



North American

Actions to Reduce Mercury

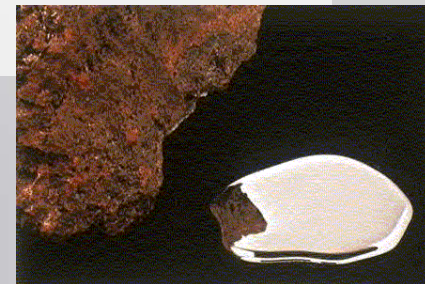
Ned Brooks
Chemicals Program Manager
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Overview

- Mercury Concerns
- Overview of CEC Mercury Activities
- Tri-national Highlights 1995-2010
- New Strategic Direction
- International Context



Why Mercury is a Chemical of Concern in North America



- Highly toxic, especially to developing nervous system
- Naturally-occurring but released by mining, burning coal, other activities
- Can travel long distances, persists in the environment and eventually builds up in fish
- Consumption of contaminated fish and exposure to vapors are primary concerns

Overview: CEC Mercury Initiative

- Council established Mercury Task Force in 1995, called for plan to reduce exposure and releases
- CEC facilitated development of North American Regional Action Plan (NARAP) on Mercury
- Mercury NARAP Implementation 2000-2010
- CEC Mercury Task Force will propose New Strategic Approach for 2011 and beyond
- UNEP-facilitated International Agreement on Mercury Expected in 2013



Highlights 2000-10 Mercury Action Plan

- Goal: reduce air emissions 50% by 2006 (1990 baseline)
 - Canada, United States exceeded goal
 - Mexico: emissions inventories prepared in 2001 (preliminary) and 2008 (2004 baseline)
- Reduced use of mercury in products and processes
 - Chlor-alkali, switches, hospital, automotive
- Improved monitoring and assessment
- Mexican Mercury Market/Surplus Studies



New Strategic Direction

- CEC Mercury Task Force reaffirmed need for ongoing trilateral coordination to:
 - Manage mercury use and supply, reduce releases
 - Bring countries to a common level capacity to reduce risks
- 2011-12 CEC activities
 - Development of 5-year mercury strategy
 - study long-term storage options
- Additional outcomes: position trilateral activities to add benefit to international capacity building and negotiations



For more information about the CEC's Sound Management Chemicals Initiative

Ned Brooks

Program Manager,
Chemicals Management

Telephone: 514.350.4300

Email: nbrooks@cec.org

www.cec.org/SMOC



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Three countries. One environment.