



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Twin Towers Office Building
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Colleen M. Castillo
Secretary

October 13, 2006

Dear Florida Vehicle Recycler/Dismantler:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has been concerned with mercury contamination and emissions for many years. Airborne mercury can accumulate in humans and wildlife, prompting the Florida Department of Health to issue fish consumption advisories, warning pregnant women, nursing mothers, women of child-bearing years and young children to limit their intake of certain fish caught in Florida lakes and rivers.

The Department has conducted extensive research into the sources of mercury emissions and instituted advanced technology controls, which have shown a decrease in mercury emissions from the major emission sources over the last ten years. The Department would like your help in eliminating even more mercury from the environment by removing mercury switches from scrap vehicles prior to recycling them. By collecting mercury switches from scrap vehicles, you will be playing a critical role in reducing a significant source of mercury air emissions.

Pellet-sized mercury switches can be found in convenience lights in trunks and hoods, as well as some anti-lock brakes of certain pre-2002 vehicles. In August 2006, the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program (NVMSRP) was approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the auto industry, environmental groups and a national group representing state governments. As part of the NVMSRP, the End of Life Vehicle Solutions Corporation (ELVS), an organization created by the auto industry, would like to send collection buckets to Florida vehicle recyclers and dismantlers who would like to participate in the national program and establish mercury switch collection programs. ELVS will arrange for the shipping and recycling of the mercury switches collected at your facility at no cost to you.

While participation in the NVMSRP is voluntary, I encourage you to take part in this important environmental initiative. It is estimated that there are 35 million automotive mercury switches currently in vehicles today. The mercury from the switches may be released into the environment when scrap vehicles are crushed, shredded, or melted for recycling. This environmental hazard could be avoided in the mere 48 seconds it takes to remove a convenience lighting switch.

Please return the postage-paid self-addressed collection bucket request card to ELVS if you would like to receive a free convenience switch collection bucket for your facility. If you have any questions about ELVS' program, please call toll-free (877) 225-ELVS or via email at info@elvsolutions.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Sole".

Michael W. Sole
Deputy Secretary

"More Protection, Less Process" ®