

Quicksilver Caucus Action Plan and Implementation Strategy
2004-2005
Revised and Updated As of October 2004

I. State Actions Make A Difference

Guiding Principles

- Preventing environmental degradation and protecting public health are the basis for state action
- Eliminating mercury contamination in one media should not result in significant contamination in another media
- Reducing emissions within a state is the first step towards reducing trans-boundary transport
- Working collaboratively and in partnership promotes trust and investment that yield environmental results

Framework For State Action Is in Place

- ECOS seven resolutions provide policy guidance
- Stewardship documents provide technical guidance
- TMDL document provides policy and technical guidance

Key Quicksilver Caucus Actions

Actions and Activities	Key Tasks	Participants	Target Date
A. Strengthen State Capacity to Reduce and Manage Mercury in the Environment			
1. Assess Status of State Mercury Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update Compendium of State Mercury Activities ▪ Compile, Analyze, and Publish 	QSC Members QSC Partners	Summer 2004 to Winter 2005
2. Develop State Action Plan Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine Scope and Audiences Based on State Compendium Update ▪ Draft and Publish Guidance 	QSC Members QSC Partners	Winter 2004- Spring 2005
3. Develop Tool Box for States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine Content and Audience based on State Compendium Update (potential tools include clearinghouse, website, peer match, workshop, 	QSC Members QSC Partners	Winter to Spring 2005
4. Develop State Strategy for Safe Long-term Storage of Mercury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop Draft Strategy ▪ Obtain Comments Draft with Interested Parties ▪ Publish Final Strategy 	QSC Members QSC Partners	2005

Actions and Activities	Key Tasks	Participants	Target Date
B. Educate and Engage Key Public and Private Sector Leaders			
1. Educate and Inform US EPA Administrator	→ Update at ECOS—US EPA Meetings → Send Letters as Appropriate	ECOS Officers	On-going as Appropriate
2. Educate and Inform Environmental Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update through ECOS Weekly ▪ Update at ECOS Annual and Spring Meeting ▪ Send Other Communications as Appropriate 	QSC Steering Committee	On-going as Appropriate
3. Educate and Inform Legislators and Congress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update though various means as appropriate 	ECOS Officers and Members	On-going as Appropriate
4. Educate and Inform NGOs and Private Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hold Conference calls 	QSC Steering Committee	On-going as Appropriate
C. Plan and Hold Technical Workshops			
1. Collection Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine Need Based on State Compendium Update 		Winter 2004-05
2. Control Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine Need Based on State Compendium Update 		Winter 2004-05
3. Product Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine Need Based on State Compendium Update 		Winter 2004-05
4. Dental Amalgam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine Need Based on State Compendium Update 		Winter 2004-05
5. Products and Waste Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with NEWMOA to Plan ▪ Hold Workshop 	QSC Members QSC Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fall 2004 ▪ Spring 2005
D. Position QSC to Implement Action Plan			
1. Recommit state leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek Participants for QSC Implementation Teams ▪ Develop List of State Contacts though State Survey 	QSC Steering Committee	July/August 2004

Actions and Activities	Key Tasks	Participants	Target Date
2. Enhance and expand QSC Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify Potential New Partners ▪ Communicate with Potential New Partners 	QSC Steering Committee	September 2004
3. Organize QSC Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Form Implementation Teams ▪ Provide Logistics for QSC Teams 	QSC Steering Committee ECOS Staff	August 2004 Ongoing
4. Obtain funding for QSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revise Grant Documents ▪ Maintain Contact with US EPA 	ECOS Staff QSC members	July/Aug 2004
E. Plan and Hold Third Educational Workshop for States			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Form Planning Teams ▪ Hold Workshop 	QSC Steering Committee	Spring 2005 Fall 2005

II. A National Framework Is Required

Guiding Principles

- Interim Storage and Long-term Management of Public (e.g. Stockpiles) and Private (e.g., from closures and collections) Elemental Mercury Is a Federal Responsibility
- Mercury in the Environment Is a Global Issue and Requires United States Leadership In Developing Reduction Strategies

Key Elements of a Federal Framework

- Create Interim Solutions For Storing and Managing Federal (DOD and DOE) and Private Mercury Stockpiles
- Develop a National Strategy for Mercury-impaired Waters (US EPA)
- Establish Air Emission Standards (US EPA)
- US EPA articulate a goal of substantially reducing mercury discharges to the environment at the national and international levels
- US EPA, working with States and Tribes as partners as well as industry, environmental and other groups to develop appropriate strategies and initiatives to achieve the stated goal

Key Quicksilver Caucus Actions

Actions and Activities	Key Tasks	Participants	Target Date
A. Continue to Support National Leadership to Reduce and Safely Manage Mercury in the Environment			
1. Continue to Support the Safe, Long-term Storage of the Federal Mercury Stock Pile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor and Take Action As Appropriate 	QSC Leadership and Steering Committee	Summer 2004
2. Participate in Federally-lead International Actions to Reduce & Manage Mercury in the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Track UNEP and other international actions ▪ Identify States Roles ▪ Seek Opportunities for Involvement 	QSC Members	On-going as Appropriate
B. Foster and Support US EPA Actions			
1. Participate in Federally lead Actions to Reduce Mercury in the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine US EPA Plans for mercury switches in automobiles ▪ Define QSC Role 	QSC Leadership	Summer to Fall 2004
2. Continue to Support Development of a <i>National Mercury Reduction Strategy to Achieve Water Quality Standards</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine US EPA’s Plans for developing this strategy ▪ Work with US EPA if they move forward to Develop a National Strategy ▪ Support MA, ME, and RI Proposal to Use Section 4b or 4d of the Clean Water Act to Reduce Mercury 	QSC Leadership and Steering Committee	Summer to Fall 2004