



## News Release

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### **MSD Initiates Next Phase of Mercury Clean-up**

CINCINNATI, Ohio --The Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) in collaboration with Rumpke Sanitary Landfill and the Ohio EPA is preparing to implement the next phase of a plan to determine appropriate clean-up of as many as nine flow meters that may contain mercury, which were accidentally placed in Rumpke Sanitary Landfill by MSD personnel on June 22.

This situation presents no health risk to the community. This step of the process begins today and will last approximately 4-5 weeks.

“The intent of this plan is to collect necessary data to better determine the location of the meters with minimal disruption to the landfill and public. Once the data is evaluated, it will allow us to make a more informed decision on how to best move forward,” said Mary Lynn Lodor, Interim Deputy Director for MSD.

MSD and their contractor Cardno ATC are primarily responsible for plan implementation; while Rumpke will cooperate and be present should there be any landfill operational concerns. The plan includes establishment of work health and safety protocols, screening of the affected area for total mercury impact and data compilation and evaluation. When this initial investigation phase is complete the parties will determine next steps to best rectify the situation.

“Rumpke has made a commitment to its customers and the community. We have promised to do what is necessary to protect our communities and the environment. This challenge is now at our site, and we won’t take this responsibility lightly, we are determined to work with MSD to implement this plan with as little impact as possible, and do so as efficiently and quickly as possible,” said Jay Roberts, director of environmental affairs and engineering at Rumpke.

“Since this incident, MSD has taken additional measures to improve storage and handling of chemical products as well as emergency and spill control plans and procedures. MSD is also in the process of enhancing its training program to further educate employees so that an incident like this does not happen again,” Lodor added. “MSD is committed to protecting public health and the environment and MSD ratepayers with respect to the flow meters and their handling.”

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On June 22 it is possible that a load comprising nine flow meters containing an estimated 41-68.5 pounds of mercury was disposed in a 300 by 100 feet section of the Southern portion of Rumpke Sanitary Landfill. The flow meters are believed to be buried under approximately 20,000 cubic yards of municipal solid waste. Upon learning of the accidental disposal, Rumpke immediately ceased disposal in the area and separated this disposal region from the rest of its landfill operation until presented with a finalized and approved action plan from MSD and the Ohio EPA.

**About MSD:**

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) serves the wastewater removal and treatment needs of approximately 230,000 residential and commercial users in Hamilton County, Ohio as well as parts of the three adjacent counties of Butler, Clermont, and Warren. MSD's service area covers more than 290+ square miles, and includes over 200,000 separate sewer connections which tie into approximately 3,000 miles of sanitary and combined sewers. For more information, visit [www.msdc.org](http://www.msdc.org)

**About Rumpke:**

Rumpke Consolidated Companies, Inc. has been committed to keeping neighborhoods and businesses clean and green since 1932 by providing environmentally friendly waste disposal solutions. Headquartered near Cincinnati with regional offices throughout Ohio, Rumpke is one of the nation's largest privately owned residential and commercial waste and recycling firms, employing more than 2,500 people and providing service to areas of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia. Rumpke divisions include Rumpke Recycling, The William-Thomas Group, and Rumpke Hydraulics. For more information, visit [www.Rumpke.com](http://www.Rumpke.com).

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