

Mercury Reduction and the 2005 Progress Report to Legislature

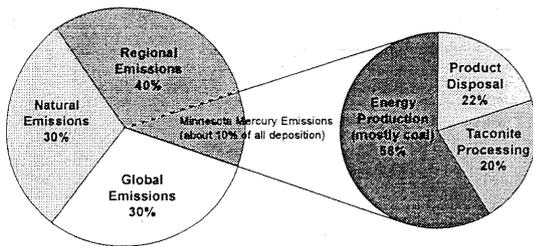
Ned Brooks,
Mercury Reduction Coordinator



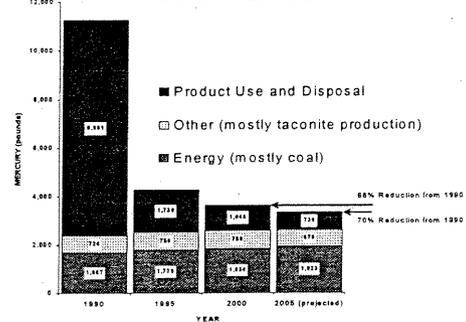
Background

- In high enough concentrations, mercury acts as a neurotoxin.
- Primary route of exposure for Minnesotans is eating fish.
- Two-thirds of impaired waters are listed because of mercury.
- MPCA established 93% reduction goal.
- Mercury is a global pollutant.

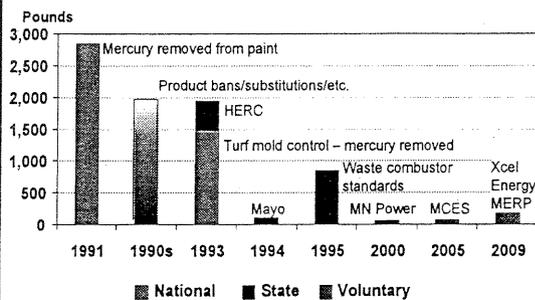
Sources of Atmospheric Deposition to Minnesota, 2005 Minnesota Emissions



Mercury Air Emissions by Sector, 1990 – 2005



Annual Reductions in Air Emissions from Selected Activities



2005 Mercury Report Findings & Conclusions

- 70% reduction in air emissions since 1990
- Emissions since 1990
 - Product-related releases declined by 92%.
 - Taconite emissions are down by 6%.
 - Energy production increased by 15%.
- Mercury in fish decreased by 10%.

Report conclusions, cont.

- Pace of reductions has slowed since 2005.
- Emissions may rise after 2010 absent new voluntary or regulatory reductions.
- New 93% reduction goal established to protect health
- Final emissions target of 789 lb./yr. (from 3,341 lb./yr in 2005)
- Meeting the goal will require additional state or federal regulations.

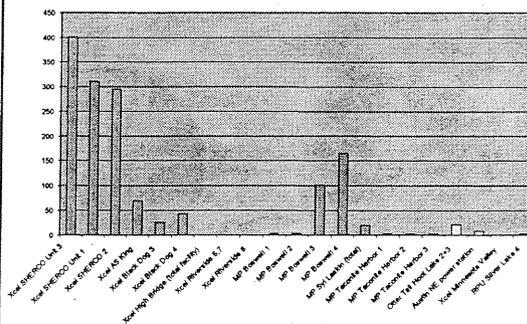
2005 Mercury Report Recommendations

- Adopt 93% goal.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to develop strategies to reach goal once finalized.
- In the short term:
 - Continue voluntary and regulatory state strategies.
 - Encourage national & international reductions.
 - Develop strategy to limit new emissions
 - Consider regional cooperation.

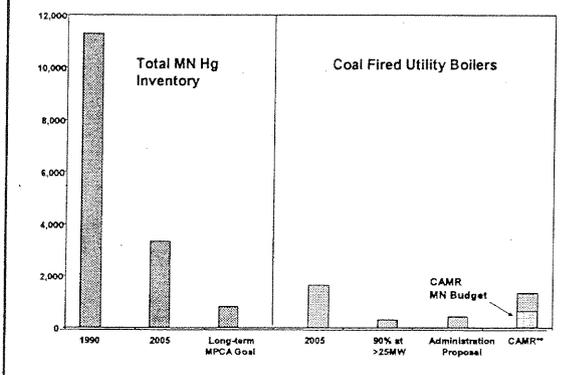
2006 Utility Legislation

- Proposes 90% reduction at largest power plants
 - Xcel Sherco
 - Xcel King
 - Minnesota Power Boswell
- 1200 pound reduction by 2014

Estimated Mercury Emissions from MN Coal-Fired Utilities - 2009



Mercury Reductions from Coal Fired Power Plants in Minnesota (Pounds of Mercury)



For More Information

Download copy of report at
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/mercury.html#reports>

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