



November 28, 2006

Dear Missouri Vehicle Recycler/Dismantler:

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources would like to ask you for your help. The department is concerned with mercury contamination in Missouri. Mercury is extremely toxic to humans and can affect the central nervous system. If mercury is not properly collected and managed, it can also affect our environment.

Fish tissue sampling indicates that mercury contamination is widespread and present in fish throughout Missouri. Each year, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services issues an advisory for fish consumption. Anyone eating fish contaminated with mercury can be affected, especially pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under 13 years old.

The department is taking a multi-faceted approach and looking for ways to address mercury contamination. One approach is to remove mercury switches from scrap vehicles before recycling them, which is where you come into the picture. You can find pellet-sized mercury switches in the lights under trunk and hood compartments and in anti-lock brakes of some vehicles built as late as the 2002 model year. By collecting mercury switches from scrap vehicles, you will be playing a critical role in protecting our health and environment.

Removing mercury switches before they are crushed, shredded or melted for recycling will help eliminate additional releases of mercury. The National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program was formed as a result of an agreement reached in August 2006 by representatives from the dismantlers, automotive steel and scrap industries, environmental groups and a national group representing state governments and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

As part of the program, the auto industry organized the End of Life Vehicle Solutions (ELVS), a not for profit corporation. Participation in this program is voluntary. However, it is important to note that ELVS will send collection buckets to you and arrange for the shipping and recycling of the mercury switches collected at your facility at **no cost to you**.

Please consider taking part in this program and return the enclosed postage-paid, self-addressed collection bucket request card to ELVS. You will receive a collection bucket, educational materials, a list of vehicles that potentially contain mercury switches, and detailed instructions for shipping the ELVS buckets. When you are ready to return your full bucket of switches free of charge, you will receive another replacement bucket at no cost to you.

If you have any questions about the ELVS program, please call toll-free at (877) 225-ELVS(3587), or send an e-mail to info@elvsolutions.org or visit the Web at www.elvsolutions.org.

Sincerely,

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Original signed by Doyle Childers

Doyle Childers

Director

dc:epr

Enclosure

c: Earl Pabst, Deputy Director, Division of Environmental Quality
Mary Bills, End of Life Vehicle Solutions