

**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
DEQ MERCURY STRATEGIC PLAN**



Revised June 27, 2007

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Overview

[Mercury \(Hg\)](#) is a naturally occurring metal found in air, water and soil. It exists in several forms: elemental or metallic mercury, inorganic mercury compounds, and organic mercury compounds. Elemental or metallic mercury is a shiny, silver-white metal. It is a liquid at room temperature, combines easily with other metals and expands and contracts evenly with temperature changes. Because of these properties, mercury has been used in many household, medical and industrial products. Although mercury performs many useful functions in our workplaces and homes, it is toxic and can impair our health. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, meaning that it interferes with the way nerve cells function. Mercury poisoning causes a decreased ability to see, hear, talk and walk. It can cause personality changes, depression, irritability, nervousness, and the inability to concentrate. It can also cause damage to the brain, kidneys, and lungs. Mercury is a particularly serious problem for pregnant women and children. Fetuses and young children suffer the greatest risk because their nervous systems are still developing. They are four to five times more sensitive to mercury than adults.

Mercury can be released in the environment from natural sources, such as volcanic and geothermal activity, marine environments or forest fires, or it can be released from anthropogenic (man-made) sources like coal-fired power plants and other industrial activities. Recent studies suggest that human activity contributes 50-70% of the mercury in the environment globally. Once mercury enters the environment, it [circulates](#) in and out of the atmosphere until it ends up in the bottoms of lakes and oceans. Mercury is among a group of pollutants called [persistent bioaccumulative toxins or PBTs](#). These pollutants "persist" in the environment, meaning that they do not break down or go away. Mercury cannot be destroyed, it cannot be combusted, and it does not degrade. Mercury also "bioaccumulates" in the environment, meaning it builds up in the [food chain](#) over time.

When mercury is deposited in waterways, bacteria convert it to methylmercury. Methylmercury builds up in the tissue of fish, which may then be eaten by wildlife (e.g., eagles, osprey, common loons, river otters, minks) and by people. Although human exposure to mercury occurs most frequently through eating contaminated fish, other human exposures to mercury can occur. People have been exposed to mercury from inhaling mercury vapors from broken fluorescent lamps, gas regulators, or even home fever thermometers.

To protect human health, in 2005 the State of Utah issued its [first fish consumption advisories](#) due to elevated levels of mercury in fish tissue at Gunlock Reservoir, Mill Creek, and Green River in Desolation Canyon. Also in 2005, Utah also issued a [duck consumption advisory](#) due to elevated mercury levels – the first ever in the nation. DEQ has a number of regulatory programs affecting releases of mercury to the environment.

Coordination with Mercury Workgroup

DEQ is facilitating a Mercury Work Group (MWG) to coordinate and collaborate mercury studies and investigations ongoing in Utah. Stakeholders from a broad base of state, federal, and non-profit agencies, industry, and the public, will participate to maximize the group's effectiveness. MWG meetings are open to all interested parties and will be held quarterly. The initial objectives of the group follow below, however, the group will undoubtedly shape these objectives as work progresses on this issue:

- To provide the citizens of Utah with current, accurate and understandable information on the human and ecological concerns posed by mercury.
- To develop an ongoing systematic, logical, and defensible mercury monitoring program to assess mercury levels in fish and waterfowl tissue.
- To share technical information, data, and results of any investigations on mercury.
- To coordinate and collaborate efforts by private and public entities in researching mercury issues in Utah in order to most effectively utilize the limited resources available.
- To provide the citizens of Utah with access to mercury data, advisories, and information via websites, printed materials, and contact information for public health officials.

Utah Statewide Mercury Work Group Members	
Organization	Representative
Anglers Group	Paul Dremann
Duck Club	Bruce Waddell
Environmental Organization	Tim Wagner
Power Generating Industry	Sue Odekirk
Mining Representative	David Litvin
Dept. of Health	Wayne Ball
Division of Wildlife Resources	Walt Donaldson
Division of Air Quality	Cheryl Heying
Division of Env. Response & Remediation	Scott Everett
Dept. of Agriculture	Kent Hauck
Division of Water Quality	John Whitehead
Local Health Dept.	Theresa Gray
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Nathan Darnell
U.S. Geological Survey	David Naftz

EPA Region 8	Dale Hoff
Great Salt Lakekeeper	Jeff Salt
Utah Medical Associaton	Jane Bowman
University of Utah	Bill Johnson
Tribal Interests	Jason Walker

Coordination With DEQ Strategic Plan Workgroup

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality has assembled a DEQ core group with representatives from key DEQ Divisions to address mercury issues in a coordinated manner. This group is comprised of representatives from the Divisions of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Air Quality, Environmental Response & Remediation, Water Quality and the Office of Planning and Public Affairs. This strategic plan was developed by the DEQ Mercury Core Group to insure coordination of all activities DEQ undertakes with respect to mercury in order to protect human health and the environment.

Mercury



DEQ

Activities

What does [DEQ](#) plan to do about Mercury and by when does DEQ plan to do it?

Priorities occurring now that have been addressed or being addressed (July 1, 2006 – September 1, 2006)

- 2006 fish samples were collected with [Division of Wildlife Resources](#) (DWR) in the spring. Analysis completed. DOH is doing human health assessment on fish tissue results.
- 2006 sampling strategy focused on the “water” being fished and species being eaten.
- Efforts underway to secure monies for “mercury” studies from all sources.
- Initial work plan developed to study the [Great Salt Lake](#).
- Continue to work with the [State of Nevada](#) to reduce emissions at gold mines
- Continue and expand voluntary collection programs for mercury such as the [Hospitals for a Healthy Environment](#), [School Chemical Clean Out](#) Pilot project, and Local Health Departments/DEQ “[Get the Mercury Out](#)” Campaign
- Reporting of mercury releases continues via the [Toxic Release Inventory \(TRI\)](#) and [mercury spills](#) in Utah are being reported and cleaned up

Priorities to be addressed September 1, 2006 – March 1, 2007

- 600 fish tissue results completed.
- Additional [Fish tissue consumption advisories](#) likely as a result of 2006 data
- Additional fish tissue analysis to be scheduled and completed in 2007, pending legislative appropriation.
- Participated in Lake Powell workgroup (included Arizona DEQ, Utah DEQ and DNR, Nevada, Bureau of Reclamation, EPA Regions 8 & 9, National Park Service) – annual meeting had “mercury in fish tissue” as a topic.
- [Mercury Work Group](#), held quarterly meeting September 28th, 9:00 a.m., in DEQ conference room 101.
- DEQ is siting a wet deposition mercury monitor in the Salt Lake Valley.
- Need resources to establish a dry deposition mercury monitoring site in the State: First year costs: \$69,300, Annual costs \$27,300
- DAQ will continue to work with stakeholders to develop the Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR).
- Building block request submitted to the Legislature (contained within Governor’s Budget Recommendations) for \$66,500 to analyze previously collected samples from the Great Salt Lake for mercury. Money was appropriated from the Environmental Quality Restricted Account (EQRA) to complete this work in FY08.

- Building block request submitted to the Legislature (contained within Governor's Budget Recommendations) for \$147,000 of ongoing General Fund monies for fish tissue sampling for mercury. Prioritized by the Transportation, National Guard, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee but was not funded during Executive Appropriations deliberations for FY08.
- Resources found to fund a contractor to come up with the criteria (\$50,000 - \$100,000). The staff will research what other states are doing in terms of assessments. The bottom line: Is it possible in every case to do something regarding the mercury contamination? The answer is probably "no", but there may be opportunity for fixes.
- In January 2007, DEQ prepared a draft of a protocol to determine the extent and source of mercury contamination in water bodies. Identifying the source of mercury is critical for developing a mitigation strategy. The protocol recommends the most cost effective and scientifically defensible way to conduct the study.

Priorities to be addressed March 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

- Implement the mercury switch bounty program for scrap vehicles which was a result of passage of [HB138](#) during 2006 Legislative Session
- [Mercury Work Group](#), hosted by Utah DEQ, quarterly met on January 25, 2007, 9:00 a.m., DEQ conference room 101.
- [Mercury Work Group](#), hosted by Utah DEQ, quarterly meeting met on May 3, 2007, 9:00 a.m., DEQ conference room 101.
- [Mercury Work Group](#), hosted by Utah DEQ, quarterly meeting scheduled for August 23, 2007, 9:00 a.m., DEQ conference room 101.
- [Mercury Work Group](#), hosted by Utah DEQ, quarterly meeting scheduled for November 1, 2007, 9:00 a.m., DEQ conference room 101.
- Finalize the protocol to determine the extent and source of mercury contamination in water bodies. Conduct a pilot study by applying the protocol at two mercury-impacted water bodies.
- Continue P2 program.
- Mercury Video Conference with EPA Region 8 was held on February 6, 2007. Notes from the Video Conference reference next steps for EPA Region 8 and Utah DEQ. Some next steps for EPA Region 8 include: (1) Evaluate the possibility of directing enforcement funds (SEP) to studies of Great Salt Lake.(2) Form communication link between R8 Mercury Forum and Utah Mercury Workgroup. (3) Get an air model up and operating (4) R8/R9 collaboration – gold mines (Nevada), Lake Powell (Navajo Tribe), Mercury Switch/EAF emissions (NW band of Shoshone) (5) Apply research grant monies towards mercury studies in Utah [For full text of next steps, see pages 19-20, Notes from EPA R8/Utah DEQ Videoconference of February 6, 2007]. Some next steps for UDEQ: (1) Examine the possibility of hosting a regional conference on mercury issues in concert with EPA (2) promote the uniqueness of the Great Salt Lake and the impact of mercury and other contaminants on that water body (3) Reinforce importance of mercury in PPA (4) Joint presentation at State Director's meeting on mercury issues [For full text of next steps, see pages 19-20, Notes from EPA R8/Utah DEQ Videoconference of February 6, 2007]
- On March 14, 2007, the Utah Air Quality Board adopted a Designated Facilities Plan to address Mercury Emissions at Coal-Fired Electric Generating Units (EGUs.) This Plan,

in association with a number of other Rules adopted by the Board (R307- 210, 220, and 224), implements the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) for the State of Utah (excepting areas of Tribal jurisdiction.) Under the CAMR, Utah is allocated a mercury emission budget for each year beginning in 2010. In 2018, the budget changes from 0.506 to 0.200 tons per year. Compliance with these emission budgets will be demonstrated through a nation-wide Cap and Trade program administered by the EPA. In addition to the CAMR provisions, the Air Quality Board adopted a State-only rule (R307-424) that establishes minimum performance criteria for existing EGUs and requires that potential increases in mercury emissions from new or modified EGUs be offset (at a ratio of 1:1.1) by contemporaneous reductions of mercury emissions. These rules work together to set mercury emissions from EGUs in Utah on a downward trend.

- Region 8 Mercury Forum Meeting was held March 20, 2007 with representatives from UDEQ participating
- Conference call was held by EPA R8 with UDEQ on April 4, 2007 to discuss ongoing mercury efforts with a particular focus on the Great Salt Lake.
- In recognition of Earth Day (April 22, 2007), the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) encouraged residents to take advantage of free disposal of mercury products such as old thermometers, old chemistry sets and thermostats, at local Health Departments statewide.
- Dwight Atkinson, EPA/OW gave a presentation on the REMSAD mercury deposition model on April 16 at 2:00 pm in the Columbine Room at the EPA R8 offices in Denver. Utah DEQ participated in the presentation by video conference.
- Six new fish consumption advisories were issued on April 23, 2007 based on the most recent fish tissue data set (mostly 2005 & 2006). Fourteen locations were identified that had mean values that exceeded the EPA screening value of 0.3 ppm. Several of these sites will require follow-up sampling. The statistics on each of the 14 sites were run and the results with 90% confidence were that six warranted an advisory at this time. The remaining 8 sites will be sampled again this coming year to determine if an advisory is warranted or not. The six sites are
 - Joe's Valley Reservoir – Emery County - Splake Trout
 - Calf Creek – Garfield County – Brown Trout
 - Newcastle Reservoir – Iron County – Rainbow Trout
 - Weber River – Morgan County – Brown Trout
 - Jordanelle Reservoir – Wasatch County – Brown Trout
 - Upper Enterprise Reservoir – Washington County – Rainbow Trout
- On May 1, 2007, a conference call was held that was initiated by the State of Nevada to begin dialogue on a Memorandum of Understanding on mercury issues involving the states of California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah and EPA Regions 8, 9, and 10.
- A conference call was held on May 21, 2007 to generally discuss EPA's Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE) Program between EPA R8 and UDEQ staff.
- On May 23, 2007, a public notice was published in the Salt Lake Tribune, Deseret News, Ogden Standard Examiner, and Box Elder News Journal regarding a proposal to approve the End-of-life Vehicle Solutions (ELVS) mercury minimization plan. The plan represents the efforts of ELVS to satisfy the requirements of R315-17, End of Life Automotive Switch Removal Standards. ELVS was created by the automobile industry

in 2005 to promote the industry's environmental efforts in recycling, education, and outreach and the proper management of substances of concern. The public comment period ends June 21, 2007.

- The UDEQ Mercury Workgroup held a meeting on May 25, 2007 to discuss source assessment and upcoming DEQ strategic plan initiatives.
- Multi-state, multi EPA Region Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on mercury issues is proceeding. Colleen Cripps of Nevada is heading this effort to establish a partnership between ID, NV, UT, and EPA Regions 8, 9, and 10 with a first draft of a multi-media mercury MOU expected around June 1, 2007. Once the MOU is finalized, a meeting will be scheduled with the parties to get the ball rolling in terms of communication and coordination on regional mercury issues in the September-December 2007 timeframe.
- Contact has occurred with Patti Tyler at EPA Region 8 regarding a RARE grant. The grant application will be due around September 1, 2007. Utah already has a strong proposal in mind with academic and federal agency stakeholders involved.
- Bill Sinclair gave a joint presentation on mercury at the State Directors meeting on June 7, 2007. EPA Region 8 and the State Directors determined to continue "mercury" as a regional priority at the meeting for next year.
- Bill Sinclair will finalize the draft Strategic Plan for mercury by June 30, 2007 with the realization that it will be a dynamic document to track our progress.
- There is still the need to secure ongoing funds for fish tissue sampling during the 2008 session. DWQ will submit a building block during the DEQ budget process (September 2007) to be later considered by the Appropriations Subcommittee. Bill Sinclair will discuss this issue when the Appropriations Subcommittee visits DEQ and during individual visits with legislators.
- John Whitehead has indicated that a mercury fish tissue sampling plan had been prepared and comments solicited with sampling will take place during the spring and fall of 2007 with results available around January 2008.
- Chris Bittner indicated that the source assessment plan and QAPP will be ready June 9, 2007. The next step will be to receive a cost estimate for assessing the Escalante River and Southwestern reservoirs (Gunlock, Enterprise, Newcastle) and then pursuing funding for implementing the assessment plan. The protocol and the QAPP will be presented to the Statewide Mercury Workgroup at their next meeting on August 23, 2007.
- The mercury wet deposition monitor is up and operating at the Air Monitoring Center as of the week of May 21, 2007 and the first sample has been collected.
- Mercury was listed as a joint priority at the midyear meeting on June 18, 2007 between EPA Region 8 and Utah DEQ. As such, contacts will be established at the state and regional level with the assignment to identify 2-3 priorities to work on during the upcoming year.

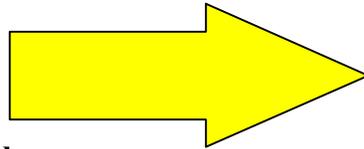
Priorities to be addressed January 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008

- Western Mercury Conference – after the multi-state, multi-region partnership is established by MOU and up and functioning, a Western conference on Mercury with additional stakeholders and concurrent sessions to address the "broad" range of mercury

issues should be considered with a target for this conference in the March - May 2008 timeframe.

- Walt Baker discussed this idea with Bill Sinclair of the establishment of a Great Salt Lake Commission. They discussed putting it on the 2008 Master Study Resolution (in February 2008) for consideration during the 2008 interim session with potential legislation during the 2009 session.
- Secure ongoing funding for fish tissue sample analysis during 2008 General Session (January – March 2008)
- Fish tissue sampling results available around January 2008 for sampling occurring during calendar year 2007.
- A promotional video of the Great Salt Lake will be prepared and available for the interim session of the Legislature (April- November 2008)

Mercury



Air Quality

Air Quality Strategic Goal

Current information indicates that mercury air emissions are decreasing in most categories within the state of Utah. Ensure that mercury emissions continue to decrease in Utah by conducting a periodic review every 5 years to measure progress and refine emission reduction goals.

Regulatory strategies:

- [Continue regulating sources emitting mercury](#) [2002 Emissions \(lbs/yr Hg\)](#)
 - Coal fired electric generating units 829.04
 - Industrial boilers 79
 - Electric arc furnaces 138.7
 - Cement plants 103.3
 - Incinerators 302.13
 - Landfills 18.4
 - Lime plants 9.06
 - Other 7.28
- [Reduce mercury air emissions from Nevada gold mines](#) – Nevada is instituting Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) for gold mines, Utah is working closely with Nevada and Idaho on air quality control strategies.
- [Institute a CAMR Trading Rule](#) – Utah has adopted rulemaking as of March 14, 2007 that will reduce mercury emissions
- [Recognize Area Source and Global mercury emissions as contributors](#)
 - Fire
 - Geothermal
 - Volcanic

Beyond ongoing regulatory strategies, what else do we plan to do?

- Shift existing resources or seek funding to establish an ambient mercury monitoring site in Utah to measure total gaseous mercury - \$120,000 cost estimate
- Evaluate the feasibility of dry deposition research studies

Contact:

Cheryl Heying, Utah Division of Air Quality
801-536-4015
cheying@utah.gov

Mercury Water Quality

Water Quality Strategic Goal

Conduct selected fish tissue sampling events to identify lakes, rivers, and streams that may be impacted by mercury. Issue health advisories, in concert with other state agencies, on impacted water bodies.

Regulatory strategies:

- Regulate dischargers of mercury through existing permitting authorities (Utah Discharge permit ([UPDES](#)) and Groundwater Discharge permit ([GWDP](#)))
- Lead the Utah Mercury workgroup
- Continue an ongoing program to collect and analyze [samples of fish tissue](#) in species involving strategic lakes, rivers, and streams within the State of Utah during FY06.
- Evaluate data from fish tissue sampling, including appropriate quality assurance and control reviews, and [coordinate issuance of health advisories](#) where appropriate

Beyond ongoing regulatory strategies, what else do we plan to do?

- Define work plans and develop funding for a mercury characterization of the [Great Salt Lake](#) to compliment the ongoing selenium study.
- Establish funding for ongoing fish tissue testing
- Look beyond “mercury”, is there a need for a broader “[toxics](#)” approach to sampling of fish tissue and health advisories. [PCB](#) in carp in Utah Lake provided notice that this is not just a “mercury” issue

Contact:

John Whitehead, Utah Division of Water Quality
801-538-6053
jwhitehead@utah.gov

Mercury Solid & Hazardous Waste

Solid and Hazardous Waste Strategic Goal

Ensure the proper management by recycling or disposal of mercury.

Regulatory strategies:

- Ensure proper disposal/recycling of household or industrial mercury as a hazardous waste. [Explore options to expedite disposal or recycling \(e.g., adoption of universal waste standards\)](#)
- Implement the [mercury switch removal/recycling program](#)
- Monitor mercury emissions relating to destruction of chemical weapons (mustard ton containers at [Tooele Army Depot](#))

Contact:

Chris Bittner, Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste
801 - 538-6813
cbittner@utah.gov

Mercury Environmental Response & Remediation

Environmental Response & Remediation Strategic Goal

Ensure the proper reporting and cleanup of releases of mercury.

Regulatory strategies:

- Continue to report mercury releases via US [EPA's Toxic Release Inventory \(TRI\)](#).
- Investigate emergency incidents including [mercury spills](#).
 - Monitoring equipment available includes a [Lumex® mercury analyzer](#).
- Continued programmatic responsibilities for [CERCLA, Brownfield, and Voluntary Agreement](#) when there is the presence of mercury at these sites.

Beyond ongoing regulatory strategies, what else do we plan to do?

- Collaboration with the [Utah Department of Health](#) and the [Utah Poison Control Center](#) to develop protocols dealing with mercury.

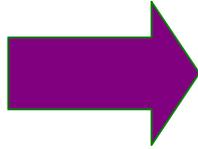
Contact:

Scott Everett, Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation

801 - 536-4117

severett@utah.gov

Mercury



Planning and Public Affairs

Planning and Public Affairs Strategic Goal

Coordinate voluntary statewide mercury source reduction programs through the [“Get the Mercury Out” Campaign](#), the [Hospitals for a Healthy Environment \(H2E\)](#) Initiative, and the [School Chemical Cleanout Campaign \(SC3\)](#). Represent DEQ on the national [Quicksilver Caucus](#) to assess how national initiatives can be adapted to Utah and to provide policy input. Support all outreach efforts to insure information on mercury is properly disseminated to all concerned.

Voluntary strategies:

- Maintain the [Mercury Work Group Website and ListServ](#)
- [Develop outreach materials](#)
- Serve as DEQ Liaison to the [Quicksilver Caucus](#)
- Implement Pollution Prevention [Source Reduction](#) programs in the following sectors:
 - [Auto Salvage: Best Management Practices workshops and posters](#)
 - Hospitals: Hospitals for a Healthy Environment ([H2E](#)) Initiative
 - Schools: School Chemical Cleanout Campaign ([SC3](#))
 - Statewide mercury collections: [“Get the Mercury Out” Campaign](#)
 - Thermometer exchange with residents and schools

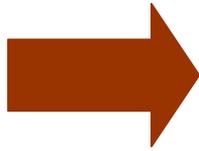
Contact:

Leah Ann Lamb, Director, Office of Planning and Public Affairs

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Mercury



Information Sources

Mercury information found on the homepage of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's website:

<http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/Mercury/index.htm>

- [Mercury in Utah](#)
- [Utah Mercury Work Group](#)
- [Get the Mercury Out! Campaign](#)
- [Fish Advisories in Utah](#)
- [Duck Advisories in Utah](#)
- [Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins \(PBTs\)](#)
- [Spills and Broken Thermometers](#)
- [Mercury and Automobiles](#)
- [EPA Mercury Challenge](#)
- [Mercury Report to Interim Committee](#)
- [FlashPaper](#) 
- [PDF](#) 
- [EPA Document: Task Force on Ritualistic Uses of Mercury Report](#) 

http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/Mercury/get_the_mercury_out.htm

- [Get the Mercury Out!](#)

http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/Mercury/fish_advisories.htm

- [Fish Advisories](#)

Agenda
 EPA Region VIII – Utah Department of Environmental Quality
 Videoconference Concerning Mercury
 February 6, 2007
 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Objective: To share information with EPA Region 8 regarding what UDEQ is doing in regards to mercury and find ways that EPA Region 8 and UDEQ can share ideas, work together to support partnerships, promote and/or engage in studies, discuss how to bring resources singularly or in combination to address mercury issues, better understand what each agency is doing, and follow-up with next steps.

<p>2:00 – 2:10 Dianne Nielson, Executive Director, UDEQ Robbie Roberts, Administrator, EPA Region 8</p>	<p>Introductions</p>
<p>2:10 – 2:45 John Whitehead, Utah DWQ</p>	<p>UDEQ Partnership on Mercury Issues – Membership and Work of the Mercury Workgroup DEQ Ongoing Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish sampling - Duck sampling - Source Assessment Protocol - Great Salt Lake
<p>2:45 – 3:00 Bill Sinclair, UDEQ Deputy Director</p>	<p>UDEQ Mercury Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key Components of the plan - How it is being used by UDEQ
<p>3:00 – 3:05 Dennis Downs, Utah DSHW</p>	<p>Update of Implementation of Mercury Switch Program</p>
<p>3:05 – 3:15 Cheryl Heying, Utah DAQ</p>	<p>Cross Region Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WRAP - Work with EPA Regions IX and X - Nevada DEP (gold mine emissions) - Idaho DEQ - Lake Powell

<p>3:15 – 3:25 Leah Ann Lamb, Office of Planning and Public Affairs</p>	<p>Mercury Outreach Efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Healthy Hospitals - Partnership with local health departments
<p>3:25 – 3:35 Brad Johnson, Utah DERR</p>	<p>Cleanups/Emergency Response</p>
<p>3:35 – 4:00 Kerry Clough, Deputy Administrator, EPA Region 8</p>	<p>What is EPA Region 8 doing regarding Mercury efforts in Utah</p>
<p>4:00 – 4:30 Dianne Nielson, Executive Director, UDEQ Robbie Roberts, Administrator, EPA Region 8</p>	<p>Discussion of Next Steps</p>

Notes from EPA R8/Utah DEQ Videoconference of February 6, 2007
Prepared by Bill Sinclair, Deputy Director, UDEQ

What is EPA Region 8 doing regarding mercury efforts in Utah:

EPA Roadmap: Comparison of mercury releases in 1990 and 1999

1990: 220 tons

1999: 113 tons = 45% reduction

By 2020, goal is 68 tons

Most mercury is produced elsewhere, 50% of human produced mercury comes from China and India

1. EPA Region 8 focused on mercury issue since July 2006.
2. In August 2006, provided a compilation of mercury research activities.
3. Secured membership on Utah Mercury Workgroup.
4. Offered air modeling help.
5. Robbie Roberts sent letter to Region states and tribes indicating mercury as a regional priority. Interest showed from North Dakota, Rosebud Sioux, and Cheyenne River Sioux.
6. EPA Region 8 formed a mercury core team.
7. Decision on geographic grant proposals in April 2007.
8. Requested installation of a deposition site in Utah from the Office of Air and Radiation, provide monitor and 4 years of funding for operation and maintenance.
9. 37 pounds of mercury collected from P2 efforts.
10. On August 25, 2006, assisted in a mercury spill cleanup in Vernal.
11. Utah received a \$25,000 grant for the Healthy Hospitals initiative.
12. Working with Regions IX and X and State of Nevada on gold mine mercury emissions – have reduced emissions from 21,000 pounds to less than 5,000 pounds.
13. Provided schools toolkit.
14. EPA negotiated voluntary program for removing mercury switches from junk automobiles.

What can the Region offer now:

- Use PPG flexibility in this regard – whether it starts at fiscal year or midway in year
- Prioritize RARE program - \$200,000/year of applied research monies- apply this money to mercury efforts in a joint collaboration between R8 scientists, ORD scientists, and Utah scientists. Identify research opportunities for the air and water components
- Pacific States SEP – agreed to provide technical assistance on what can be done to measure mercury emissions – fund a mercury conference, topic of discussion during upcoming site visit

Suggested Next Steps for EPA 8 by UDEQ:

1. Regional influence per national priorities especially the Great Salt Lake (GSL) and Farmington Bay
2. Possibility of directing enforcement funds (SEP) to studies of GSL.*
3. Assign Region person to detail in Utah to work on mercury issues.
4. Share success/failure in mercury switch program.
5. Form communication link between R8 Mercury Forum and Utah Mercury Workgroup.
6. Promote GSL.
7. Send message to EPA Headquarters – more monitoring sites needed in the West, Utah glad to host
8. Get an air model up and operating.*
9. Continue working with the State of Nevada DEP on mercury issues.
10. Look favorably on grant proposals, e.g., deposition analysis at GSL (RARE grants) *
11. Interact with EPA R8 Mercury Forum. *
12. Maintain coordination on EPRCA.
13. R8/R9 collaboration – gold mines (Nevada), Lake Powell (Navajo Tribe), Mercury Switch/EAF emissions (NW band of Shoshone) *
14. WRAP tribal presentation on mercury in 2004. Next WRAP meeting in early March, next steps for R8,9, and 10. ECOs coordination on Children’s EH study and schools cleanup *
15. Provide technical support. *
16. Joint presentation at State Directors meeting on mercury work between R8 and Utah *
17. Possible presentation to EPA Headquarters on what we are doing. *
18. R8 producing website for Tribes regarding mercury issue.

*** EPA can do**

Follow-up items for DEQ:

1. Pacific States paying for mercury conference
2. Promotional video on GSL
3. Form list of potential SEPs
4. Interact with EPA Mercury Forum
5. John and Cheryl to contact Patti regarding RARE grants
6. Evaluate CARE grants
7. Joint presentation at State Directors meeting on mercury work between R8 and Utah
8. Possible presentation to EPA Headquarters on what we are doing
9. Revise and finalize Strategic Plan and provide to EPA R8.
10. Reinforce mercury importance in PPA.