

CANADA

Article 9 – Releases

Information submitted by the Government of Canada to identify potentially relevant point source categories of releases to assist with the development of draft guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases, as called for in Decision MC 2/3

Recalling Canada's submission under Article 30(4), based on a review of the data contained in the Canadian National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), Canada does not have any relevant point sources of mercury release to land or water, as defined by Article 9 of the treaty. However, to assist with the development of the draft guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases, Canada is providing a list of potentially relevant point source categories for consideration in the development of draft guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases. The list was developed by reviewing historical releases of mercury and mercury compounds to land and water as reported to the NPRI.

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* authorizes the Government of Canada to require that facilities report releases of certain substances to air, land and water to the NPRI. Under this requirement, facilities report annually on mercury air emissions and releases to land and water if they meet an annual "manufacture, process or otherwise use" threshold. The NPRI has been in place since 1993; however, in 2000, the reporting threshold for mercury was lowered from 10,000 kg/year to 5 kg/year, leading to an increase in the number of facilities obligated to report.

Since 2000, Canada has reduced mercury releases to land and water substantially through the implementation of new technologies, best practices, and regulations. Many facilities continue to report their releases even below the 5 kg threshold mandatory reporting value. In 2017, only 7 out of 88 facilities who reported releasing mercury had releases equal to or greater than 5 kg. Presently, the average quantity of mercury released to land and water from all 88 facilities is <2 kg.

While releases from the majority of the source categories listed below have been eliminated or drastically reduced and are not considered to be significant sources in Canada, we provide this information for consideration in the development of draft guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases:

- Alumina production
- Petrochemical product manufacturing (e.g. resin, synthetic materials, polystyrene, vinyl etc.)
- Cement production
- Coal mining
- Electric power generation from coal
- Iron and steel mills and ferro-alloy manufacturing
- Lime production
- Metal ore mining
- Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
- Diamond mining
- Paint, coating and adhesive manufacturing
- Pesticide, fertilizer and other agricultural chemical manufacturing
- Petroleum and coal product manufacturing and refining

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- Pulp, paper and paperboard mills
- Veneer, plywood and engineered wood product manufacturing
- Sewage treatment facilities¹

Additional information about Canada's NPRI may be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/pollution-waste-management/national-pollutant-release-inventory.html>

¹ The sewage treatment facilities include wastewater treatment plants. Wastewater treatment plants do not generate mercury. Mercury in wastewater is usually from industrial discharges to sewers from metal finishing, steel manufacturing and refineries, and effluent from waste landfills.