



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



April 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Steven C. Taylor, Manager, KCSO
Alice C. Williams, Manager, LSO
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Steven A. Mellington, Manager, NSO
Steven C. Erhart, Manager, PSO
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FROM: Thad T. Konopnicki *TTK*
Associate Administrator for Infrastructure
and Environment

SUBJECT: Identifying a Storage Facility for Elemental Mercury

The Office of Environmental Management (EM), as directed by the Deputy Secretary, is seeking information on the availability of facilities for the long-term storage of elemental mercury. See the attached memorandum dated March 30, 2009, from Ines Triay, Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, to certain site managers and Program Secretarial Offices. EM has also published a notice in the Federal Register, which is attached to EM's memo, requesting interest from parties outside of DOE. The Federal Register Notice contains criteria to be used in evaluating facilities for mercury storage.

As directed by the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008, the Department of Energy is to provide a facility or facilities for the long-term storage of mercury generated in the United States. The Act, however, specifically prohibits the facility being sited on the Oak Ridge Reservation including at the Y-12 Site. The mercury storage facility will operate under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste permit with a storage capacity of 20,000 – 100,000 square feet. The facility is to be selected by January 1, 2010, following an environmental impact statement that will evaluate the impacts of various alternatives. The storage facility will begin operation in January 2013.

By April 24, 2009, please provide to David Levenstein of EM's Office of Regulatory Compliance whether your site currently has any facilities or plans for future facilities suitable for the long-term storage of elemental mercury. Mr. Levenstein can be contacted at (301) 903-6500 or by e-mail at david.levenstein@em.doe.gov.



Requirements of the Act or associated items can be discussed with Bob Fleming of my staff. He can be reached at robert.fleming@nnsa.doe.gov or at telephone (301) 903-7627. Please provide Mr. Fleming with a copy of your response to EM.

cc:

Gerald L. Talbot, Jr., NA-17

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Bill Levitan, EM-11