

---

# Canadian International Mercury Reduction Activities

Presentation to the  
Binational Toxics Strategy Mercury Workgroup  
May 17, 2006

Grace Howland  
Transboundary Air Division  
Environment Canada  
Grace.Howland@ec.gc.ca

---

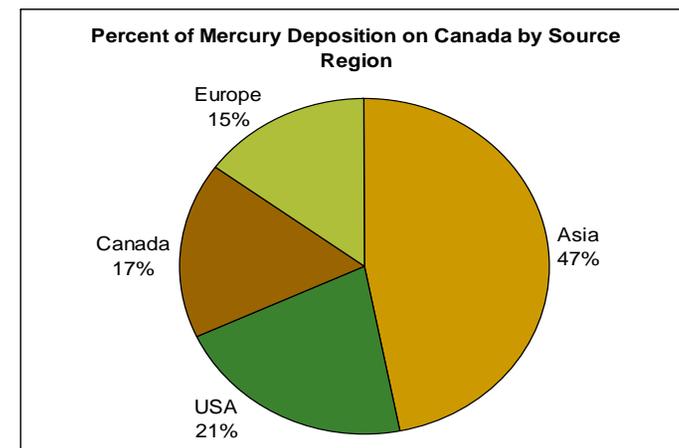
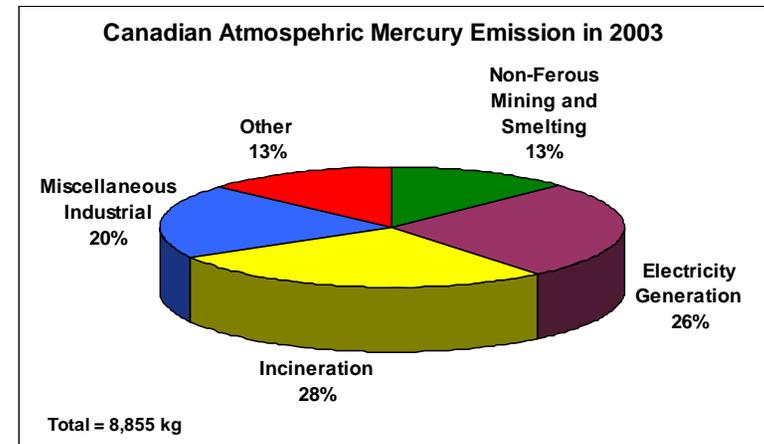
---

# Presentation Outline

- Context
  - Bilateral Initiatives
  - Regional Activities
  - Global Mercury Programme
-

# Context

- Despite major domestic reductions mercury continues to deposit on Canada
- Emissions originating outside Canada now account for around 83% of anthropogenic mercury depositing on Canada



---

# Bilateral Initiatives

- With United States:
    - Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy
    - New England Governors / Eastern Canadian Premiers
  
  - With China:
    - Preliminary investigation of coal washing, small-scale coal use and emissions inventory refinement
-

---

# Regional Activity : Heavy Metals Protocol

- In force since December 29, 2003
- 28 Parties as of April 2006
- Basic Obligations include:
  - ❑ Reducing total annual emissions of lead, cadmium and mercury
  - ❑ Application of BAT and limit values
  - ❑ Application of product control measures
  - ❑ Consideration of product management measures
  - ❑ Development and maintenance of emissions inventories

[unece.org/env/lrtap/](http://unece.org/env/lrtap/)

---

---

# Heavy Metals Task Force

- A technical group established in 2004
  - 2005 work focused on:
    - Collecting technical information on mercury limit values for existing chlor-alkali and medical waste incineration
    - Drafting generic guidelines for technical review of proposed metals, products measures or products/product groups
    - Developing annotated chapter headings for technical aspects of sufficiency and effectiveness review
  - Progress reviewed at 2005 EB
-

---

# Heavy Metals Task Force

- 2006 workplan elements:
    - Complete technical work for sufficiency and effectiveness review
    - Continue effects-based approach work
    - Develop ELVs for mercury from existing chlor-alkali plants and medical waste incineration
    - Timetable for remaining work
-

---

# Heavy Metals Task Force

- S&E review contains best available scientific information on:
    - Effects of deposition of heavy metals
      - Atmospheric transport, ambient concentrations and deposition
      - Levels in environmental media and biota and comparisons with effects indicators of significance
      - Results of modeling and mapping of critical loads in Europe
    - Assessments of technological developments
      - BAT, ELV, products and product groups
    - Overview of emissions
-

---

# Regional Activity : Arctic Council mercury project

- An Arctic Council Action Plan project
  - ACAP projects are funded by the member countries, and overseen by project steering groups
  - Overall mercury project objective is to contribute to a reduction of mercury releases from the eight Arctic countries
  - Project outputs include a regional mercury release inventory and Russian mercury release assessment
-

---

# Regional Activity : Arctic Council mercury project

- Current focus is on developing pilot projects for release reduction in Russian Federation:
  - System for collection of mercury containing wastes
    - Possible workshop in September, 2006
  - Research at coal fired power plant
  - Mercury recycling facility
  - Mercury cell chlor-alkali sub project

**[acap.arctic-council.org/projects](http://acap.arctic-council.org/projects)**

---

---

# Global Mercury Programme

- Initiated by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2001
- Early activities included the global mercury assessment and awareness raising
- Work now focuses on partnership activities to reduce mercury releases
- Other activities include:
  - Continued awareness raising and information sharing
  - Study of mercury supply, trade and demand

[www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/](http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/)

---

---

# Global Mercury Programme

- Partnerships have been initiated for:
    - Mercury cell chlor-alkali
    - Mercury-containing products
    - Artisanal and small scale gold mining
  - Under development for:
    - Mercury fate and transport research
-

---

# Summary Slide

- To address the global issue of mercury, Environment Canada works with other countries in a range of bilateral, regional and global fora.
-