

STATE OF MICHIGAN



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

"Better Service for a Better Environment"

HOLLISTER BUILDING, PO BOX 30473, LANSING MI 48909-7973

INTERNET: www.deq.state.mi.us

RUSSELL J. HARDING, Director

April 20, 2001

Dear Educator:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide you with important information regarding a new law P.A. 376 of 2000, which requires Michigan's public and private K-12 schools to phase out mercury use in the classroom and the health (nurse's) office. Under the new law, school officials will have until December 31, 2004, to ensure that they no longer purchase, store, or use any mercury or mercury-containing instruments.

The enclosed document, developed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, will provide you with all the information necessary to safely identify, secure and properly dispose of mercury from your school. Please forward this information on to the individual(s) who will be responsible for carrying out this task.

If you need additional copies of the enclosed "Mercury Elimination Guidelines" or need additional information, please visit the Department of Environmental Quality Website at: www.deq.state.mi.us/ead/p2sect/mercury/schools.htm or call: the Environmental Assistance Center (800) 662-9278, regarding disposal and pollution prevention alternatives, or the Environmental Education Coordinator (517) 335-6928, for additional educational resources available to educators.

Thank you for your assistance in complying with this new law. Your efforts will ensure that the classrooms and health office in your school are "virtually" mercury-free.

Sincerely,

Russell J. Harding
Director
Department of Environmental Quality

Arthur E. Ellis
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Department of Education

Enclosure