

Mercury Sources

- Coal combustion, taconite processing and disposal of products are the main sources.
- Transported through the air and deposited to water and land.
- Small amounts cause significant damage.
- This is a local & global problem because of wind and increased energy usage.

Mercury Health Problems

- Mercury can damage the nervous system.
- Pregnant women, women who may become pregnant, children & those that eat large amounts of fish are most vulnerable.
- Minnesota and City's lake have fish advisories due to mercury.
- Also affects eagles, loons, fox, mink...

Mercury Trends

- Mercury decreased 70% since 1990 in MN
- No longer in many paints, batteries & all thermometers.
- Converting Riverside Power Plant from coal to natural gas will eliminate mercury.
- Future: more coal plants proposed.
- Duluth passed ordinance in 2002; many bills this legislative session.

Proposed Mercury Ordinances

- Chapter 47& 48 – Crematoria reporting & stationary mercury emission limits.
- Chapter 57 – Mercury sale/purchase restrictions in schools & health facilities. Bans sale/purchase of mercury thermostats. Requires point of sale signage of mercury light disposal prohibitions and recycling options.
- Chapter 174 - Fire Code/abandoned buildings.
- Chapter 217 – Repeals mercury treated sheets.