

2021 Report from the United States of America in Response to Article 5, Paragraph 5 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Information on Facilities That Use Mercury or Mercury Compounds November 2021

Article 5, Paragraph 5, of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (the Convention) requires a Party with one or more facilities that use mercury or mercury compounds in the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B to endeavor to identify such facilities within its territory. That same provision also requires a Party to submit to the Secretariat information on the number and types of such facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury or mercury compounds used in those facilities. Below please find the contribution of the United States towards the requisite information for the aforementioned requirement.

Annex B of the Convention identifies the following as listed manufacturing processes in which elemental mercury or mercury compounds are used:

- Chlor-alkali production
- Acetaldehyde production in which elemental mercury or mercury compounds are used as a catalyst
- Vinyl chloride monomer production
- Sodium or Potassium Methylate or Ethylate
- Production of polyurethane using mercury containing catalysts

On March 30, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Mercury Inventory Report, the first in a series of triennial reports on the supply, use, and trade of mercury in the United States. The 2020 Report identifies, among other information, products or manufacturing processes in the United States that intentionally add mercury. With respect to the processes listed in Annex B of the Convention, the 2020 Report identified mercury cell chlor-alkali production as the only listed process in use in the United States. Although two facilities reported as still using the process for the reporting year 2018, as of the end of the calendar year 2020, one of such facilities completed conversion to a non-mercury cell process. Thus, the United States currently has only one mercury cell chlor-alkali facility in operation.

The 2020 Report does not provide a numerical representation of the mercury used by the chlor-alkali sector for the covered reporting period due to confidentiality claims. Based on publicly available information, including from the *Twelfth Annual Report of the Chlorine Institute* in 2009 and national compliance information provided to the State of West Virginia under CFR 40 Part 63 by the Westlake Corporation, the estimated U.S. mercury used for this listed process (i.e., the mercury that is lost during the production process, not the mercury stocks held within the facility) is approximately 700 lbs per year.