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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: *Mercury Lamp Drum-Top Crusher Study*
Document Number: EPA530-R-06-002

FROM: Matt Hale, Director
Office of Solid Waste
Marie Pausi Dickey for

TO: State and Regional RCRA Waste Management Directors
Users and Potential Users of Drum-Top Crusher Devices
Lamp Recyclers and Manufacturers

As part of ongoing efforts to encourage safe management of mercury-containing equipment and fluorescent lamps, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a *Mercury Lamp Drum-Top Crusher Study* on the performance of mercury lamp drum-top crusher (DTC) devices. DTC devices fit on the top of a 55 gallon drum and crush fluorescent lamps into the drum below. DTC devices are designed to reduce the volume of waste lamps, while controlling the release of mercury vapors from crushed lamps. This volume reduction can facilitate storage and handling, decrease the possibility of subsequent breakage and release, and reduce shipping costs associated with fluorescent lamp recycling.

We conducted the *Mercury Lamp Drum-Top Crusher Study* in order to gain more information about the performance of DTC devices. The objective of the study was to evaluate how well four DTC devices contained mercury releases from crushed lamps, focusing on worker exposure to airborne mercury. The study provides current information on the performance of DTC devices. The report presents our findings, which we believe will be helpful to states, users of fluorescent lamps, and lamp recyclers in making more informed management decisions when recycling fluorescent lamps. For more information and a copy of the *Study*, visit <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/id/univwast/drumtop/drum-top.htm>. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Helms at (703) 308-8845 or Cathy Davis at (703) 308-7271.