The Great Lakes Mercury Phase-Down Strategy

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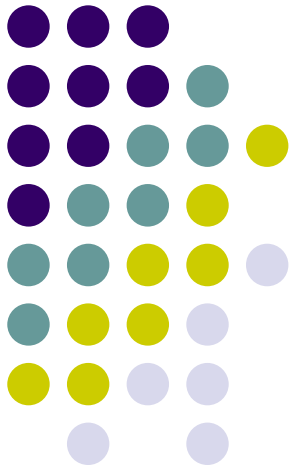
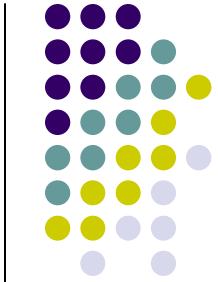


Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy



- Multi-Stakeholder U.S. Process Created by 2004 Presidential Order. December 2005 Report.
- Reaffirmed commitment to virtual elimination of mercury and other persistent toxic pollutants
- “By 2015, full phase-outs of intentionally added mercury bearing products, as possible. . . . A basin-wide mercury product stewardship strategy should be developed to complete phase-outs of mercury uses, including a mercury waste management component, as practicable.”

Mercury Strategy – Background

- Council of GL Governors and Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (December 12, 2005 letter to President Bush):

  "The Great Lakes States, Cities and Tribes will develop a basin-wide mercury product stewardship strategy, aimed at managing mercury wastes and reducing the use of mercury-containing products."

Mercury Strategy Team

- Formed in Spring 2006
- Representatives from:
  - each of the Great Lakes States
  - Tribes: GLIFWC, Chippewa Ottowa, Lac du Flambeau Band, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Seneca Nation
  - GL & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Superior, WI)
  - USEPA
  - Coordinator: IL Waste Management & Research Center

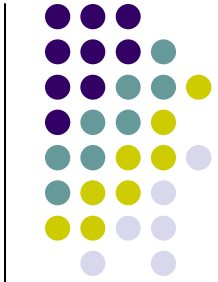
Mercury Strategy Development Process

- Strategy Team Draft
- Expert Review
- Stakeholder Review
- Currently in a 60-day Public Comment period (ending October 27)
- Available at http://www.glrc.us/, along with summary of stakeholder comments and responses

Mercury Strategy Content

- Recommendations for State action to address mercury in products and wastes generated by mercury-containing products. Also actions by tribes and municipalities
- Recommendations on five products, five sectors, plus some “cross-cutting” recommendations
- In addition to recommendations, for each product and sector
  - Background on uses/releases
  - Overview of Existing programs

Priority Products and Sectors



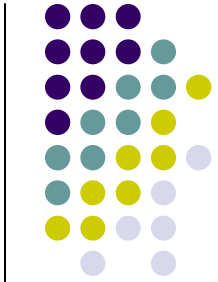
Products

- Dental Amalgam
- Switches, Relays & Control Devices
- Fever Thermometers
- Lamps
- Thermostats

Sectors

- Industry/Manufacturing
- Schools
- Steel Manufacturing
- Healthcare/Veterinary care
- Households (including button cell batteries)

Recommendations

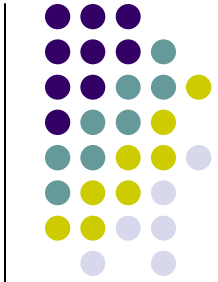


- Bans on sale of some mercury-containing products
  - Thermostats
  - Switches, relays and measurement and control devices (with a mechanism to allow for exceptions)
  - Fever thermometers
  - Button cell batteries (by 2011)
  - Car headlamps
- Ban on mercury use in schools
- State government purchasing policies to avoid mercury where appropriate

Recommendations (cont.)

- Mandated best management practices for mercury containing wastes for:
  - Dental offices (including amalgam separator installation)
  - Lamps (except households)
  - Mercury in state-owned facilities
  - Consider for auto switches, appliances and other mercury-containing products likely to end up in steel scrap
- Consider producer responsibility approaches

Recommendations (cont.)



- Promote better practices through education, cooperation, voluntary programs
  - Dental school and continuing dental education programs on best management practices
  - Removal of bulk elemental mercury from dental offices
  - Expanded household hazardous waste program availability
  - Education and outreach to general public, hospitals, veterinary clinics, schools, scrap recyclers, steel makers, heavy industry
  - Participation in National Vehicle Switch Recovery Program

Recommendations (cont.)

- Improved information dissemination
  - Product labeling and notification requirements (consistent with existing IMERC program)
  - Participate in national/regional information sharing efforts
- Implementation
  - Provide adequate funding to implement the recommendations
  - Ongoing workgroup to track progress. Invite participation of EC and ON MOE.

Questions? Comments?