

Development of a 'Practical Sourcebook on Mercury Storage and Disposal'

Desiree M. Narvaez Programme Officer, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE

Global Mercury Partnership

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Background

Unsound management of mercury and mercury waste is an important source of mercury releases



- Future excess supply will increase the need for ESM significantly
- Work of the Partnership areas on supply and storage, waste management and products

GC Decision 25/5:

Requested UNEP to enhance capacity for mercury storage and provide information on the sound management of mercury and mercury wastes.

Relevant provisions of the Minamata Convention:

Art. 10: Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury

Art. 11: Mercury wastes



What is the Sourcebook?



Objective:

to enhance the capacity of governments to develop environmentally sound strategies for the interim storage of mercury other than waste mercury and the management of mercury wastes

Practical,
informational
document; short,
graphical and
illustrative;
clearly written

Operationalizes
the Basel
Technical
Guidelines and
complements the
Good Practices
document

Will be compiled by International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)

> Timeframe: November 2013 - June 2014

Sources



The Sourcebook will draw on:

- > Existing work within the Partnership areas
- > Relevant reports and publications
- > Input from an Expert Group



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The Expert Group will be comprised of independent experts in the field of storage and waste management, representatives from various governments, IOs, industry, academia, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

Mercury Storage and Disposal Projects in Latin America



The projects were implemented in Argentina and Uruguay (2011-2012) as well as Mexico and Panama (2012-2013).

- Inventories were conducted, relevant regulatory frameworks reviewed and existing hazardous waste treatment facilities surveyed
- A decision-making process was initiatied and National Action Plans (NAPs) developed
- Basic management options and potential sites for interim storage were identified



Source: Project for storage and disposal of mercury in Panama, final report, 08.2013



Source: INTI, Proyecto "Almacenamiento y disposición ambientalmente adecuados de mercurio elemental y sus residuos en la República Argentina

Findings and Recommendations



Uruguay

- Main sources: chlor-alkali, dental amalgam, electrical switches
- Chlor-alkali plant + industrial waste landfill best suited for interim storage
- Revise the relevant regulatory framework
- > Invest in infrastructure for treatment of mercury-containing waste

Argentina

- Main sources: health sector, chlor-alkali, light bulbs
- 4 hazardous waste security landfills suited for interim storage
- Enhance analysis of potential interim storage facilities
- Make a more detailed inventory
- Advance regulations enabling transfer of wastes to domestic facilities and draft specific instruments for mercury wastes

Findings and Recommendations



Mexico

- Main sources: gold extraction and processing, batteries, landfills
- 2 security landfills best suited for interim storage
- Update the inventory and proceed with development of the NAP
- Develop specific instruments for mercury waste management
- Continue assessment of geologic formations for disposal

Panama

- Main sources: batteries, informal waste dumping, cement production
- One option each identified for interim storage of elemental mercury (bunkers) and mercury-containing waste (landfills)
- Foster institutional coordination and improve regulatory framework
- Conduct periodic updates of the inventory and validate results
- Adapt bunkers for interim storage and incorporate retorting technology

Expected Outcomes

eased capacity of relevant national and/or regional sion-makers, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to...

...assess the national situation in terms of sources and volumes of mercury and mercury wastes, relevant regulatory frameworks and existing hazardous waste treatment facilities

> ...choose from the technological options available for interim storage, treatment and disposal given a specific set of national circumstances

...develop and implement environmentally sound strategies for the interim storage of mercury and the management of mercury wastes

