

22 August 1997

Re: NEPA Technical Inquiry 0113 - Fluorescent Light Tube Disposal

Dear NEPA Call-In User:

This letter is in response to your June 29, 1997 request for the article, "Congress Urges U.S. EPA to Take Action on Recycling Mercury-Containing Lamps," Recycling Times, June 23, 1997.

NEPA Call-In is enclosing a copy of the article which discusses a proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule to add fluorescent light tubes to the EPA's Universal Waste Rule and exempt fluorescent light tubes from hazardous waste regulations. The article also states a concurrent resolution is pending in Congress which urges EPA to:

1. Immediately release a study of mercury that has been under review by the Science Advisory Board since the study's completion in 1995;
2. Initiate a pilot program for landfill air emission tests for mercury; and
3. Include mercury in Universal Waste Rules that foster mercury recycling.

The article also states that current EPA regulations require fluorescent light tubes to be considered hazardous waste if they do not pass EPA's Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test.

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Sincerely,

(Original Signed)

NEPA Call-In Researcher