



ITEM REPORT UTILITIES COMMISSION

Agenda Date: 8/5/2026
Agenda Section: Information Only

Department Origination: Public Works

Agenda Item: Mercury Minimization Project Monthly Update

Approval Required: No Action Required

BACKGROUND

7/28/2026 Update Dianne Mathews

A contract with SEH was awarded at the April 21st Council Meeting. Public Works Staff has coordinated with Brainerd Public Utilities Staff to work with SEH to update each City's Mercury Minimization Program. The need for a Mercury Minimization Program need was triggered by mercury sample results exceeding limits at the wastewater treatment plant.

Work Completed:

- SEH and City staff met for a kickoff meeting on June 24th to discuss the project goals, timelines, and to review upcoming mailings related to the program.

Upcoming Work:

- SEH intends to complete mailing to dental offices that are considered potential sources of mercury. The mailings are being coordinated to be sent to parties during the same general timeframe as mailings that are necessary for work on the program for Brainerd.
- SEH intends to complete updates to the program for Brainerd Public Utilities, then review those program updates with Baxter staff, and compile a slightly revised program to meet Baxter's goals for their individual program.
- SEH will complete a review of the program with a goal to update the mercury minimization program for the City of Baxter by identifying mercury sources, assessing current controls, and aligning practices with MPCA and EPA regulatory requirements. The work results in implementable best management practices, code updates, enforcement mechanisms, and outreach tools to help effectively reduce mercury discharges at their source and support long-term compliance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Project costs will be covered under the City's Sewer Fund.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

UTILITY COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED