

Mercury PMP

In the City of Bucyrus Waste Water Treatment Plant's most recent permit renewal, the Ohio EPA set a discharge limit of 1.3ng/L of mercury. This is equal to 1.3 drops of detergent in a train of railroad tank cars ten miles long. The city is unable to meet this limit without constructing expensive end of pipe treatment. Realizing this, the City applied for a Mercury Variance in June 2010, and was granted a variance. The variance states that the new limit is 12ng/L. It also states that the City must implement a Pollutant Minimization Program (PMP). This will demonstrate that the City is working to obtain the water quality based effluent limit for mercury of 1.3ng/L.

Elements of PMP

The PMP will include monitoring of the collection system (sewers) to locate and identify any potential sources of mercury. When identified, it will work to eliminate the source of mercury, work to educate the public on ways to properly manage mercury waste and work to eliminate any potential household mercury waste (i.e. mercury thermometer exchanges).

Summary

The objective of the PMP is to eliminate as much mercury as possible that may enter the collection system. For this to be a successful program, we will need the combined efforts of the industrial and residential customers of the City of Bucyrus. Check back here for progress and developments.

Informative Links

Mercury Reduction – Ohio EPA

www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/p2/mercury_pbt/mercury.aspx

Wisconsin Mercury Sourcebook

www.epa.gov/glnpo/bnsdocs/hgsbook/