Disposal Operations

Inception Workshop
Norway ODA Mercury Storage and Disposal Project in the Caribbean
Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

12-13 August 2015 Port of Spain

Basel Technical Guidelines Disposal operations

- D5 Specially-engineered landfill
- D9 Physico-chemical treatment
- D12 Permanent storage
- D13 Blending or mixing prior to submission to D5, D9, D12, D14 or D15
- D14 Repackaging prior to submission to D5, D9, D12, D13 or D15
- D15 Storage pending any of the operations D5, D9, D12, D13 or D14

R 15 Permanent Storage: Specially Engineered landfills

Important ESM landfill considerations include the following:

- Examine the long-term stability of treated mercury wastes in specially engineered landfills and establish methods to evaluate such long-term stability;
- Design a facility with attention to protect ground water
- Establish a permit system, stipulating leachate and gas control systems, closure and post-closure measures etc.;
- Identify existing landfills that could be retrofitted for the disposal of stabilized mercury;
- Make thorough environmental impact assessments and analyse the long-term behaviour of stabilized mercury wastes in the specific settings of the facility; and
- Continuously manage and monitor specially engineered landfills in which treated mercury wastes have been disposed

Physico-chemical Treatment (Stabilization/Solidification)

- Objective is to immobilize the mercury in a solid and low permeable matrix so that the waste complies with the acceptance criteria for disposal in specially engineered landfills or permanent storage in underground facilities
- Sulphur Stabilization of Mercury: Sulphur and mercury are mixed under heat in a vacuum mixer forming mercury sulphide
- Sulphur Polymer Stabilization and Solidification (SPSS): mercury wastes are stabilized with sulphur as mercury sulphide and then incorporated and microencapsulated in a polymeric sulphur matrix
- S/S with Sulphur Microcements: mixture of mercury waste with the sulphur microcement and water; the mixture is then discharged into the desired mould

Evaluation of Methods for Physio-Chemical Treatment

It is suggested to evaluate physico-chemical treatment methods in **pilot-scale tests** before commercial use. This includes:

- a verification of the quality of the stabilization process by determining the conversion rate and the mercury vapour release from the stabilized waste;
- an evaluation of the leaching potential over a range of plausible disposal conditions (especially over a range of pH values); and

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