

# Mercury Bulbs

Presentation before the Radioactive and Hazardous  
Materials Interim Committee

November 28, 2012

New Mexico Environment Department  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

# Mercury Bulbs

- Background
- History
- NMED's Involvement
- Regulations
- NM's Mercury Reduction Plan
- Recycling Programs
- Management of Mercury Bulbs
- Mercury in the Environment
- Contacts

# Mercury Bulbs

## Background

- Fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL)
  - The purpose of mercury
  - Relationship to incandescent bulbs
  - The amount of mercury
- Other types of mercury lamps

# Mercury Bulbs

## Background (cont.)

- Mercury
  - In bulbs
  - Toxicity
  - Human exposures

# Mercury Bulbs

## History

- Regulation
  - 1976 – First become a hazardous waste
  - 1985 – Become a hazardous waste regulated by New Mexico
  - 1995 – EPA promulgates the Universal Waste rules
  - 1998 – Mercury bulbs added to the list of universal wastes
  - 2000 – New Mexico adopts the federal universal waste rules
  - 2009 – Mercury bulb crushing becomes allowable in New Mexico

# Mercury Bulbs

## History (cont.)

- 2006 - NM Mercury Reduction Plan  
NM House Memorial 5
- 2012 (Oct.) – Manufacturing incandescent bulbs starts to become illegal

# Mercury Bulbs

NMED Bureaus

- NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau
- NMED Solid Waste Bureau

# Mercury Bulbs Regulation

- Mercury concentration constituting hazardous waste
- Option to manage bulbs as hazardous waste or universal waste
- Household exclusion
- Benefit of managing bulbs as universal waste
- Very small businesses benefit from universal waste rule
- Other benefits of managing bulbs as universal waste

# Mercury Bulbs

## Mercury Reduction Plan

- New Mexico's Mercury Reduction Plan
  - House Memorial 5 (2006) requires NMED & DOH to develop the Plan.
- The Plan suggests:
  - Fund mercury reduction strategies and a mercury study
  - The purpose of the study:
    - to inventory mercury sources, waste and emissions;
    - to identify pathways for mercury exposure;
    - to establish a monitoring program to assess air, water, soil and biota for mercury contamination.
  - Educate the public
  - Develop a state fish consumption advisory program.
  - Support the Solid Waste Bureau

# Mercury Bulbs Recycling

- Percentage of bulbs recycled
- Recycling costs
- Recycling in New Mexico
  - Regulated bulbs
  - Non-regulated bulbs

# Mercury Bulbs

## Best Management Practices

- Storage
- Containers
- Labels
- Employee training
- Documentation

# Mercury Bulbs

## Environment

- Comparison to incandescent bulbs
- Comparison to coal-fired power plants
- NM's fish consumption advisories

# Mercury Bulbs

## Contacts at NMED HWB

- John Kieling  
Chief – Hazardous Waste Bureau  
505-476-6035  
[john.kieling@state.nm.us](mailto:john.kieling@state.nm.us)
- Steve Pullen  
Manager – HWB Compliance and Technical Assistance Program  
505-476-6044  
[steve.pullen@state.nm.us](mailto:steve.pullen@state.nm.us)