



Portage Utility Services  
5500 Old Porter Rd.  
Portage, IN 46368  
Phone: 219-762-1301  
Fax: 219- 762-2909

RE: Mercury Sources and Disposal Survey

Dear Sir/Madam:

Currently, The Portage Utility Service is reaching out to local businesses, schools, and citizens in an effort to reduce the amount of mercury contaminating our environment. Although mercury performs many useful functions and it can be found in many products and applications, it is highly toxic and very difficult and costly to remove once in the water. Due to an increased focus from the United States Environmental Protection (USEPA) on reducing mercury, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has been working with wastewater treatment plants to increase awareness of potential mercury sources in our community.

The Portage Utility Service operates under a NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination) Permit, issued by IDEM, which governs the type and amount of pollutants allowed to be discharged after treatment. The wastewater treatment plant discharges in the Little Calumet River, a tributary to Lake Michigan, a pristine body of water and a source of drinking water to our community. Meeting the permit obligations, therefore, is the uppermost priority for The Portage Utility Service. Through the USEPA approved Industrial Approved Program (IPP), The Portage Utility Service regulates the waters and wastes emanating from all users discharging into the City of Portage's Sanitary collection system in order to:

- Prevent the introduction of pollutants into the Portage Utilities Service Wastewater Treatment Plant that would interfere with operation of the Utility;
- Prevent the introduction of pollutants, such as mercury, into the Portage Utility Service POTW that would pass through the utility, into the Little Calumet River and ultimately into Lake Michigan inadequately treated;
- Protect the Portage Utility Service personnel working in the City's collection system department and at the treatment plant who may be affected by wastewater in the course of their duties;
- Protect the general public;
- Protect wildlife;

- Promote recycling;
- Enable Portage Utility Service to meet its regulatory obligations.

In order to administer an effective program against mercury pollution, The Portage Utility Service is requesting your assistance into indentifying potential source of mercury and depositing procedures within your Facility, by completing the enclosed survey form. The completed (front and back) signed survey form needs to be sent back at your earliest convenience at [cwalton@portage-in.com](mailto:cwalton@portage-in.com) or sent to the address below.

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Incorporating best management plans for handling items that contain mercury will create a healthy and safe work place within your facility and will benefit the environment as a whole. Included in this mailing is a list of resources you can use to help identify items that contain mercury and tips for eliminating or managing mercury waste.

The Portage Utility Service is committed to limit the mercury pollution at the wastewater treatment plant by reducing the amount of mercury at the source and comply with the Indiana Code 13-20-17.5 (copy enclosed) which restricts the sale, purchase and disposal of mercury commodities and mercury-added equipment and materials among significant industrial users, public and private schools. As the Portage Utility Service wastewater treatment plant strives to meet its regulatory requirements, it is the intent of the IPP Department to assist all facilities to meet their regulatory obligation.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if you should have any questions or comments regarding the completion of this survey, or if you should need assistance identifying or disposing of mercury at your facility. Call or e-mail me at [dslawny@live.com](mailto:dslawny@live.com).

Best regards,

Donald Slawnikowski  
Portage Utility Service  
Superintendent

Enclosure