

**EVTAC Mining  
Voluntary Agreement with MPCA for Mercury Emissions Reduction  
March 30, 2000**

**1. Statement to participate in the Voluntary Agreement Program.**

EVTAC Mining continues to support mercury reduction efforts that will help reduce human health risk and improve the environment. This Voluntary Agreement contains three major efforts by EVTAC: 1. Mercury balance, 2. Mercury inventory, and 3. Community mercury reduction effort. The mercury balance will be used to determine possible methods of mercury reduction in the processing of iron ore. The mercury inventory and community mercury reduction efforts will lead to removal of mercury from waste streams that may contaminate the environment. The Community mercury reduction effort will be a cooperative effort with other stakeholders.

**2. Summary of specific plans and objectives with estimate of reduction.**

- EVTAC is planning to conduct a mercury balance of its process to determine the amount of mercury released to the environment and the amount retained in the material streams produced by the process. An environmental consulting company is being hired to develop and implement the mercury balance. EVTAC anticipates doing the sample collection and measurements, analytical testing, and reporting in 2000.
- EVTAC Mining is also planning to evaluate all mercury-containing process materials and equipment to determine a plan to reduce mercury emissions associated with these items. Among other actions this could include replacing mercury-type switches and other electrical devices and replacing mercury-containing materials with non-mercury-containing materials. This will be an ongoing effort with an inventory of mercury-containing material and equipment developed in 2000 and a plan for mercury reduction developed and implemented over the next five years.  
Along with the mercury inventory of present operations, EVTAC will examine available records to determine uses of mercury that have been eliminated since 1990.  
Purchasing practices will also be examined and measures taken to avoid unnecessary purchases of mercury or mercury-containing devices or products and to promote purchases of non-mercury substitutes.
- EVTAC Mining is planning to continue participation with other mining companies through the Iron Mining Association (IMA) in mercury emissions reductions. In addition to the IMA EVTAC is active with other stakeholders and with the MPCA. The exact mercury reduction programs are not yet established.

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**3. Implementation Schedule and reporting schedule.**

Implementation of the Mercury Voluntary Agreement has started with planning in all phases of this Voluntary Agreement. EVTAC will report on the progress of the Voluntary Agreement in April for the past year. Plus when each major project is complete, a report will be issued on that specific project.

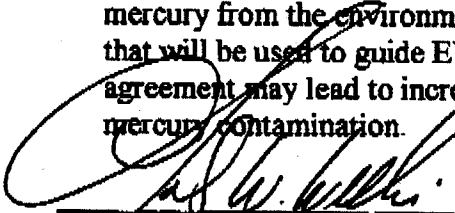
**4. Summary of how to measure progress.**

Progress will be measured by the amount of mercury that is not allowed into the environment on an annual basis. Since mercury is inherent in mineral handling, EVTAC believes that at the present production rate, mercury emissions from mining will remain relatively constant. EVTAC will follow new technology to collect mercury in the waste stream.

The most promising mercury reduction effort will be in the purposeful use category. EVTAC will find substitutes for mercury-containing devices and products. This will help reduce the accidental release of mercury to the environment. EVTAC is also committed to track mercury reduction technologies as they are developed and implement proven technology.

**5. Commitment**

EVTAC Mining is committed to reduce mercury contamination. EVTAC Mining is not agreeing to spend unlimited amounts of money to remove specified amounts of mercury from the environment. This Voluntary Agreement is a dynamic document that will be used to guide EVTAC toward mercury reductions. Each phase of the agreement may lead to increased knowledge and to other efforts, which may reduce mercury contamination.

  
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