

MERCURY
REQUEST FOR EFFLUENT
DATA

MERCURY - BACKGROUND

STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE THE USE AND RELEASE OF HUMAN-CAUSED MERCURY IN WASHINGTON STATE AND TAKE STEPS TO FURTHER MINIMIZE HUMAN EXPOSURE TO MERCURY. (WASHINGTON STATE MERCURY CHEMICAL ACTION PLAN, DEPT'S OF ECOLOGY AND HEALTH, JAN 2003)

MERCURY - BACKGROUND

DOCUMENT THE AGENCY'S
PERFORMANCE IN MEETING GOALS
OF THE MERCURY CHEMICAL ACTION
PLAN (<http://www.governor.wa.gov/gmap/>)

PROBLEM

- DETECTION LEVEL OF OLD ANALYTICAL METHOD (245.7) IS 0.2 PPB. (HIGH % OF ND REPORTED)
- WATER QUALITY BENCHMARKS (CRITERIA) ARE 2.10 AND 0.012 PPB FRESHWATER AND 1.8 AND 0.025 MARINE
- DATA NOT EASILY ACCESSABLE

NEW MERCURY METHOD

- EPA METHOD 1631E
- LOWER DETECTION LEVEL 0.0002 PPB
OR 0.2 NG/L
- ANALYTICAL COSTS 2X (\$100 VS \$45)

DECISIONS

- REQUIRE HIGH PRIORITY DISCHARGERS AND THOSE ALREADY SAMPLING FOR MERCURY (NPDES INDIVIDUAL) TO SUBMIT 2 ANALYSIS (WET AND DRY WEATHER) OVER THE COMING YEAR

DECISIONS

- REQUIRE THOSE DISCHARGERS TO USE METHOD 1631E FOR ANALYSIS AND RECOMMEND CLEAN SAMPLING METHODS
- QUANTIFY FLOWS
- REPORT DATA SEPERATELY

WHO IS SAMPLING

- ALL MUNICIPALITIES OVER 1 MGD DESIGN FLOW
- ALL MAJOR AND PRIMARY INDUSTRY DISCHARGERS
- OTHER NPDES INDIVIDUAL DISCHARGERS WHICH THE PERMITTING SECTIONS HAVE REQUIRED TO MONITOR FOR MERCURY

AUTHORITY

- CWA SECTION 308(a)(4)(A)(v)
- INFORMATION REQUESTED BY LETTER ON 8/11.
- SECOND LETTER OF CLARIFICATION OR INDIVIDUAL CONTACT ON 9/1.

FOLLOW-UP

- MUNICIPALS AND SMALL INDUSTRIES WITH HIGH CONCENTRATIONS – REFER TO HW PROGRAM TREE SECTION FOR ASSISTANCE
- LARGE INDUSTRIALS – POLLUTION PREVENTION REQUIREMENT
- SECOND ROUND OF SAMPLING IN ? YEARS – QUANTIFY REDUCTION