New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233 - 7010

Thomas C. Jorling Commissioner

FILE COPY

Octuber 25, 1989

Environmental Services Division City of Colorado Springs 102 S. Weber P. O. Box 1103 Colorado Springs, CO 80947

Dear Sirs:

Re: Freedom of Information/ Public Records Request No. 89/282 Mercury Refining Co. Site Albany County Site I.D. No. 401025

Pursuant to your request dated September 25, 1989, I am transmitting herewith, copies of Orders on Consent dated August 1985 and June 1989 regarding the above-referenced site. I have coordinated acquisition of other documents, i.e. permits, from other Divisions of the Department and have been advised they are not available. The facilities RCRA Part B Permit has been called-in and is pending review.

The enclosed Consent Orders deal with past disposal and operational practices. The facility is currently meeting its obligations as mandated in the Orders.

You may wish to resubmit a request to obtain the status of their RCRA Part B Permit at sometime in early 1990.

I hope the information is of some value to you, if you need clarification feel free to contact the undersigned at (518) 457-5637.

Sincerely,

Susand. M. Cormick, P.E. for

James N. Ludlam

Senior Sanitary Engineer

Senior Sanitary Engineer Central Technical Support Section Bureau of Eastern Remedial Action

Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation

Enclosure

cc: K. Davis, B/HSC - Room 220

T. Rider, Location Code 2751

R. Murphy, DHSR

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DIVIDED OF TARTERS REPORTED ACTION

STATE OF NEW YORK: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

In the Matter of the Abatement of a Condition Likely to Cause Irreversible Damage to Natural Resources Pursuant to Article 71 of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York (ECL), and of the Alleged Violations of ECL Articles 11, 17, 19 and 27 by:

ORDER ON CONSENT

MERCURY REFINING COMPANY, INC.

Respondent.

WHEREAS,

- 1. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (the "Department") is responsible for enforcement of Articles 11 ("Fish and Wildlife Law"), 17 ("Water Pollution Control Act"), 19 ("Air Pollution Control Act"), and 27 ("Collection, Treatment and Disposal of Refuse and Other Solid Waste") of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York ("ECL") and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.
- 2. Mercury Refining Company, Inc. ("Respondent"), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, operates a mercury recycling facility at 26 Railroad Avenue in the Town of Colonie and Guilderland, New York (the "Site").
- 3. Pursuant to a Consent Judgment ("Consent Judgment") entered into between Respondent and the State of New York in a matter entitled: State of New York v. Mercury Refining Company, Inc. and Martin Corbell Associates, Inc., Index No.



83-CV-1054, in September, 1985, (the "Superfund Action"), Respondent implemented a remedial program at the Site which provided for, inter alia, the excavation and removal of mercury contaminated soil from the Site.

- 4. The Department alleges that the results of recent sampling at the Site, and areas in the vicinity of the Site including, but not limited to Patroons Creek, have demonstrated that Respondent's mercury recycling facility is a source of continuing releases of mercury into the environment.
- 5. The Department alleges that mercury released from Respondent's facility has entered Patroons Creek in quantities which may be injurious to invertebrates, fish life, protected wildlife and waterfowl inhabiting those waters, thereby resulting in a violation of ECL \$11-0503(1).
- 6. The Department alleges that mercury released from Respondent's facility has contaminated storm water on and in the vicinity of the Site. The Department further alleges that the storm water systems on and adjacent to the Site have discharged mercury-contaminated storm water into Patroons Creek from two point sources at the Site and that Respondent does not possess a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for either of those discharges, thereby resulting in a violation of ECL \$17-0807.
- 7. The Department alleges that mercury and other contaminants released into the environment through air

emissions from Respondent's facility are of such quantity, characteristic and duration as to be injurious to human health and/or the environment, thereby resulting in a violation of 6 NYCRR 211.2 (promulgated pursuant to ECL Article 19).

- 8. Pursuant to ECL §71-0301, the Department alleges that continuing releases of mercury from Respondent's facility are likely to result in irreversible or irreparable damage to natural resources and that the alleged releases must be abated.
- 9. The Site is an inactive hazardous waste disposal site, as that term is defined in ECL Section 27-1301(2), and has been listed in the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste is sposal Sites in New York State as Site Number 401025.
- 10. Pursuant to ECL Section 27-1305, the Site has been classified as a classification "4". As a result of that classification, the Department alleges action is required, both on-Site and off-Site, to evaluate and address areas and resources impacted by the recent releases of mercury from Respondent's facility.
 - 11. The Department and the Respondent acknowledge that the goals of this Order are:
 - a. to eliminate the discharge of mercury into Patroons Creek from the two point sources at Respondent's facility;
 - b. to evaluate and abate any unauthorized migration

of mercury or other contaminants from Respondent's facility;

- c. to identify and remediate areas of mercury contamination, in specific areas on-Site and off-Site, which may pose a significant threat to human health and/or the environment;
- d. to identify mercury contaminated sediments in Patroons Creek; and
- e. to investigate the impact of mercury contamination on terrestial and aquatic biota on-Site and off-Site.
- or the allegations of fact herein, hereby waives its right to a hearing in this matter in the manner provided by law, and consents to the issuance and entry of this Order and agrees to be bound by its terms.

NOW, THEREFORE, having considered this matter and being duly advised, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

I. All investigations, proposals, reports, plans, remedial programs, and supplements and revisions thereto required by this Order shall be prepared, designed and executed in accordance with "Requisite Technology". As used in this Order, Requisite Technology means engineering, scientific and construction principles and practices which

- (a) are technologically feasible; and (b) will most cost effectively abate and/or eliminate any significant threat to human health and/or the environment. The scheduling of activities hereunder shall be done in such a way to minimize the need to repeat cleanup activities while ensuring that releases of mercury are abated in an expeditious manner.
- II. The Department shall approve or disapprove, in writing, each of the submittals set forth in the table below.

Table No. 1 Submittals

Submittal	Consent Order	Days to	Days to
	Paragraph	Prepare	Resubmit
Proposal	IV	45	15
Evaluation	V	45	30

If the Department approves a submittal, it shall so notify Respondent in writing. The Department's approval shall constitute acknowledgement that the submittal fulfills the conditions and requirements for the development of that submittal that are contained in this Order. The approved submittal shall be appended to this Order and shall become an enforceable part hereof.

If the Department disapproves a submittal, it shall so notify Respondent in writing, and shall state the reasons

therefor. Within the time limits set forth by Table No. 1 herein, Respondent shall revise and resubmit the submittal, addressing each of the Department's objections. The Department shall either approve or disapprove the revised submittal in writing.

If the Department approves the revised submittal, it shall so notify Respondent in writing. The Department's approval shall constitute acknowledgement that the submittal fulfills the conditions and requirements for the development of that submittal that are contained in this Order. The approved, revised submittal shall be appended to this Order and shall become an enforceable part hereof.

submittal, it shall so notify Respondent in writing, and shall state the reasons therefor. If within the following 15 days the parties cannot resolve their differences, either the Respondent or the Department may request that the dispute be settled in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Paragraph III of this Order. Based on the Respondent's failure to submit an approvable document, the Department may consider the Respondent to be in violation of this Order and may take appropriate action to enforce its terms. Respondent reserves its right to contest the same.

III. At the written request of either the Respondent or the Department, based on a dispute concerning the terms of a revised submittal, the Commissioner will appoint an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to settle the matter.

If the ALJ deems it necessary to convene a hearing, the taking of evidence shall be concluded as soon as practicable after the ALJ's appointment. In all proceedings hereunder:

1. The parties shall be the Department and the Respondent.

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- 2. Notice shall be provided to the other party by the party requesting resolution of the dispute.
- 3. The burden of going forward shall be on the moving party.
- 4. The ALJ shall have all powers conferred by 6 NYCRR 622.12.
- 5. All proceedings conducted hereunder shall be stenographically recorded. Respondent shall arrange for an stenographic transcript to be made, and for the original and two copies of the transcript to be delivered to the ALJ at the expense of Respondent.
 - 6. The ALJ shall prepare, within 45 working days after receipt of the transcript of the proceeding, a written summary of the documentation and testimony received during

the proceeding, and a recommended decision. The summary and recommended decision shall_be hand-delivered to the Department's representative and sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, and another copy by Express Mail, to Respondent.

- 7. The ALJ's recommended decision shall become the final determination of the Commissioner unless, within 10 working days from receipt of the recommended decision, either Respondent or the Department objects in writing. Any objections shall be submitted in writing to the ALJ with a copy sent by Express Mail, telecopier or hand-delivery to the other party, which shall serve and file in the same manner its response, if any, within 5 working days of receipt of the objections. Upon receipt of the objections and any response, the ALJ shall refer the matter to the Commissioner for final determination.
- 8. The final determination by the Commissioner shall be made as soon as practicable after receipt by him of the recommended decision by the ALJ.
- IV. Respondent shall commence cleanup of sediments from the impacted portion of the storm sewer catch basins and conveyance lines which the Department alleges are discharging mercury-contaminated storm water into Patroons Creek within 15 days after the effective date of this Order, and shall, 45 days thereafter, submit to the Department a proposal to improve the storm sewer facilities to abate, to

the extent feasible, the alleged discharge of mercury-contaminated storm water from the storm sewer systems and to improve runoff control to abate, to the extent feasible, contaminant migration off-Site in storm water. The Proposal shall contain a schedule for the expeditious implementation of those measures. Respondent shall implement the Proposal as approved by the Department or, in the event of a dispute, as decided in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph "III" of this Order. The Proposal shall be reviewed and certified by a professional engineer who is licensed to practice in the State of New York.

- V. Within 45 days after the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall submit to the Department an evaluation of the potential sources of mercury surface or airborne migration at, and from Respondent's facility (the "Evaluation"). The Evaluation shall address, but shall not be limited to:
 - a. roofs and other above-ground surface areas;
 - b. mercury handling and storage areas, both present and historical;
 - c. mercury handling practices;
 - d. mercury spill cleanup practices;
 - e. other on-site areas;
 - f. air emission sources (including vents); and
 - g. employee practices

The Evaluation shall also include proposed measures to permanently abate mercury migration from the facility. Respondent shall propose, as part of the Evaluation, a permanent remedy for the abatement, to the extent required, of mercury emissions from its permitted air source and for the containment and control of its existing plant processes and activities process to eliminate, to the extent feasible, the fugitive mercury emissions presently being released from its facility. The Department reserves the right to require the Respondent to obtain any necessary Department permits for its proposed permanent remedy. If Respondent proposes to replace its existing retort with new equipment, it shall not be allowed to increase, through operation, the input throughput capacity (by weight) of its resort process above existing levels under the authority of this Order. Evaluation shall also contain proposals for a stack test, a i deposition characterization study, and an ambient air concentration study to evaluate whether the implemented measures have or will abate the migration of mercury from the facility, and for an analysis of the retort liquids and residues for PCBs, as well as an implementation schedule for all of the activities to be performed. Respondent shall implement the approved course of action as required by the Department pursuant to this Order or, in the event of a dispute, as decided in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph "III" of this Order. If Respondent fails to

implement the same it shall be in violation of the terms and conditions of this Order. _In addition to the activities proposed in the evaluation, Respondent shall take interim measures, subject to the approval of the Department, to reduce the amount of particulates emitted from its permitted air source and to reduce fugitive emissions from the facility, including, if feasible, the installation of particulate control equipment on the existing stack.

VI. As specified in Appendix "A", which is attached hereto and thereby made an enforceable part of this Order, Respondent shall pay for the investigation of, investigate and/or undertake interim measures to remediate surface areas (including macadam-covered areas) soils, and sediments, both on-Site and off-Site, which are or may be contaminated by releases of mercury from Respondent's facility to the extent specified in Appendix "A". Respondent shall provide the Department with the data developed through any sampling that it undertakes pursuant to this Paragraph.

VII. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall pay to the Department the sum of NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) for the purpose of conducting a study to determine the impact of mercury contamination on terrestial and aquatic biota. The Department shall conduct the study in accordance with Appendix "B", which is attached hereto and thereby made an enforceable part of this Order.

VIII. The Department and the Respondent shall have the right to obtain "split samples", "duplicate samples", or both, of all substances and materials sampled by the other party pursuant to this Order. The parties shall make the results of any such tests available to each other upon request.

- IX. Each party shall provide notice to the other party of any excavating, sampling or other activities, as agreed by the parties, to be conducted pursuant to the terms of this Order at least 5 working days in advance of such activities.
- X. Respondent shall exercise reasonable efforts to obtain whatever easements, rights-of-way, rights-of-entry, approvals or authorizations are necessary in order to perform all of Respondent's obligations pursuant to this Order. For the purposes of this Paragraph, reasonable efforts shall not be construed to require the Respondent to provide compensation for the same. If Respondent's efforts are unsucessful, the Department shall assist the Respondent to the extent that it deems appropriate. So long as Respondent complies with this Paragraph, it shall not be deemed to be in violation for its failure to comply with this Order due to its inability to obtain access.
- XI. Respondent shall permit any duly designated officer, employee, consultant, contractor or agent of the Department to enter upon the Site or areas in the vicinity

of the Site which may be under the control of Respondent, and any areas necessary to-gain access thereto, for purposes of inspection and of making or causing to be made such sampling and tests as the Department deems necessary, and for assurance of Respondent's compliance with the terms of this Order.

XII. The professional consultants, contractors and laboratories retained by Respondent to perform or to assist in performing any engineering, analytical, and certification obligations required by this Order must be acceptable to the Department. Upon request, the Respondent shall provide to the Department the experience, capabilities and qualifications of the firms or individuals selected by Respondent to conduct any of the activities required by this Order.

XIII. Respondent shall not suffer any penalty under any of the terms of this Order, or be subject to any proceeding or actions for any remedy or relief if it cannot comply with any requirements hereof because of an act of God, war, or other condition as to which negligence or willful misconduct on the part of the Respondent was not a proximate cause, provided, however, that Respondent shall immediately notify the Department in writing when it obtains knowledge of any such condition and request an extension or modification of the terms of this Order.

XIV. The failure of Respondent to comply with any term

of this Order shall constitute a default and a failure to perform an obligation under this Order and under the ECL.

XV. Except as provided in Paragraph "27", nothing contained in this Order shall be construed as barring, diminishing, adjudicating or in any way affecting any of the Department's rights including, but not limited to the following:

- a. any legal or equitable rights or claims, actions, suits, causes of action or demands whatsoever that the Department may have against anyone other than Respondent; and
- b. the Department's right to enforce at law or in equity the terms and conditions of this Order against Respondent in the event that Respondent shall fail to satisfy any of the terms hereof.

XVI. The terms of this Order shall not be construed to prohibit the Commissioner or his duly authorized representative from exercising any summary abatement powers, either at common law or as granted pursuant to statute or regulation.

XVII. Respondent shall indemnify and hold the

Department, the State of New York, and their representatives
and employees harmless for all claims, suits, actions,
damages and costs of every name and description arising out
of or resulting from the willful or negligent acts or
omisssions of Respondent in the fulfillment or attempted

fulfillment of the terms of this Order by Respondent, its directors, officers, employees, servants, agents, successors or assigns.

XVIII. The effective date of this Order shall be the date Respondent is served with a conformed copy of this Order.

XIX. If the Respondent desires that any terms of this Order be changed, Respondent shall make timely written application to the Commissioner, setting forth reasonable grounds for the relief sought. The Department shall not unreasonably deny any such request.

- XX. A. All communication required by this Order to be made between the Department and Respondents shall be made in writing.
- B. Communication to be made from Respondents to the Department shall be made as follows:
- One copy to the Division of
 Hazardous Waste Remediation, Room 212, 50 Wolf Road, Albany,
 New York 12233, Attn: Michael J. O'Toole, Jr., Director.
- 2. One copy to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 4, 2176 Guilderland Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12306 Attn: Regional Director.
- 3. One copy to the NYS Department of Health, Attn: Ronald Tramontano, 2 University Place, Albany, New York 12203.

- 4. Two copies to the Division of Hazardous Substances Regulation, Room 228, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233, Attn: Paul Counterman.
- C. Communication from the Department to
 Respondents shall be sent to: One copy to Mercury Refining
 Company, Inc., Attn: Leo Cohen, 790 Watervliet-Shaker Road,
 Latham, New York 12110, with a copy to Kevin M. Young, Esq.,
 Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna, One Commerce Plaza, Albany,
 New York 12260.
 - D. The Department and Respondents respectively reserve the right to designate other or different addresses on notice to the other.
 - XXI. The terms of this Order shall be deemed to bind the Respondent. Respondent shall ensure that its officers, agents, servants, successors and assigns comply with this Order.

XXII. Nothing herein shall be construed to bind any entity not specifically bound by the terms of this Order.

XXIII. All activities required by this Order shall be exempt under SEQRA pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.2 (q)(1) and, except as specifically provided herein, shall comply with all substantive technical requirements established by state or federal law that would otherwise be embodied in a permit issued by the state. Approval for such activities shall continue in effect for a period of time equivalent to the duration of a permit. Any subsequent application for a

permit to conduct the same activity shall be deemed an application for a permit renewal.

XXIV. The terms hereof shall constitute the complete and entire Order between the Respondent and the Department concerning the alleged violations. No terms, conditions, understandings or agreements purporting to modify or vary the terms hereof shall be binding unless made in writing and subscribed by the party to be bound. No verbal advice, guidance, suggestions or comments by the Department regarding reports, proposals, plans, specifications, schedules or any other writing submitted by Respondent shall be construed as relieving Respondent of its obligations to obtain such written approvals as may be required by this Order.

XXV. The terms and conditions of this Order shall not create any presumption of law or findings of fact which shall inure to or be for the benefit of any person other than the parties hereto.

XXVI. Respondent reserves the right to move the Court in the State of New York v. Mercury Refining Company, Inc. and Martin Corbell Associates, Inc., Index No. 83-CV-1054 to modify the Consent Judgment to incorporate the terms and conditions of this Order. The Department reserves all of its rights in connection with any such motion, but agrees to consider Respondent's good faith compliance with the Order and the objectives of the Order in evaluating its position with respect to the motion.

XXVII. Provided that Respondent complies with the terms and conditions of this Order, in its decision as to whether to bring any future enforcement proceeding and in any future enforcement proceeding for matters addressed in this Consent Order, the Department will consider Respondent's good faith compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order and its good faith efforts to achieve the objectives of this Order in mitigation of any penalty sought through such action.

DATED: ALBANY , New York

June 9 , 1989

THOMAS C. JORLING Commissioner

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

CONSENT BY RESPONDENT

Respondent hereby consents to the issuing and entering of this Order, waives its right to a hearing herein as provided by law, and agrees to be bound by the provisions, terms and conditions contained in this Order.

MERCURY REFINING CORPORATION, INC.
By: It I'lly
by
Title:
Date: 6/9/89
STATE OF NEW YORK)
) s.s.:
COUNTY OF Albany) s.s.:
on this 4th day of Juve, 1981,
on this 9th day of Juve, 1981,
before me personally came for the control of the co
to me known, who being duly sworn did depose and say that he
resides in <u>Albany, 9120 York</u> ; that he is the
President 1 of the Minus Refinir Co. inc
corporation described in and which executed the foregoing
instrument; that he knew the seal of said corporation that
the seal affixed to said instrument was such corporate seal;
that it was so affixed by the Order of the Board of Directors
of said corporation, and that he signed his name thereto by
like order.
No. 111
lem III Van
Notary Public
D. Co. 11/3/90
1000
12 m. Co. 1113190

APPENDIX "A"

1. ADJACENT LAND SURFICIAL CLEANUP (EAST OF SITE)

Within 45 days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall commence:

- a. implementation of cleanup measures, subject to the Department's approval, for sediments from existing gutters and runoff pathways leading to the off-site storm drain inlet;
- excavation of earthen areas along Respondent's eastern property fence line and replace with a concrete or paved surface;
- c. implementation of cleanup measures, subject to the Department's approval, of impacted portions of DJ's paved surface.

After the cleanup measures are completed, Respondent shall take and analyze four samples, pursuant to a sampling plan approved by the Department, to confirm the adjacent land surficial cleanup. Thereafter, Respondent shall monitor the surface of the adjacent land east of the site referred to in the paragraph above on a quarterly basis, pursuant to a monitoring plan approved by the Department and similar to the confirmatory sampling plan, until such time as Respondent implements a permanent solution to eliminate unauthorized emissions from its facility.

2. ADJACENT LAND SURFICIAL CLEANUP (WEST OF SITE)

Within 60 days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall develop and commence areal cleanup measures, subject to the approval of the Department, of surficial contamination near the west property walk gate, and shall install a concrete or paved surface over that area. After the cleanup measures are completed and before the installation of the concrete or pavement, Respondent shall take and analyze at two samples, pursuant to a sampling plan approved by the Department, to confirm the adjacent land cleanup. Thereafter, Respondent shall monitor the surface of the adjacent land west of the site referred to in this paragraph on a quarterly basis, pursuant to a monitoring plan approved by the Department and similar to the the confirmatory sampling plan, until such time as Respondent implements a permanent solution to eliminate unauthorized emissions from the facility.

3. PRELIMINARY OFF-SITE INVESTIGATION

Within 60 days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall pay to the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000.00) for the costs associated with the Department's developing and implementing a work plan for taking and analyzing up to 60 samples of off-site environmental matrices. The matrices will include soil, sediment and/or water.

4. SAMPLING PARAMETERS

All samples taken by the Respondent pursuant to this Order shall be analyzed for mercury and those other metals the Department alleges may be released by Respondent (i.e., cadmium, chromium, lead, silver and zinc) that are deemed appropriate and necessary by the Department.

APPENDIX "B"

SAMPLING OF BIOTA IN THE VICINITY OF THE MERCURY REFINING ON RAILROAD AVENUE AND IN THE PATROON CREEK

Initial terrestrial sampling of biota will be carried out in a study to be designed for the lands south and southeast of the Mercury Refining Company. This area lies between the railroad tracks and the highway I-90. Mercury levels above background (1-5 ppm; dry weight) have been identified in soil from this area. An ecologically comparable but mercury uncontaminated control site will be chosen to collect control samples of fauna.

The aquatic study will involve sampling in Patroon Creek adjacent to Mercury Refining Company. A suitable upstream area will be identified as a control study area.

Terrestrial insects (avoiding Karner Blue Butterflies) will be collected with sweep nets; aquatic insects, adult anurans and tadpoles with aquatic nets and by hand; snapping turtles with aquatic nets and hoop nets; and fish with hoop nets and seines. Snap traps and pit traps will be used to capture mice, voles, and shrews.

Terrestrial and aquatic insects, and tadpoles will be analyzed for mercury intact.

Alimentary canals will be removed from adult anurans and fish. Livers and kidneys will be taken for mercury analyses from fish, adult anurans, reptiles and mice. Shrews are too small to provide an adequate sample quantity for mercury analyses of liver and kidneys and these mammals will be run for mercury on a carcass basis with the liver and kidneys included. Other adult anuran, reptile and mammal carcasses (alimentary canal, kidneys, liver, skin, fast, fails removed) will be analyzed for mercury. In fish samples the standard fillet of the DEC Bureau of Environmental Protection will be analyzed for mercury in addition to the separate analyses of the liver and pooled kidneys.

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This scientific investigation will involve the following approximate total sample numbers and costs.

		Total Number of Mercury Analyses
(1)	Terrestrial Insects (6 pools)	6
(2)	Aquatic Insects (6 pools)	6
(3)	15 Fish	45
(4)	Anurans (15)	45
(5)	Reptiles (4)	12
(6)	Small Mammals (20)	60
	Total Mercury Analyses	174

The Wildlife Pathology Unit will provide standard wildlife pathology unit procedures, and proper QA/QC will be applied throughout the study. The Wildlife Pathology Unit has the personnel to carry out the study and provide a written report by the end of July 1989 if funding is available.