



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Paul E. Sparkman, Jr.

Symmetry Medical

Since first introduced to the National Partnership for Environmental Priorities Program (NPEP) in 2010, Paul Sparkman has worked with the three Symmetry plants in Warsaw, Indiana and with the Symmetry plant in Lansing, Michigan, to successfully phase-out and recycle mercury containing devices in each facility.

With the support of Symmetry Medical leadership, Paul identified the potential dangers of having mercury containing devices on site and completed an initial inventory of all mercury devices. Once the inventory was completed, a schedule for replacement was established and appropriate recycling and disposal occurred.

As a result of Paul's actions, Symmetry Medical was able to recycle over 5 pounds of mercury, raise awareness in other Symmetry plants and eliminate the potential liability of a mercury spill at Symmetry's Warsaw locations.

The U.S. EPA looks forward to working with Paul and Symmetry Medical to advance the reduction of priority chemicals and to identify future sustainable materials management activities.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
RESOURCE CONSERVATION
AND RECOVERY

JUN 1 2011

Dear National Partnership for Environmental Priorities Partner,

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP), I would like to congratulate your organization on your chemical reduction achievements. More than 280 public and private organizations have reduced 42 million pounds of chemicals and promoted responsible chemical management as members of NPEP. Your chemical management work has a positive environmental and human health impact, enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations.

Your environmental leadership has demonstrated that chemical management can improve an organization's environmental and economic performance. We encourage and challenge you to reach outside your organization and work with your supply chain to continue to promote chemical management to improve your local environments, and ultimately our shared environment. We look forward to working with you in the future to further promote EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne Rudzinski".

Suzanne Rudzinski
Director, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

Symmetry Medical, Inc. located in Lansing, Michigan, Awarded by the US EPA

Symmetry Medical, Inc. in Lansing, Michigan is being recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for mercury reductions taken at their plant. These reductions were achieved as part of the National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP) program, which is a voluntary reduction program. The NPEP program is focused on promoting source reduction, working to identify environmentally preferable alternatives, fostering technology transfer, and cultivating collaborative relationships between EPA and public and private organizations. NPEP partners reduced over 30 million lbs of priority and other potentially hazardous chemicals since the program began in 2004.

Symmetry's, Ted Clark completed an inventory of mercury containing devices at the facility in Lansing. The company made a decision to move forward with the replacement of these devices with non-mercury containing products. As a result of Symmetry's efforts, 2 lbs of mercury was removed from the facility.

While 2 lbs of mercury may not seem like much, we should point out, that this can be a very dangerous chemical. Mercury is a metal contained in many consumer and commercial products. Some products, such as mercury thermometers, can easily break, potentially causing exposure to mercury vapor. Depending on the amount of exposure, mercury vapor absorbed through the lungs may result in adverse health effects.

Symmetry Medical has demonstrated that chemical management can improve an organization's environmental and economic performance. The goal to eliminate mercury at the Symmetry plant, helped to raise awareness regarding the dangers of mercury to both human health and the environment.

(See attached file: 2011npep letter rescan.pdf)

Janet L. Haff
Waste Minimization Coordinator
U.S. EPA - Region 5
312-353-7923