



Mercury Programme  
UNEP Chemicals  
11-13, Chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

September 6, 2006

**RE : Governing Council Decision 23/9 IV– on the mercury programme :  
Status report on implementation of mercury partnerships**

Dear Dr. Younes,

In response to your letter of July 1, 2006, we are pleased to provide the following information.

In August, 2005, Environment Canada responded to your letter of May 1, 2005, which invited countries to identify priority partnership areas. Environment Canada, in consultation with other Canadian governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, identified coal fired electricity generation, mercury fate and transport research, mercury in products and mercury cell chlor-alkali production as priority areas. Subsequently, in a letter of May, 2006 Environment Canada confirmed with your office our interest to participate in a funding partnership for global mercury work.

Since 2005 we have participated in several activities related to the priority areas listed in our earlier letter. These activities are described below.

#### Coal-fired electricity generation

Environment Canada, Health Canada, Natural Resources Canada and the Université du Québec à Montréal participated in the October, 2005 *China Workshop on Mercury Control from Coal Combustion* in Beijing, China. Environment Canada was a co-sponsor of the workshop. The workshop aimed at providing information and the opportunity to discuss technical possibilities and management options to address mercury emissions from this sector. During the workshop Environment Canada also participated in a preliminary discussion of a possible partnership for this sector.

Following the workshop and in consultation with the Chinese State Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada funded a study at Tsinghua University to examine three areas :



- a comparison of the Current China Mercury Emission Inventory with the UNEP mercury emissions toolkit;
- the current status of coal washing technology and mercury removal in China; and
- coal combustion related mercury emissions from small scale use in residential, commercial and industrial sectors in China.

A copy of the final report from Tsinghua University will be provided to you via e-mail as soon as it is available. We are currently discussing with our Chinese colleagues the possibilities for continued work related to the study.

Environment Canada also participates in the Arctic Council Action Plan mercury project, where one of the pilot demonstration projects currently under consideration is related to the coal-fired electricity sector.

Although no formal partnership has yet been established for this sector, we remain open to considering suggestions for collaboration.

#### Mercury fate and transport research

Environment Canada has been engaged in the development of this partnership since 2005. In August, 2005 Environment Canada co-hosted the *International Interdisciplinary Workshop for Research of Mercury in Polar Regions*. A report of the workshop is attached.

Environment Canada also participated in the initial partnership meeting for this topic, held during the recent *8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant*. We look forward to continued co-ordination with others on this evolving partnership. We understand that a report on this partnership, including the identification of Canadian contributions, will be provided to you by the partnership lead, Italy.

#### Mercury in products

Environment Canada participated in an informal consultation for this partnership organized and hosted by the US-EPA in May, 2005. Outputs from that meeting include a meeting report and discussion paper (both posted on the UNEP website). The discussion paper suggests goals, objectives, and proposed initial actions of the partnership.

Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada also actively participate in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Heavy Metals Task Force within the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. In 2006, the Task Force drafted technical documents related to a sufficiency and effectiveness review of the Protocol, including a chapter on products. This draft chapter, available from the UNECE through [www.unece.org/env/lrtap/](http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/), could

contain useful information for countries both within and beyond the UNECE region<sup>1</sup>, in keeping with this partnership's proposed objective of information exchange.

In our domestic work in the area of mercury-containing products, Environment Canada has produced several recent publications, including:

- Municipal Action to Reduce Mercury;
- Mercury-Containing Product Stewardship : Manual for Federal Facilities; and
- Dental Wastes Best Management Practices Guide for the Dental Community.

Electronic copies of these documents are available via our website at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/mercury/en/index.cfm> (English) and <http://www.ec.gc.ca/mercury/FR/index.cfm?> (French). We would be happy to consider mailing hardcopies of these reports to individuals who request them.

Environment Canada also co-sponsored and, with other Canadian stakeholders, participated in the *North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation CEC-Americas Workshop to Reduce Mercury Use in Products* held in Merida, Mexico in February 2006. Environment Canada funded a French translation of the workshop report which will be provided to UNEP in the near future. In terms of future work, this year we plan to target a financial contribution to UNEP to the small grants program and will keep in mind the country priorities identified during the workshop as we develop contribution documents.

#### Mercury cell chlor-alkali production

Environment Canada also participated in an informal consultation organized and hosted by the US-EPA for this partnership in May, 2005. As with the products work, a discussion paper proposing partnership goals, objectives and initial actions resulted from the consultation. Since that time we have been actively engaged in US-led work with Russian facilities along with the United States, Norway and Russia. Our involvement has included financial contributions and participation in a November, 2005 workshop in Volgograd. This year we again anticipate making a financial contribution to this work in Russia in the spirit of the partnership's proposed goal of promoting the reduction of mercury releases at individual facilities through the adoption of best management practices.

#### Other Elements

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<sup>1</sup> Other review chapters on best available techniques and emission limit values for industrial sectors targeted by the Protocol, and the effects of deposition of heavy metals from long-range atmospheric transport, could inform sector-focused partnerships and the fate and transport research partnership, respectively.

Your letter includes a listing of suggested elements to take into consideration while developing country reports. Some of these elements (goals, objectives, timelines, to some extent roles of partners) were considered during the informal consultations and partnership meeting in which we have participated to date (products, chlor-alkali, fate and transport). Rather than address each element for each partnership, we can offer some general comments on selected elements.

*“Mechanism developed and implemented in order to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation procedures to assess and report on the progress of the partnership”*

The discussion papers revised following the informal discussions for chlor-alkali and mercury-containing products partnerships do not specifically address this element. There has been reporting via the UNEP website – from the partnerships that we are engaged in, a progress report has been made for the chlor-alkali work and a report of individual activities for the chlor-alkali and products partnerships.

*“Constraints encountered and lessons learned in implementation of the partnership”*

We have found that the partnership structure has been useful for augmenting what might otherwise have been potential bilateral activities. Among the partners, there is a considerable amount of positive energy and enthusiasm for action. However, individual activities have not always been clearly described in the context of an overall partnership with timelines, goals, roles and reporting mechanisms. We have learned that managing a partnership is a requirement that is additional to managing individual activities within a partnership, and that for the partnership to function smoothly the roles of partners in the technical as well as administrative aspects of the partnership should be clearly described and allocated.

*“Views and input regarding successful approaches for the future”*

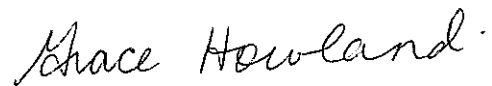
In 2005, countries were invited to identify priority partnership areas. There appears to have been no effort made to compile the responses or to group together those with similar interests. We suggest that there could be a consolidation of the reported interests which could allow for some prioritization and follow up on a limited set of priorities.

It could be useful to have such a prioritized list, which summarizes country responses to the 2005 request, in advance of the 2007 Governing Council meeting. In combination with information about proposals that are coming forward under the small grants program this could allow for a focus, should countries decide to maintain the partnership approach, on a limited number of well-described partnership areas. Partnership activities could then be developed

in light of the resources (people and funds) that are needed and available to undertake them.

If there are any questions on the above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Howland".

Grace Howland  
Manager, Heavy Metals  
Clean Air Directorate  
Environment Canada  
Telephone 819 956 9754  
Grace.Howland@ec.gc.ca