Fluorescent Lights and Mercury Management

- Fluorescent and high intensity discharge (HID) lamps contain mercury
- **There are no non-mercury fluorescent or HID lamps available at this time**.

- There are several different kinds of fluorescent lamps, including linear tubes, U-shaped lamps, and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).

- The amount of mercury in a fluorescent lamp varies, depending on the type of lamp, manufacturer and date of manufacture, but typically ranges between 1.7 milligrams and 15 milligrams.

- Manufacturers have greatly reduced the amount of mercury used in fluorescent lamps over the past 20 years and are currently taking additional steps to further reduce their mercury content.

- Mercury is not released when lamps are intact or in use; exposure is possible only when a lamp has been broken

- Fluorescent lamps that are thrown into the trash are usually sent to a landfill or incinerator. These disposal practices will likely lead to the release of elemental mercury into the environment through breakage

- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment **Directive** (**WEEE Directive**) is the European Community **directive** 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment (**WEEE**). It sets standards on the recycling of lamps. For more information:

  http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/pdf/faq.pdfmbs

- USEPA released a study of the performance of Drum Top Crushers (DTCs) for spent fluorescent lamps in 2006, entitled, *Mercury Lamp Drum-Top Crusher Study* and can be found at www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/universal/drumtop/.

- Most DTCs are designed to contain a large portion of the mercury released from spent lamps when crushed. However, if poorly designed or constructed, or if not assembled or operated properly, DTC use may result in significant releases of mercury and exposure to operators or others.