Specific Sources of Mercury Wastes

Inception Workshop
Norway ODA Mercury Storage and Disposal Project in the Caribbean
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Specific Sources of Mercury Wastes

• Mercury is present as an impurity in natural gas and mineral oil. When these crude resources are processed, mercury may be mobilized and released into the environment.

• Mercury is present as an impurity in most Non-ferrous Metals (NFM) ores (zinc, copper, gold, lead etc.). During processing, the mercury is mobilized.

• Manufacturing processes with intentional uses of mercury often in catalysts (notably VCM, acetaldehyde, sodium/potassium methylate/ethylate and polyurethane production) may be a source of mercury emissions, releases, and the generation of mercury wastes.

• Technologies to control mercury from these processes are available.
Specific source of Mercury Wastes
continued

• Mercury cell chlor-alkali facilities which close or convert to alternative technologies generally have significant amounts of either waste or non-waste mercury.

• Artisanal gold mining may be a large source of mercury wastes if simple whole ore mercury processes or panning or mercury sluicing is used.

• Bauxite refining in the digestion stage may be a source of mercury.