

Advisory Committee on Mercury Pollution

Meeting #96: January 11, 2010

Time: 9:30 am to 11:00 am

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

MINUTES

Members Present:

Michael Bender, Mercury Policy Project

Bill Bress, Vermont Dept. of Health

Gary Gulka, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Environmental Assistance Office

Neil Kamman, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Water Quality Division

Ruma Kohli, IBM

Guests Present:

Anthony Otis, Otis and Brooks, representing Northeast Delta Dental

Ron Ferrara, Otis and Brooks, representing Northeast Delta Dental

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

Agenda Item 1

Accept minutes from December 15 meeting

The draft minutes were approved as drafted.

Agenda Item 2

Committee member concerns / public comments

The Committee made minor changes to the letter that Neil Kamman drafted to Vermont's senators supporting Senate Bill 2913, the Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Act.

Bill Bress mentioned the comments that Dr. Rowe, Dental Director of the Vermont Dept. of Health, provided on the dental amalgam fact sheet. He feels that the document should state that the FDA also considers dental amalgam safe for children under six years of age. He also feels that the document need not mention the health effects of high levels of mercury. Another concern is that if amalgam is banned in Vermont, low income Vermonters could be adversely affected. The Committee acknowledged these comments but made no changes to the fact sheet.

Agenda Item 3

Review Draft Annual Report to the Legislature

Minor editorial comments to the report and the ordering of sections were received and agreed upon by members.

It was agreed that the last six paragraphs of the FDA on dental amalgam quote on page 17 of the draft report were removed. Instead this part is footnoted and the reference provided for FDA's full statement.

Thermostat collection data were added to the report, as 2009 collection numbers became available since the time of the draft.

The Committee approved the final report with the noted changes.

Agenda Item 4

Set next meeting date and agenda

It was agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled for February. Agenda items include 2010 Committee work plan and planning for a public announcement of event marking the 100th meeting of the Advisory Committee and the Committee's accomplishments.

Summary of Motions and Actions

The Committee approved, with changes, the final report to the Legislature.