# National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program (NVMSRP) Discussions

John Gilkeson, MN PCA (Peggy Harris, CA DTSC Mary Blakeslee, ECOS)

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## **NVMSRP MOU**

- Parties
  - Vehicle manufacturers, steelmakers, vehicle dismantlers, vehicle shredders, environmental groups, ECOS, U.S. EPA
- Signed August 11, 2006
- Effective September 12, 2006

#### **NVMSRP** Goal

 Significantly reduce air emissions of mercury from steel making facilities that utilized auto shred by substantially reducing the number of mercurycontaining switches in scrap automobiles before they are crushed and shredded for recycling

## **NVMSRP** Background

 Steel industry uses more than 14 M tons from scrap vehicles

Mercury containing switches in certain cars through end of MY 2002

 Estimate 67 M Hg switches remain in older cars (~80 Metric tons mercury)

#### **NVMSRP Process**

- Deadline set Two meetings
- Mediated Discussion
  - Right parties at table with ability to make decisions
  - Mini assessment of bottom lines prior to 1st meeting
  - Participants worked from "framework" document
  - Mediator balanced individual and collective interests
- Principles document released after second mtg
  - Held parties to framework, but extensive negotiations continued on final full agreement

## **NVMSRP** Agreement

- Vehicle manufacturers (through ELVS)
  - Recruit dismantlers, provide info, storage/shipping containers
  - Collect, transport, recycle, and dispose
  - Database publicly accessible to track participation and progress
- Participating Dismantlers
  - Remove mercury switches prior to crushing
  - Send in buckets with switches
  - Receive incentive payment where eligible

## **NVMSRP** Agreement

- Steelmakers
  - Encourage suppliers to participate
  - Utilize scrap from which Hg switches have been removed
  - Adopt purchasing practices
- Autos/Steel
  - Create fund for implementation/incentives
  - Fund directed by ECOS, Enviros, ARA, ISRI

## **NVMSRP** Agreement

- U.S. EPA
  - Take NVMSRP into serious consideration in area source regulation for EAF's, and other MACT and area source rules as appropriate
- Other organizational participants
  - Provide support
  - Assist in outreach
  - Track progress and improve program

### NVMSRP - States' role

#### States

- No legally binding obligation on any entity
- National framework sets the minimum not to replace or weaken existing state programs
- Indicate state requirements
- Help identify dismantlers
- Assist in outreach
- Implemented on state-by-state basis

#### **NVMSRP** Drivers

- Autos Legislative pressure from States and Steel-NGO coalition
- Steel EPA's Proposed Area Source Rule for EAFs; other rules
- States: ECOS Resolution 04-7 established bottom line for states in national program; responsible for regulating merc/switches
- EPA: Seeking early action, voluntary framework
- Other parties interest in removing the most switches sooner than under law/rule
- Implementation Fund \$4 million/3 years

## Implementation Fund Details

Goal: Provide financial incentive for switch recovery to jumpstart program and offset some initial costs

Who paid: Yards removing and submitting switches to ELVS collection program

Who eligible: Yards in states without other mandated, voluntary, triggered incentives

When: Any light switch, assembly, or ABS submitted on/after September 12, 2006

How much: \$1/pellet or assembly; \$3/ABS

#### More information:

- http://www.epa.gov/mercury/switch.htm
- Automakers (11 companies) operate switch collection/recycling aspect of program via "End of Life Vehicle Solutions" or ELVS; <a href="http://www.elvsolutions.org">http://www.elvsolutions.org</a>
- ECOS is clearinghouse for states, contact john.gilkeson@state.mn.us and/or maryb@sso.org
- Others work thru their nat'l associations, e.g., steel groups, national ARA, ISRI, etc.