

FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT

Persistent, Bioaccumulative, & Toxics (PBT) & Other Priority Chemicals

Mercury-Added Products Research & Development

Project Strategy: Support the mercury pollution and reduction efforts detailed in the Massachusetts Mercury Products Law (Chapter 190 of the Acts of 2006), the Massachusetts Zero Mercury Strategy, and the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Mercury Action Plan.

In FY 2009, NEWMOA will build upon the success of research undertaken in previous years by conducting four projects as described below.

In FY 2008, NEWMOA researched companies that appeared to manufacture mercury-added products, but had not notified the IMERC-member states. In FY 2009, NEWMOA will focus on manufacturers that have reported to Massachusetts and/or the IMERC-member states that they do not sell or distribute these products in Massachusetts and will verify their reported compliance with the Massachusetts mercury-added product bans.

In FY 2008, NEWMOA developed a web resource with information about mercury-added legacy products, which are products that are no longer sold as new in commerce, but may still be used. The resource currently features 36 mercury-added legacy products; however, there are more mercury-added products that may be considered “legacy.” In FY 2009, NEWMOA will conduct further research and expand the web resource.

Under Massachusetts law, manufacturers of neon lamps and other mercury-containing lamps must develop an education plan for recycling the bulbs at their end-of-life. In FY 2009, NEWMOA will assist MassDEP in developing outreach materials for helping manufacturers to understand the law, promote proper disposal and recycling, and become aware of available recycling opportunities. NEWMOA will also assist MassDEP with completing an inventory of these non-traditional mercury-added light sources.

Mercury emissions in some countries fare much better than others when switching from incandescent lighting to energy-efficient CFLs. One of the many factors contributing to this difference is the degree of mercury lamp recycling – higher recycling rates offset mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants, while lower recycling rates result in more CFLs disposed of in landfills, contributing to greater levels of mercury pollution in the environment. In FY 2009, NEWMOA will review studies and information available about the varying CFLs recycling efforts in the U.S. and internationally and will attempt to evaluate their effectiveness.

The project is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

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