

Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

APR 27 2018

Mr. Andrew Wheeler  
Deputy Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
William Jefferson Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Mail Code 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Deputy Administrator Wheeler:

The Mercury Export Ban Act (MEBA) [P.L. 110-414] assigns responsibility for long-term management and storage of elemental mercury to the Department of Energy (DOE). The MEBA, as amended, requires the DOE to begin operating an elemental mercury management and storage facility by January 1, 2019, for elemental mercury generated within the United States. However, the current regulatory framework does not address disposal of elemental mercury.

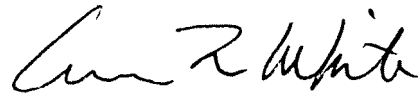
We are working to hold a workshop May 9-10, 2018, in Washington, D.C., to discuss environmentally sound treatment and disposal options. We expect the workshop will be attended by elemental mercury generators, treatment and storage companies, and impacted state and Federal regulatory agencies. No commitments or obligations are expected from any company or organization.

We believe that the value of the workshop would be significantly improved by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters and Regional Office participation (e.g., Office of Land and Emergency Management, Regions 6, 9, and 10). However, we understand through discussions with your staff, that although EPA is interested in making progress on elemental mercury treatment and disposal, there may not be any EPA representation at the workshop. While I understand that EPA has many priorities and resource challenges, I extend my personal request that appropriate Headquarters and regional staff attend the workshop to hear issues and discuss potential solutions associated with this important national environmental issue.



Thank you in advance for considering EPA participation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Mark Senderling, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste and Materials Management, at (202) 586-0785.

Sincerely,



Anne Marie White  
Assistant Secretary  
for Environmental Management

cc: Barry Breen, EPA/OLEM  
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