



May 12, 2009

Per Bakken, Director
UNEP Chemicals
Geneva, Switzerland

Re: Storage-Supply Partnership

Dear Mr. Per Bakken,

As you know, during the first meeting of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group (PAG), the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) volunteered to serve as the interim chair of a new Storage Partnership. However, after some internal discussions and as subsequently discussed with you, the ZMWG believes that any partnership that addresses storage should also address supply-related issues, such as mercury mining and mercury trade, in order to be fully effective. Therefore, in our business plan development and other activities, we propose to work collaboratively with UNEP and other interested parties to address all relevant supply-related issues and storage issues in a coordinated fashion in this new partnership.

In addition, because of the critical leadership role governments must provide in supply-related issues, we believe it is particularly important for a government to either chair or co-chair this new storage-supply partnership. Accordingly, over the next several months, we plan on working in collaboration with UNEP to identify a government to lead this new partnership, as we do not envision continuing to act as interim chair of this partnership beyond October 2009.

Significantly, this is not to say ZMWG will terminate its involvement in supply-related issues at that time. To the contrary, ZMWG regards supply-related issues as a priority area for itself, for UNEP, and for governments while the INC discussions are underway. Therefore, we plan on continuing our extensive involvement in supply-related projects for the foreseeable future.

Given the limited time between now and October, ZMWG intends to focus its efforts as interim chair on the following activities:

- Revising the proposed UNEP draft storage-supply partnership business plan to align it with existing PAG and UNEP guidance on plan development, taking into account recent developments, and reflecting input from stakeholders;
- Encouraging further progress on the two regional storage projects currently underway ;
- Collaborating with UNEP on funding should opportunities arise; and
- Inviting potential partners to join this new Partnership, and identifying a government lead or a co-lead.

We trust this letter clarifies our views regarding the new partnership and our role as interim chair. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your support

Sincerely,

Michael Bender, Director
Mercury Policy Project/Tides Center
On behalf of the Zero Mercury Working Group

cc Zero Mercury Working Group



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July 5th, 2010

Subject: Zero Mercury Working Group's interest to join the UNEP Mercury Partnerships

Dear Mr. Per Bakken,

With this letter, the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) expresses its interest to officially join and become a member of the 6 UNEP mercury partnership areas, including: artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM), chlor-alkali, coal combustion, fate and transport, products, and waste. The ZMWG supports the overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.

The ZMWG is an international coalition of more than 80 public interest environmental and health non-governmental organizations from over 45 countries from around the world formed in 2005 by the European Environmental Bureau and the Mercury Policy Project. ZMWG strives for zero supply, demand, and emissions of mercury from all anthropogenic sources, with the goal of reducing mercury in the global environment to a minimum. We also advocate and support the adoption and implementation of a legally binding instrument which contains mandatory obligations to eliminate where feasible, and otherwise minimize, the global supply and trade of mercury, the global demand for mercury, anthropogenic releases of mercury to the environment, and human and wildlife exposure to mercury. For more information, see: www.zeromercury.org.

As you know, the ZMWG is the interim lead of the UNEP Mercury Supply and Storage partnership. Under this area we have initiated work together with UNEP and developed a draft business plan. In addition, we have collaborated with UNEP to investigate regional

capacities and possibilities to sequester/store excess mercury in the Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean region, contributed to the work of the consultants and participated at the Executive committee meetings of both regions. On the supply side, we have been contributing technically and following closely the developments of the UNEP/UNITAR project in Kyrgyzstan in view of assisting in the closure of the last mercury mine which is contributing new mercury in the global market.

Over the past several years, we have been involved and participated in numerous conference calls and meetings of the product, chlor-alkali, ASGM and waste partnerships and have provided comments on various business plans, contributed to various partnership's objectives and submitted comments on many other relevant documents. In parallel, the members of the ZMWG have been closely following UNEP policy developments since mercury got on the global agenda; from the drafting of the Global Mercury Assessment report, and following all the GCs since 2001 and relevant meetings which led to the GC Decision 25/5 to create the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) and move forward on the development of a globally legally binding treaty on mercury.

As you may know, members of the ZMWG have also been supporting NGO work via pass through grants in many countries, both in the developed and developing world, and such support is expected to continue. Additionally, many ZMWG members have expressed interest and would like to further contribute to the UNEP partnership work, since this is now an inseparable and complementary piece of the work to be done as defined by GC decision 25/5, para 34.

In summary, the ZMWG is willing to continue working with UNEP and relevant parties to reduce mercury supply, demand and emissions at global level through both the INC deliberations and the partnerships. Therefore, we look forward to participating in all of the UNEP mercury partnerships and would respectfully request that our contact information be forwarded on to the chairs of each of these partnerships to include us as members, and be added to the relevant lists/listservers as appropriate.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you (in advance) for your kind consideration of our request.

Yours sincerely,

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