Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection – Drinking Water Program

Mercury Questionnaire
Instructions

January 2007

Background:
Mercury-containing products and equipment have historically been used, and continue to be used, in the water supply industry. Mercury is of particular concern due to its toxicity and associated health risks, environmental impacts, and the high cost of cleanup from spills. In addition to concerns for mercury impacts on public water supplies, there are also worker safety concerns associated with accidental releases of mercury. Mercury-containing products and equipment should be replaced, where feasible. Efforts should also be made to purchase mercury-free products and equipment whenever new or replacement products or equipment are needed. Precautions should be taken when using, maintaining, and removing these products and equipment to prevent accidental releases into the environment.

The attached questionnaire has been developed to determine the extent of the use of mercury-containing products at public water systems and to develop outreach strategies and information tools to assist public water systems as they work toward the reduction of mercury-containing products in the distribution system and in the vicinity of water supply sources, pumping stations, and water treatment and storage facilities. Relative to potential water supply contamination concerns, the highest priorities for product and equipment replacement should be those products and equipment that come in direct contact with drinking water or that are in a location where a release could directly enter a surface water source, well casing, distribution line, or a drinking water storage or treatment tank/container.

Instructions:
Please complete and return the attached questionnaire to the following address:

MassDEP, Drinking Water Program - Mercury
1 Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

For questions regarding this form please contact Joe Cerutti at 617-292-5859, joseph.cerutti@state.ma.us.

Additional Information:
A document titled *Identification and Best Management Practices of Mercury-Containing Equipment at Public Drinking Water Systems* is available on MassDEP's website at: http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/leadothe.htm. Please refer to this document for information regarding identification and the proper removal and disposal of mercury-containing products and equipment, mercury-free replacement alternatives, mercury recyclers, how to clean up mercury spills, and mercury spill kit vendors. Information on recently-purchased equipment may also be available from Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC) Products Database at http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/imerc.cfm.
Manufacturers began reporting mercury content to IMERC in 2001. Therefore, information for equipment purchased prior to 2001 will not be available on IMERC's database.

Although not addressed in the questionnaire, other products commonly used in the water supply industry that may contain mercury include fluorescent light bulbs, ultraviolet light bulbs for UV disinfection, and chlorine disinfection chemicals. Best Management Practices (BMP) regarding the use of these products and mercury-free alternatives are also addressed in the above-referenced document. Also not addressed in the questionnaire are the numbers of mercury-containing pumps, meters, gauges, switches, thermostats, and thermometers that are not in use but are being stored at a pumping, water storage, or water treatment facility. Any older mercury-containing equipment that is in storage and is unlikely to be placed in service due to its age, condition, or mercury content should be properly removed from these facilities.

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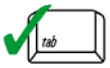
Public Water System Mercury Questionnaire

January 2007

PWS ID #

A. Public Water Supply Information

Important: When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



1. General Information

PWS Name

PWS Mailing Address

PWS Location (if different)

Contact Person and Phone Number

2. System Type (check one): ☐ COM ☐ NTNC ☐ TNC

B. Mercury Information

Information regarding mercury content may be available in equipment manuals or specifications or from manufacturers and vendors.

If you have questions, contact MassDEP's Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770.

Pump Seals:

Mercury seals for submersible pumps may have been common as recent as the 1990s. If mercury content information isn't available and the pump is 10 years old or older, assume that it contains a mercury seal.

Number of pumps known to contain mercury seals: _____

Number of pumps with unknown seal type: _____

Switches (tilt, float, and relay):

Control panels and electrical equipment often contain mercury switches and relays. Fully automated computerized control systems typically use non-mercury-containing-level sensors and are less likely to contain mercury switches. The mercury content of float switches typically can't be identified by visual inspection since the switch is sealed inside the float.

Number of known mercury-containing switches at pumping, storage, and water treatment facilities: _____

Number of switches of unknown mercury content: _____

Flow Meters:

Flow meters and pressure gauges containing mercury may be present in pumping stations, distribution systems, and treatment plants. Digital flow meters generally don't contain mercury. Analog flow meters (characterized by a needle indicator) may contain mercury. Mercury containing flow meters were commonly used prior to the 1970s. Mercury-containing flow meters and pressure gauges are no longer marketed to the water supply industry.

Number of known flow meters and pressure gauges containing mercury: _____

Number of flow meters and pressure gauges of unknown mercury content: _____

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B. Mercury Information (continued)

Thermometers:

There are galinstan- and alcohol-based alternatives to mercury-containing thermometers.

Number of mercury-containing thermometers at pumping stations, storage or treatment facilities, or distribution system: _____

Thermostats:

There are digital and programmable alternatives to mercury-containing thermostats. However, some digital and programmable thermostats may still contain mercury switches.

Number of known mercury-containing thermostats in pumping, storage, and treatment facilities: _____

Number of thermostats of unknown mercury content: _____

C. Certification

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that all information submitted in this questionnaire is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Print Name _____ Signature _____

Print Title _____ Date _____