

Mercury

Work Group Co-Chairs:

Alexis Cain, U.S. EPA

Robert Krauel, Environment Canada

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 85% reduction**

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: > 45% reduction
- Use: > 50% reduction

Healthcare

- **Hospitals for Healthy Environment – 539 new partners enlisted in the last year - now has 913 partners representing 3,136 facilities**
- **All existing hospital incinerators in Ontario closed as of December 6, 2003**

Dental Industry

- **Workgroup Co-Chairs Report on Options for Provincial State, Local Governments**
- **ADA Dental Amalgam Initiative**
Best Management Practices for Amalgam Waste
- **Ontario Dental Clean Sweep**
Elemental mercury collection

Mercury in Scrap

- **No mercury switches in 2003 model year autos**
- **US EPA dialogue with various stakeholders in an effort to create a voluntary national program**
- **Similar stakeholder discussions in Canada**

Municipalities / Institutions

- **Local / Regional collection programs (e.g. Bowling Green State Univ., Essex-Windsor)**
- **White goods switch removal program – manual , video. (AMRC estimated 45Kg Hg collected 2003)**
- **Mercury workshop for Ontario municipalities– Feb, 2005**

Chlorine Institute

- ***Seventh Annual Report*** – 69% capacity adjusted reduction in mercury consumption between 1995 and 2003

Next Steps

- Continued information sharing – cost effective reduction opportunities
- Contamination of metal scrap by mercury containing devices
- Dental practices