

**CANADA-WIDE STANDARDS FOR MERCURY  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR YUKON TERRITORY  
~ LAMPS CONTAINING MERCURY ~**

**GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Yukon intends to promote the recycling of fluorescent lamps where it is relatively cost effective. Recycling by households and the retail sector may not be cost effective, but large facilities such as schools, hospitals, government buildings, and larger office buildings may handle sufficient quantities of lamps to make it more so. It is recognized, however, that the dispersed nature of Yukon's population may make recycling difficult in some areas even where quantities are sufficient. The Yukon will evaluate lamp recycling and partnership opportunities with private enterprises to bring into place collection and recycling initiatives. The Yukon will not prepare a public accounting for progress on recycling, though major facility owners and corporations may choose to do so individually.

**MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES**

While promotion of lamp recycling and encouragement of the purchase of efficient, low mercury lamps will be pursued, the Yukon has not set any milestones or deliverables for this activity.

**PUBLIC ROLE**

Since the Federal government is tracking industry commitments to reduce tube mercury content, the Yukon does not anticipate the need to account for this. Residents and corporations may choose to select low-mercury lamps and so contribute to the achievement of this CWS. Residents may also wish to recycle lamps at sites which collect household hazardous waste, or endeavour to have recycling undertaken by the facility/building where they work. The Department of Environment will evaluate opportunities to include lamps in the annual household hazardous waste collections sponsored by the government.

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Yukon Department of Environment will not provide a public record of either fluorescent lamp mercury content, or recycling rates, that could be accessed by the public; however, this information may be made available indirectly through the agencies undertaking this

work. At the present time, there are no lamp recycling companies within the Yukon and all such material must be shipped Outside for processing.

### **VERIFIABLE PROGRESS**

In January 2003, the Yukon Government purchased a bulb-crushing machine to crush spent mercury lamps generated in schools and government buildings. The compacted bulbs will be disposed of at approved facilities through the Department of Environment's Annual Special Waste Collection Program. The Department will monitor the number of lamps collected in this manner and this information will be made available upon request. The Department will also continue to investigate opportunities for future lamp recycling partnerships with private industry.

### **CO-BENEFITS**

Low mercury content, high efficiency tubes will reduce electricity use and therefore have the co-benefit of reduced mercury emissions from electric generating plants in the territory. However, the multi-pollutant benefits of this CWS are limited, as recycling does not necessarily reduce emissions of pollutants due to the necessary transportation of used tubes to recycling centres. It is conceivable that recycling could reduce emissions from glass manufacturing and aluminum smelting plants as glass and aluminum are recyclable lamp components; also, the mercury recovered is typically sold, purified, and used in new lamps or other applications.