



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS P. SCOTT, DIRECTOR

June 9, 2006

Dear Illinois Vehicle Recycler/Dismantler:

On April 22, 2006, Governor Blagojevich signed into law HB 5578, the Mercury Switch Removal Act. This law will establish a statewide program to collect mercury switches from scrap vehicles before they are crushed and shredded for recycling. The law was supported by trade associations representing auto recyclers, scrap metal processors, steel companies, environmental groups as well as Illinois EPA.

Pellet-size mercury switches can be found in anti-lock brakes and in convenience lights in trunks and hoods of vehicles built as late as the 2002 model year. The End of Life Vehicle Solutions Corporation (ELVS), which was created by the auto industry, will be sending collection buckets to Illinois vehicle recyclers and dismantlers to help them set up mercury switch collection programs. You will also receive educational materials on vehicle models that contain mercury switches, location of the switches and removal procedures. ELVS will arrange for the shipping and recycling of the mercury switches collected at your facility free of charge.

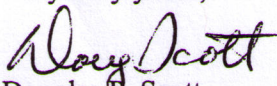
While participation in the Illinois Mercury Switch Recovery Program is voluntary, I want to encourage you to take part in this important environmental initiative. It has been estimated that 35 million switches are currently being used in vehicles and some automobiles have multiple switches. The mercury from the switches may be released into the environment when scrap vehicles are crushed, shredded, or melted for recycling.

By collecting mercury switches from scrap vehicles, you will be playing a front-line role in reducing a significant source of mercury entering the environment. Mercury released into the air can accumulate in humans and wildlife. Children and fetuses are particularly vulnerable to the effects of this toxic metal, which can damage the development of the nervous system. State public health officials have issued fish consumption advisories, warning pregnant women, nursing mothers, women of child-bearing years and young children to limit their intake of predator fish caught in Illinois lakes and rivers.

If you have any questions about the Illinois Mercury Switch Recovery Program, please contact Kevin Greene, Illinois EPA Office of Pollution Prevention, at (217) 785-0833. You may also contact Michelle Lechner, Auto and Truck Recyclers of Illinois, at (877) 880-2874.

I urge you to participate in this program and want to thank you in advance for your efforts to help prevent mercury contamination of our environment.

Very truly yours,


Douglas P. Scott
Director