

Mercury

Work Group Co-Chairs:

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Canada's Mercury Reduction Challenge and Progress

Challenge:

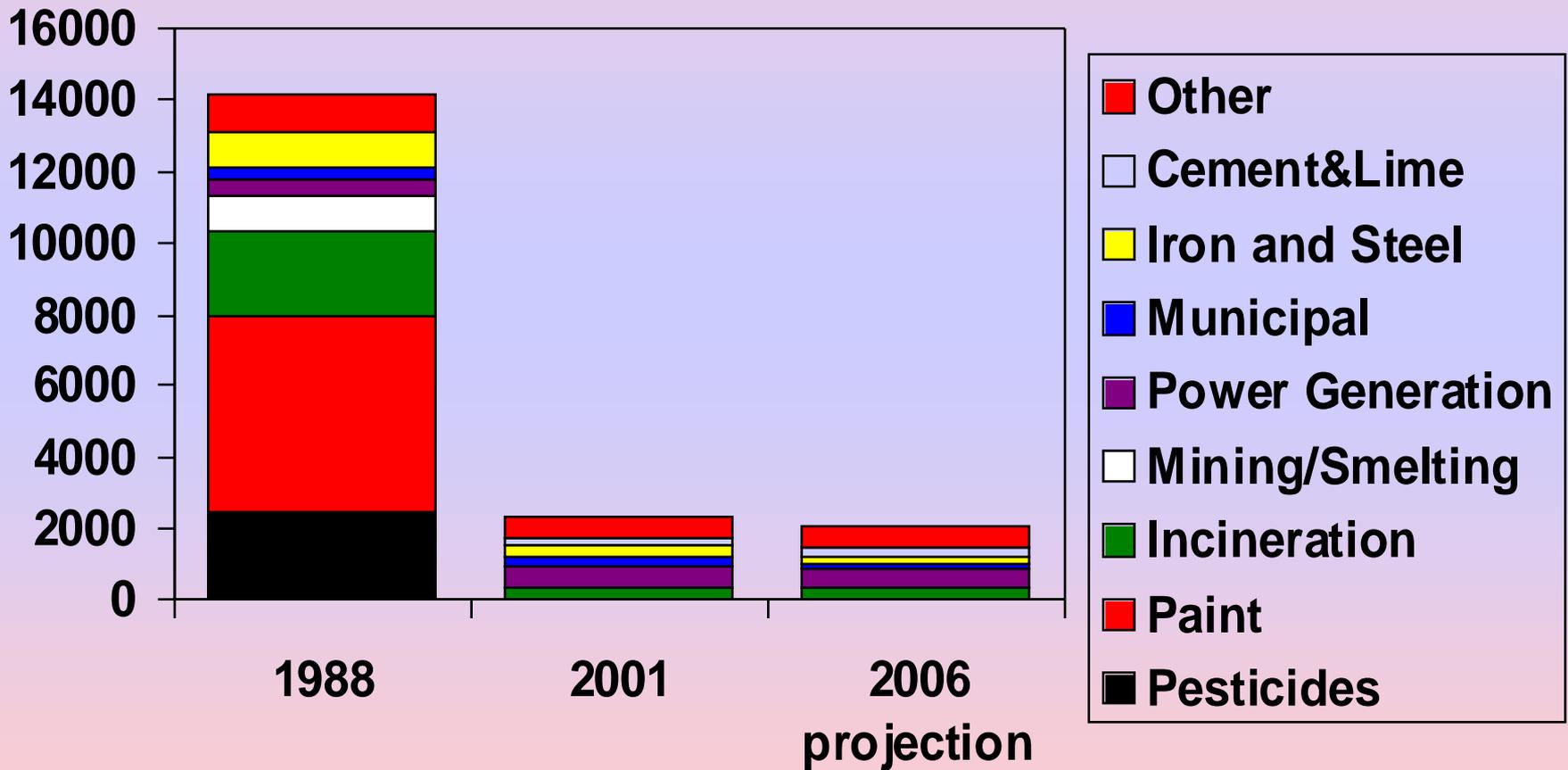
“Achieve by 2000, a 90% reduction in the release of mercury, or where warranted the use of mercury, in the Great Lakes Basin”

Baseline: 1988

Progress:

- Approximately 83% reduction by 2001

Ontario Mercury Releases (kg)



U.S. Mercury Reduction Challenge and Progress

Challenge:

“Achieve by 2006 a 50% reduction in use and air emissions of mercury nationwide”

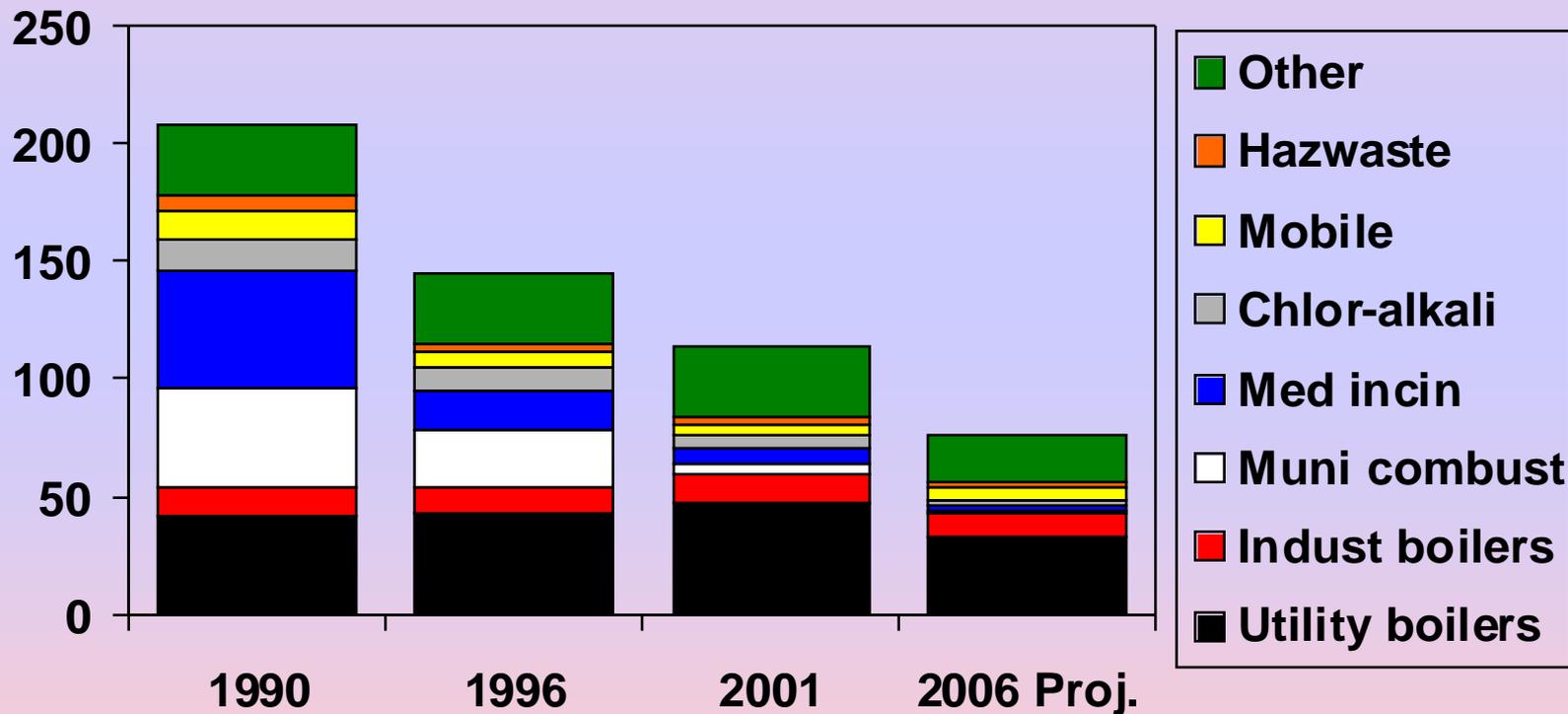
◆ Baselines:

- Emissions: 1990
- Use: 1995

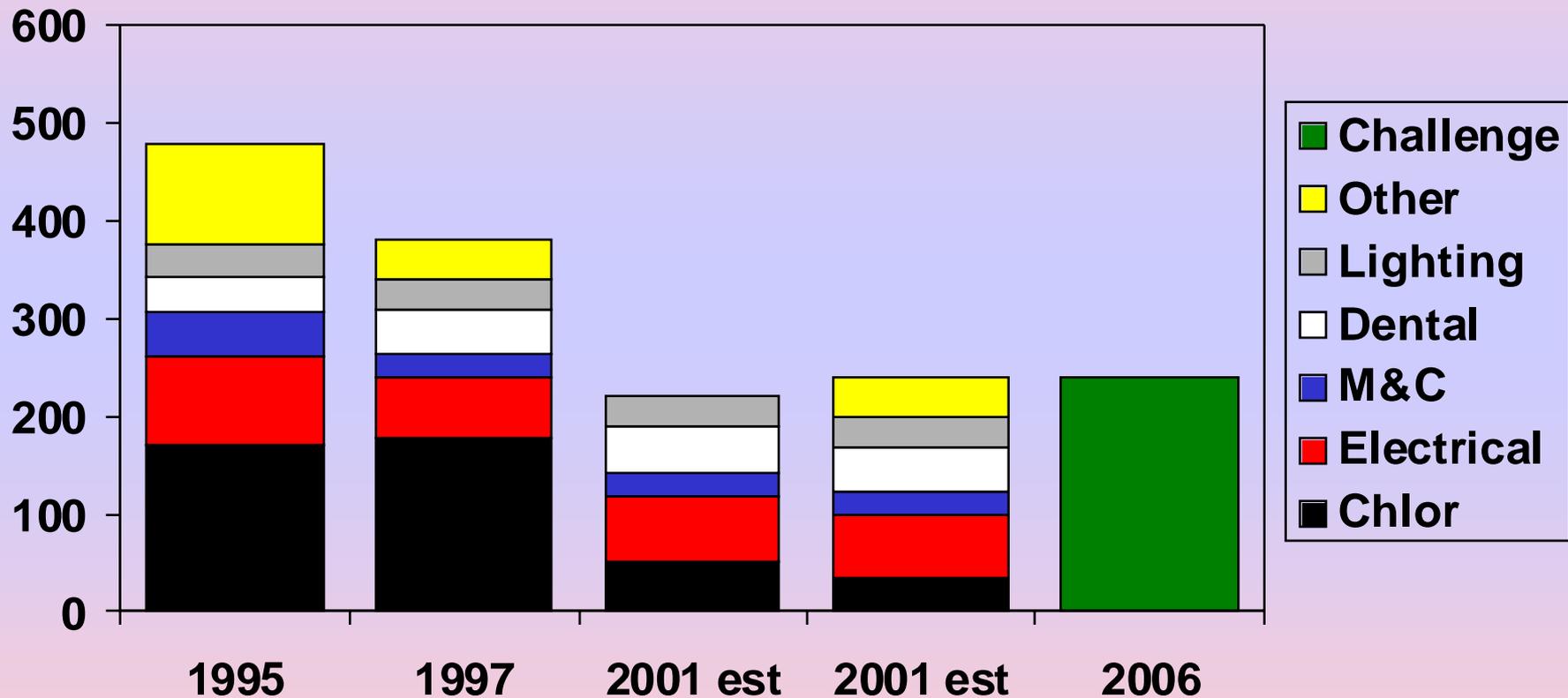
Progress (best guess):

- Emissions: > 40% reduction
- Use: > 50% reduction

U.S. Mercury Releases (tons)



U.S. Mercury Use (tons)



Significant Activities

- Mercury controls on electric utilities – through multi-pollutant legislation or MACT
- Quicksilver Caucus drafts reports on mercury stewardship, water quality standards
- Thermostat Recycling Corporation—collects 530 lbs mercury in 2002– 32 percent increase
- State mercury legislation– regarding thermometers, schools, mercury disposal
- Expansion of Ontario municipal programs for collecting switches, lamps, and thermostats
- UNEP Mercury Program

Chlor-alkali Industry

- 2002 Report on Mercury Use
- Consolidation of previous year's accomplishments
- Mercury use remained at 30 tons— 81% reduction from 1995; 73% reduction on a capacity-adjusted basis
- One mercury cell plant closed—5 of 14 have closed since 1997
- Mercury purchases up sharply over 2001—increased mercury inventory. Why? Come to tomorrow morning's mercury workgroup meeting

Dental Industry

- **December 2, 2002 BTS Meeting**
- **Draft Report on Options for Provincial State, Local Governments circulated; will finalize in 2003**
- **Canadian Dental Association working towards target of 95% reduction by 2005**
- **Ontario Dental Waste Management Working Group finalizing guidance/educational materials for BMPs, including amalgam separators**
- **American Dental Association Launches Dental Amalgam Initiative**
 - ◆ **Best Management Practices for Amalgam Waste**
 - ◆ **Offer of Partnership with EPA**
- **Milwaukee considering regulation**
- **New York passes law requires amalgam recycling**

Mercury in Scrap

- No mercury switches in 2003 model year autos
- Great Lakes United national Webconferences
- Pilot projects– New York, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana
 - ◆ Ontario “Switch-out” program
 - ◆ Collected 30K switches from 135 participating recyclers
 - ◆ Expansion– Alberta in June
- Potential inclusion of “clean scrap” requirement in iron and steel foundry emissions standards
- But . . . Recovery of switches still limited in comparison with what’s out there

Upcoming Activities

- Tracking mercury trends in the environment (this afternoon's meeting)
- Dental mercury report
- Dental mercury workgroup?—Northeast Illinois, Southeast Wisconsin
- Continued mercury in scrap efforts— provide information to regulatory process