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