

FINAL VERSION	RI Mercury Reduction Commission 10/29/2004 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM RI DEM Conference Room A in Providence RI		
Type of meeting:	Meeting #8		Note: All attendees to finalize white papers and distribute to commission members BEFORE the November 19th meeting so members have time to review.
Attendees:	<p>Commission Members Present: Marcella Thompson (Chair), Sheila Dormody, Howard Rosenberg, Terry Gray, Andrew Knapp, Jamie Magnani (for Dan Beardsley), Eugenia Marks, Elizabeth Stone, Jason Linnell, Pamela Horner</p> <p>Commission Members Excused: None</p> <p>Commission Members Absent: Robert Vanderslice (for Patricia Nolan), Nicholas Tsiongas, Susan Kaplan (RIEDC), Claude Cote (for Sherry Mulhearn)</p> <p>Guests: Joan Milas (NEMA), Ron Gagnon (DEM)</p>		
----- Agenda Topics -----			
Agenda Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes			1 of 3 pages
	Discussion:		
	Call to order by Chair Marcella Thompson at 10:10 am. Reviews meeting agenda: no changes. Reviews meeting minutes for October 15 th .		
	Conclusions:		
	Commission votes unanimously to accept October 15 th meeting minutes without amendments.		
	Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
	Compose October meeting minutes, distribute electronically and address feedback comments with the commission members.	E. Stone and M. Thompson	18Nov04
	Post final October meeting minutes on website	E. Stone	18Nov04

Updates on Final Report

Knapp: 7A Strategies for Control: information he's been collecting and analyzing on mercury reduction programs across the country. He has been attempting to analyze the effectiveness of various mercury reductions programs – primarily collection programs. He has used information from IMERC and information from the WI mercury report. Chair Thompson asked if he collected information on the actual quantity of mercury in the products in his database. Andrew Knapp will attempt to integrate additional information from IMERC regarding mercury quantities in products. Discussion of alternative non-mercury products.

Dormody: 6C Mercury-Added Products in automobiles: progress of the auto mercury sub-group. Sheila Dormody provided a status report on the research and types of recommendations the group has been discussing. The next sub-group meeting will be either Monday 11/8 or Wednesday 11/17.

Marks and Magnini: 7B Administrative Strategies for Control continued: Educational Efforts and 6A the Public Users of Mercury: They provided an update on the portions of the report they've been tasked to draft – education and outreach. Eugenia Marks provided copies of the draft she has created and is looking for comments from other commission members. Her analysis includes information about “users” of mercury and mercury-added products in RI (e.g. broad categories such as schools, medical facilities, industry, cultural/ethnic uses). (**Gray:** include outreach efforts and associated costs.)

Gray and Vanderslice. 3 Observational Measurements: Terry Gray provided an update on the RI air data he has collected for the past 12 years. While there are some data quality problems, some trends are clearly visible – wastewater treatment facilities (sludge incinerators) and RI hospital (medical waste incinerator) appear to be the two largest in-state sources of mercury. Terry Gray provided estimates for the number of pound of mercury released by some of the biggest wastewater treatment facilities. Regarding landfill gas releases of mercury, Terry Gray indicated that this appeared to me a minimal source of mercury in RI. For example, the licensed facility that flares the gas from the Johnston Landfill releases less than 1 pound of mercury per year, and mercury has never shown up in any of the groundwater tests conducted near the landfill. He indicated that the next step is to examine hazardous waste generators who are sending mercury out of RI – DEM should be able to determine the source of the mercury.

Linnell: 4 Identify Sources of Mercury: draft submitted. (**Gray:** provide 1996 Report to Congress.)

Horner. 5 Products containing mercury and how much, presented by range of phase-out amounts and 6B RI Industries and Technologies by Sector and Quantity/Percentage Contribute to Whole: Pam Horner provided overview of her handout summarizing the data she has collected so far. (**Knapp:** coordinate data; **Cote:** provide RRC data.)

Review of existing commercial and household recycling regulations:

RI's Universal Waste Rule and how it interacts with the efforts of the commission. If commercial facilities utilize the Universal Waste Rule and industrial facilities comply with hazardous waste laws/regulations, then the gap in managing mercury added products lies with households and household hazardous waste is exempt under current RI regulations. The question was then raised about the need to focus education and outreach efforts for households and provide additional assistance (re the Universal Waste Rule) to commercial facilities.

The ability of RIRRC to accept mercury added waste – the capacity is there. However, capacity restrictions and limitations begin to appear when one begins looking at staff and resources of involved state agencies. Discussion about funding resources and support necessary public education and outreach efforts run by state agencies (e.g. DEM) and the extent to which public education should be specifically addressed in the mercury law and companion regulations.

Need to have labeling, collection programs and education & outreach programs in place BEFORE disposal bans can realistically be put in place. Importance of public education regarding disposal of mercury-added waste.

European Union: mercury-related activities and ban on mercury January 2006. Not all RI companies will be affected by EU regulations Discussion of pushing back RI disposal ban until 2006 to align with these efforts.

Review of potential legislative amendments put before the commission by some commission members at the request of Chair Thompson:

Discussion and agreement to include exemption (in disposal ban section RIGL 23-24.9-9(c)) for products containing a button cell battery.

DEM has no objections to the language being added to RIGL 23-14.9-10 regarding DEM's responsibility to develop a plan to enforce existing laws banning the disposal of most mercury containing products disposed of by those other than households.

Discussion about the concept of producer responsibility. DEM objects to removing the language regarding the concept of producer responsibility. Will taxpayers or manufacturers bear the burden of properly recycling and/or disposing of mercury-added waste? This is the fundamental question regarding collection of mercury-added products.

Members need further time to review the additional amendments, so the meeting adjourned.

Preliminary Agenda for November 19, 2004 at DEM Headquarters

Discussion: Conference Room A will be available on November 5th at 10:00 am for anyone who is interested in coming together to work on their respective portions of the draft report.

November 19th meeting to start at 9am.

Conclusions:

All final report submissions MUST be completed on or before November 19th since they form the basis of Commission's policy discussions.

Action items:

	Person responsible:	Deadline:
1. Complete and post Agenda for November 19, 2004	M. Thompson and E. Stone	18Nov04
2. Purchase copies of Mercury compendium from NY Acad. Sci. ASAP for commission members.	Gray	OPEN
3. Keep additional dates for meetings open: Dec 3, 10.		
4. December meeting 17 th .		

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
END