

Environmentally Sound Management

Inception Workshop

Norway ODA Mercury Storage and Disposal Project in the Caribbean

Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

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Introduction to Environmentally Sound Management

- The first preferred option in the ESM of mercury wastes is the prevention and minimization of mercury wastes
- ESM of Waste management covers source separation, collection, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal
- In order to achieve ESM, it is suggested that mercury wastes are:
 - Not mixed with other wastes** (where regulation prescribes the extraction of mercury above a certain threshold, there is a danger that some may be motivated to circumvent it by diluting the waste);
 - Not discarded in uncontrolled landfills** (subject to the eligibility criteria defined by national law, mercury wastes may be disposed of in specially engineered landfills
 - Not (co-)incinerated without dedicated flue gas cleaning and controls**
 - Treated to extract the mercury or to immobilize it in an environmentally sound manner**

ESM

Continued

- ESM of Mercury Wastes under the Minamata Convention is noted at: Art. 11, Para. 3
- When developing an ESM programme for mercury wastes, it may also be useful to conduct lifecycle management studies.
- Choosing between environmentally sound waste management system options, the following variables may be considered:
 - Sources of mercury wastes**
 - Types of mercury wastes**
 - Volumes of mercury wastes**
 - Existing management infrastructure**
 - Characteristics of the management options**
 - The value of recoverable components**
 - Legal/other issues**

ESM and Health and Safety Programs

- Two key aspects of an environmentally sound programme for the management of mercury wastes are the development and implementation of:
 - (1) public health and safety activities and
 - (2) worker health and safety activities which prevent and minimize exposure to mercury wastes.
- Implementation of these programs is often critical in public acceptance of a mercury waste management program.