury (international/interstate/regional/intrastate)?		
What are the contributing percentage(s) from these sources?		
What is the time life cycle for mercury in the environment?		
How much of an effect will this legislation have on reducing environmental mercury? Timeline?		
What are the systems relationship between the sources of mercury and total impact on environment and health?		
What manufacturers have voluntarily phased out mercury?		
What is the dose/response relationship of mercury exposure?		
Provide inventory of mercury emissions in RI.		
Summarize what levels other states/countries are phasing out and/or exempting.		
What does the NEWMOA registry reflect for mercury amounts in products?		

Status of All Open Action Items from July Meeting

5 of 5 pages

Action Item:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Establish Motor Vehicle Subcommittee	S. Dormody	20Jul04
Prepare balanced report for Commission review in September/October.		Sep/Oct 04
Provide qualitative and quantitative information for the following questions: How many mercury pounds were collected by RI RRC last year? How much does a lab pack cost to properly dispose of and how much does it weigh? What kinds/forms of mercury were contained in these lab packs? Provide flow chart mapping what happens to all the mercury that comes into RI RRC. How is it handled at the facility, how does it leave the facility and where does it end up? How much is actually brought to the facility in the last three years and how much does it cost to dispose of it properly?	C. Cote	20Aug04
Recommend policy/procedure for appropriate collection of mercury-added products on the state level and define role of RI RRC.	T. Gray, R. Vanderslice	20Aug04
Locate copy of MOU that was signed between DEM and RIRRC for the transfer of the Household Hazardous Waste facility from RI DEM to RIRRC	E. Stone	
Identify and provide information on existing mercury-related collection efforts inside and outside of RI and their capabilities/capacities.	T. Gray	20Aug0
Provide information as to the compliance with federal and state hazardous waste regulations in RI among businesses and manufacturers.		

Status of All Open Action Items from August Meeting

Action Item:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
All attendees to prepare draft white papers and distribute to commission members BEFORE the next meeting so members have time to review.	ALL	15Sep04

Status of All Open Action Items from September 17th Meeting

Action Item:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
All attendees to prepare draft white papers and distribute to commission members BEFORE the next meeting so members have time to review.	ALL	20Oct04

END