

Rhode Island Mercury Advisory Working Group

Meeting Minutes from Friday, April 8, 2005

10:00 am

RI DEM, 4th Floor, Conference Room A

Attendees:

Marcella Thompson (Chair), Terry Gray, Elizabeth Stone, Bev Migliore, Pam Horner, Jamie

Magnani, Andrew Knapp, Bob Vanderslice, Howard Rosenberg, Eugenia Marks, Jack Hogan, Sheila Dormody.

„h Called to order by Marcella Thompson, Commission Chair, at 10:10 am.

„h Meeting minutes for March 25, 2005 approved as is ;V no amendments.

„h Terry Gray provided an update on the Wednesday, April 6th hearing on the button cell battery, auto mercury switch and e-waste legislation pending before the RI General Assembly.

„h Discussion of E-Waste subgroup recommendations ;V more work needed on summary recommendations.

„h Discussion of §Sources of Mercury Outside RI” in recommendations section focused on CAIR and the Clean Air Mercury Rule (cap and reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants). Suggested language changes proposed by Howard Rosenberg. Language recorded by Pam Horner in the draft of the final report. Language approved by a vote of 5 in favor to 2 abstentions - pending final review by DEM Air Resources staff for accuracy. Sheila Dormody, Terry Gray, Howard Rosenberg, Andrew Knapp, and Marcella Thompson all vote to approve amendments to section entitled §Sources of Mercury Outside RI.” Pam Horner and Jamie Magnani abstained.

„h Discussion of existing language in report about dental amalgam. Elizabeth Stone and Bev Migliore will work together to develop some brief language for the recommendations section on this topic.

„h Discussion of the proposal on the table to reverse the language currently in the RI mercury law regarding mercury added button cell batteries in novelty products. Discussion led by Sheila Dormody of CWA and Andrew Knapp from Hasbro. It was agreed that there might be a need to further specific in the law what is exactly meant by the term §novelty” so it does not greatly impact Hasbro’s ability to sell and market many of its products here in RI. A law is pending in the RI General Assembly to ban all novelties which contain mercury added button cell batteries. The current law provides an exemption for those novelties whose only mercury component is a mercury added

button cell battery. It was strongly suggested that if the commission recommends a change in the law, it must be "enforceable" and easy to understand for all parties involved. There was no resolution on this matter. Sheila Dormody and Andrew Knapp will continue to discuss prior to next Friday's meeting with the hopes of developing a position both sides can agree to.

The Discussion of the next meeting and the status of the draft final report. All parties were asked to have their amendments to Pam Horner and Chairwoman Thompson by Tuesday, so changes can be made well in advance of Friday's meeting. Chairwoman Thompson indicated she would like to take a vote on the final report at the next meeting (4/15).

Adjournment:

Chairwoman Thompson adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:55 am.

The next meeting will take place at RI DEM on 4/15 at 10:00 am.

Recorded by:

Elizabeth S. Stone RI DEM