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ENV/CVN/MINA/MER



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28 January 2014

Mr. Jacob Duer
Coordinator, Minamata Convention Interim Secretariat
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
CH 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva,
Switzerland

Dear Sir,

Preparation for the work of the expert group to develop guidance called for in Article 8 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

We refer to your letter dated 4 November 2013, Ref: DTIE/TK/Mercury-Govt, concerning the submission of information for the group of technical experts to develop the guidance called for in Article 8 of the Minamata Convention. Please find below the information submitted for Mauritius;

2. An inventory carried out in 2013 revealed that there are two main sources of mercury in Mauritius namely: (1) use and disposal of mercury containing products (such as thermometers, light sources, sphygmomanometers, chemical compounds etc) and (2) coal combustion and other coal uses. Concerning the first main source (1) there is presently no major control mechanism in place but this will be eventually addressed.
3. Concerning the second main source (2), emissions from coal power plants and other industries using coal-fired boilers; the following Development Control Mechanisms are in placed:
 - **Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)** ensures good environmental practices and addresses issues such as air pollution abatement, air monitoring and coal ash management;
 - **Land Use Planning** helps to identify the appropriate site for the facility so that the emission impacts on the neighborhoods are minimised;
 - **Industrial Wastes Audit Regulation** prompts industries to be self-compliant and more efficient in terms of resources used and wastes generated; and
 - **Monitoring and Enforcement** ensure that industries comply with the standards in place. Monitoring includes self-monitoring by the proponents and cross-verifications by our National Environmental Laboratory. Presently our air emission standard does not include mercury but this is being addressed during amendment of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) which is in underway

4. With regards to best available techniques, some of the technologies used by industries to monitor and control emissions of mercury into the atmosphere are:

Continuous online monitoring

Stack emissions are analysed on a continuous basis for parameters such as PM, SO₂, NO, NO_x, CO and O₂ through an online analyser.

Technologies used to reduce air emissions

- The technologies used by thermal power plants are high performance electrostatic precipitators for the post combustion treatment of flue gas prior to stack release; and
 - New energy efficient equipment are used that enable a reduction in the quantity of coal used thus reducing emissions into the atmosphere.
5. We remain available for any further clarification.

Yours faithfully,



**R. Beedassy
for Permanent Secretary**