

Mercury Partnership at Russian Chlor-alkali facilities

A model program was developed to include the following steps:

- **October 2005** Mercury audit to identify the baseline of mercury use and releases. Result: facility releases over 4 tons of mercury per year.
- **October 2005** Established partnership to include USEPA, World Chlorine Council, EuroChlor, RusChlor, Canada, Norway, UNEP Chemicals, Volgograd “Caustic”.
- **November 2005** Conducted an international workshop in Volgograd on reduction of mercury in the chlor-alkali industry. Participants included, partners, Russian Ministry representatives and local environmental officials.
- **November 2005 to April 2006** Volgograd “Caustic” completed Cleaner Production Training and developed 14 low-cost technical projects to immediately reduce mercury use and releases.
- **February 2006** Four key technical experts from Volgograd “Caustic”, accompanied by RusChlor, EuroChlor and EPA/OIA participated in a technical exchange program with three state-of-the-art chlor-alkali facilities in Germany, Spain and Italy.
- **May 2006** Volgograd “Caustic” developed an Action Plan for 2006-2010 to reduce mercury consumption and discharge
- **May –August 2006** As a result of the above activities, Volgograd “Caustic” has already implemented, at their expense, four technical projects and achieved a reduction of mercury discharges of over **840 kg**. Each of these projects is replicable in the out-years. Volgograd “Caustic” continues developing and implementing additional technical projects.
- **October 2006** Volgograd “Caustic” will report on the success of the partnership at the World Chlorine Council’s International Conference in St. Petersburg
- **February 2007** Results of this work will be included in the U.S. Report to the UNEP Governing Council at their meeting in Nairobi.