

## **Mercury Reduction Policy**

Mercury is a persistent bioaccumulative toxic. It poses a hazard to faculty, staff, and students through inhalation of vapor, direct skin contact, and ingestion. Additionally, once released to the environment, mercury migrates to waterways where bacteria methylate the metal to form methyl mercury, which is more toxic and may enter the food chain more rapidly. Indiana is the third ranking state in the nation for the number of fish advisories due to mercury. The Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy, signed by Canada and the United States in April 1997, sets a goal of virtual elimination of mercury with significant measurable results by 2006.

The Chemical Management Committee (CMC) strongly believes the University Community has a clear responsibility to protect human health and the environment. In support of the Great Lakes Binational Strategy and in an effort to demonstrate leadership in the protection of human health and the environment, The CMC hereby establishes policy that all faculty, staff, and students eliminate the use of mercury, mercury compounds, and mercury devices where practicable by the year 2006.