

The NADP special meeting about the Mercury Deposition Network Atmospheric Initiative was held April 9-10, 2007 in Burlington, Vermont. The NADP welcomed 42 participants from 8 Federal agencies, 9 states, Environment Canada, 3 universities, 2 organizations, and 4 private consultants. The meeting included a discussion forum, presentations on the main elements of the Atmospheric Initiative (data management, operating procedures, quality assurance), and perspectives of principal investigators from states, academia, research, and consulting.

Following are some of the important points from the participants:

- The monitoring objectives should be distinguished among measurements of atmospheric mercury concentrations, mercury dry deposition, long-term trends, and relations of atmospheric mercury to other air pollutants .
- The placement of the monitoring stations will be important for detecting local impacts, urban influences, and effects on ecosystems.
- Funding is critical to the long term success of the new network and should be improved beyond what is currently available.
- Operation of the automated monitoring system for atmospheric mercury species requires constant attention and expertise. Reoccurring problems can be addressed with a maintenance schedule.
- The network would benefit from standard procedures, a troubleshooting help center, and a depot of spare parts.
- The data base will require an automated data review and validation procedure.
- A quality-assurance program involving procedures and audits would be helpful. Requirements should be realistic. Quality assurance should include assessment of data completeness.