

Advisory Committee on Mercury Pollution

Meeting #95: December 15, 2009

Time: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Location: Laundry Building Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex
Waterbury, Vermont

MINUTES

Members Present:

Michael Bender, Mercury Policy Project
John Berino, Fletcher Allen Health Care; Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems
Bill Bress, Vermont Dept. of Health
Gary Gulka, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Environmental Assistance Office
Jen Holliday, Chittenden Solid Waste District
Neil Kamman, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Water Quality Division

Guests Present:

Matt Levin, Vermonters for a Clean Environment
Allison DeMag, Vermont Statehouse Lobbyist, representing National Electrical Manufacturers Association and Vermont State Dental Hygienists Association
Anthony Otis, Otis and Brooks, representing Northeast Delta Dental
Ron Ferrara, Otis and Brooks, representing Northeast Delta Dental
Peter Taylor, Vermont State Dental Society
Lisa Carlson, Funeral Ethics Organization

The Committee members and interested parties gathered at the Waterbury State Office Complex, Laundry Building Conference Room. Neil Kamman called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1

Accept minutes from November 12 meeting

The draft minutes of the November 12 meeting were approved as drafted.

Agenda Item 2

Committee member concerns / public comments

There were no Committee member concerns or public comments received.

Agenda Item 3

Update/brief discussion of mercury emissions from crematoria

There were no updates. It was decided that this issue would be placed on the work plan for 2010.

Agenda Item 4

Review of Dental Amalgam Fact Sheet

Edits were made to the dental amalgam fact sheet and Committee members approved the draft for inclusion in the annual legislative report.

Agenda Item 5

Review of mercury lamp recommendations

It was agreed that the rationale section on mercury lamp recommendations will be updated to include information on the laws in California and Maine. The rationale should also mention that lamp manufacturers are in support of mercury content standards. Information will be included in the rationale section on the agreement with Efficiency Vermont to fund the hardware store lamp collection and recycling program for two years, and that the program is level-funded.

Is there a possibility that the program would be scaled back to only include CFLs? Gary Gulka said that the status quo would be maintained and that other types of bulbs will continue to be collected.

The Committee approved the lamp recommendations with these changes.

Agenda Item 6

Discussion of other committee recommendations

It was agreed that the report would note the importance of maintaining wet deposition mercury monitoring at the Underhill site. The recommendations on the need for a fish mercury monitoring program would be included again this year with some updates to the information.

It was agreed that the dental mercury recommendations would be carried forward from last year's report. The rationale section will be updated to include the Committee's development of a dental amalgam fact sheet.

The recommendations on thimerosal will be carried forward from last year's report. The rationale section will be updated to include current figures on thimerosal-containing and thimerosal-free vaccines. Information will be included on H1N1 swine flu vaccine.

Bill Bress indicated that VDH did not receive the amount of seasonal flu vaccine needed.

Agenda Item 7

Monitoring year in review

Neil Kamman reviewed the handout on Mercury Environmental and Health Update Highlights intended for inclusion in the legislative report.

The Committee agreed that Neil Kamman would draft a letter to the Vermont Congressional delegation on behalf of the Committee, supporting the concept of a National Mercury Monitoring Program that will be introduced in the Senate as the Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Act. The Committee will review a draft of the letter.

Agenda Item 8

2010 workplan discussion

The Committee agreed to the 2010 workplan as presented in the report outline.

Agenda Item 9

Set next meeting date and agenda

It was suggested that the Committee devote one meeting in 2010 to an information-sharing forum on mercury health, environmental, and policy issues, to educate committee members on some of the latest information. It was suggested that this forum could be opened up to a larger audience, including academia, and include presentations by Committee and non-Committee members alike. There was general consensus to pursue this idea and have further discussions at later meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 am – 11:00 am in the Laundry Building, Waterbury State Office Complex. It was agreed that Committee members would attend via teleconference.

Agenda items for next meeting:

Review draft annual report to the Legislature

Summary of Motions and Actions

The Committee agreed that Neil Kamman would draft a letter to the Vermont Congressional delegation on behalf of the Committee, supporting the concept of a National Mercury Monitoring Program that will be introduced in the Senate as the Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Act. The Committee will review a draft of the letter.