



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