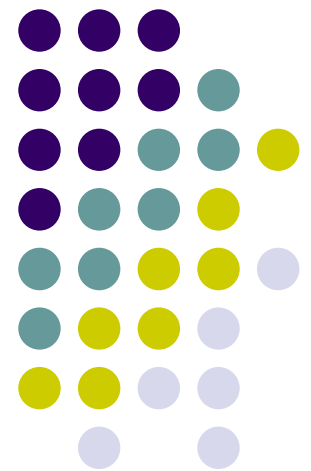


# Development of a Great Lakes Mercury Phase-Down Strategy

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Debra Jacobson  
WMRC - IDNR  
December 6, 2006

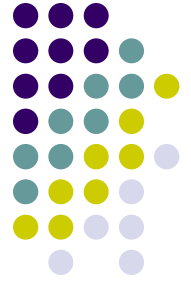


# Great Lakes Regional Collaboration



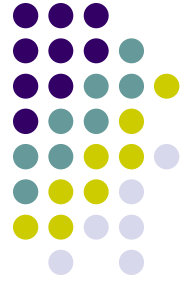
- Mercury: GL Restoration Strategy:
  - Reaffirmed commitment to virtual elimination of mercury and other persistent toxic pollutants
  - Called for “significant reductions in mercury emissions from coal fired power plants” by 2010
  - “By 2015, full phase-outs of intentionally added mercury bearing products, as possible.” Great Lakes Restoration Strategy: “A basin-wide mercury product stewardship strategy should be developed to complete phase-outs of mercury uses, including a mercury waste management component, as practicable.”

# Mercury Strategy – Background



- Council of GL Govs and GL and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (December 12, 2005 letter to President Bush):

“The Great Lakes States, Cities and Tribes will develop a basin-wide mercury product stewardship strategy, aimed at managing mercury wastes and reducing the use of mercury-containing products.”



# Mercury Strategy Team

- Formed in Spring 2006, at initiative of GLNPO/Region 5
- Representatives from:
  - each of the Great Lakes States
  - Tribes: GLIFWC, Chippewa Ottawa, Lac du Flambeau Band, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Seneca Nation,
  - USEPA
  - Coordinator: IL Waste Management & Research Center



# Mercury Strategy Focus

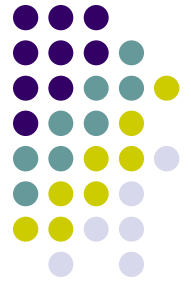
- Mercury USE in Products & Sectors<sup>1</sup>
  - Dental - 35 TPY
  - Lighting - 6 TPY
  - Measurement & Control Devices - 26 TPY
  - Switches and Relays - 63 TPY
- Mercury Released to the Air<sup>2</sup>
  - 23 Metric TPY
- Strategy Does NOT Address Mercury From Power Plants

<sup>1</sup> Binational Toxics Strategy Mercury Progress Report, March 16, 2006, A. Cain. 2004 U.S. Mercury Use

<sup>2</sup> EPA Region 5's Mercury Product Lifecycle Model

# Workgroup Progress

## Priority products and sectors



### Products

- Dental Amalgam
- Switches, Relays & Control Devices
- Fever Thermometers
- Lamps
- Thermostats

### Sectors

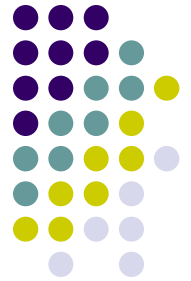
- Industry/Manufacturing
- Schools
- Steel Manufacturing
- *Healthcare*
- *Households*



# Strategy Structure

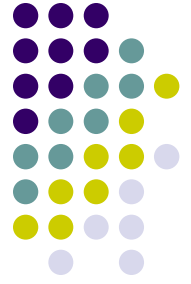
- For each priority product/sector
  - Background on uses/releases
  - Existing programs
  - Recommended actions (mandatory and voluntary)
- Cross-cutting strategies
  - Labeling, reporting requirements
  - Outreach, education
  - Collection infrastructure
- Next Steps

# Mercury Strategy Development Process & Team Structure



- Met with Council of Great Lakes Governors and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in November and December 2006
- Incorporated feedback from BTS meeting in September.
- Formalized the Process of the Strategy Team





## Next Steps

- Completion of draft sector and product write-ups by end of December 2006
- Complete Team review and discussions of draft Strategy, which includes product and sector write-ups.
- Distribute for technical review in January 2007
- Begin process of getting state, tribal, municipal official support March 2007

# Comments From Participating

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States and Tribes

