

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**DNSC Mercury Technical Standards**  
Commodity-Grade Mercury Stakeholder Meeting  
July 25, 2007  
Denver, Colorado  
  
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**Agenda**

- How we arrived at where we are
- Other options considered

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**How we developed our standards**

National Stockpile Purchase Specifications, Mercury:  
Issued by Department of Commerce

- Identified chemical and physical requirements
  - Mercury content by percentage
  - Bright and clean
- Packaging
  - In flasks of "certified quality"
  - Deep-drawn, spun wrought iron, low-carbon steel
- Marking
  - Metal tag, permanently metal-stamped, engraved, or punched in English
- Identification
  - Identifying documents with chemical analysis, number of flasks, and lot number

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### How we developed our standards

**Shipping:**

Loaded, blocked and braced in carrier's conveyance  
In compliance with applicable rules and regulations  
Rail shipments, AAR Pamphlet No. 14 and Circular 42D

**Sampling, Inspection and Testing**

Each lot shall be subject to sampling, inspection and testing

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### Other Options Considered

**No Action:**

Continue to store in existing sites  
Did not meet DNSC goal of reducing the number of sites.  
According to current plans, DNSC will cease operations in 2014.

**Treatment for Storage:**

Mercury can be safely stored in its elemental form  
Preferred form in most industrial processes  
Additional environmental impacts and costs, without significant benefits

**Treatment for Disposal:**

No commercially available technologies to render large quantities of elemental mercury more stable or less toxic  
Immaturity of bulk elemental treatment technologies  
Lack of an EPA-approved path forward

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### Other Options Considered

• Sales

- At maximum allowable market rate
- To reduce mercury mining
  
- MMEIS concluded that most of the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of alternatives for mercury management would be small for each of the three alternatives, and differences among them would not be sufficient in themselves to support selection of one over the others.

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