



On Reality – images, presuppositions, prejudice



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The Swedish mercury flow presented in three tables (after Ingvar Skare)

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Table 1

SWEDISH MERCURY CONSUMPTION AND DEPOSITS IN 1996		
For consumption from import, or trade within the country	CONSUMPTION	From consumption to emissions to air, or to deposit in soil/SAKAB
300 kg/year ➔	CHLORALKALI INDUSTRY Deposit: 300 000 kg To this should be added polluted soil around earlier plants. Skutskär, MoDo and more Change of deposit: 0 kg/year In 2010 these two plants are to be wound up according to Swedish EPA , but no binding agreements yet. The Swedish EPA has asked the industry for an analysis on the consequences of different years of winding up. KEMI sees the law proposal as an opportunity to an allover close down of chloralkali industry in Sweden.	200 kg/year to air ➔
		100 kg/year to soil/sewage ➔
1000 kg/year ➔	ALL AMALGAM CARRIERS Deposit: 100 000 kg Change in deposit: - 2500 kg/year	1500 kg/year dentistry (separated particles) to SAKAB ➔
		100 kg/year (fine dust + Hg ⁰) to air/sewage ➔
		400 kg/year cremation/air + 1500 kg/year

		urine/faeces to sewage system ➔
2000 kg/year ➔	GOODS AND PRODUCTS incl fluorescent lamps/batteries /instruments/lab (shown in the table below!) Deposit: 100 000 kg Change in deposit: - 20 000 kg/year (if medium depreciation time is 5 years)	19 000 kg/year to SAKAB ➔
7 000 kg/year hidden import ➔		
8 000 kg/year reexport ➔		
Remarks: SAKAB, Skutskär, and MoDo are names of companies (SAKAB is the main plant in Sweden for hazardous waste). KEMI is short for the national agency for control of chemicals.		

Table 2

GOODS AND PRODUCTS IN THE SWEDISH MERCURY FLOW		
0 kg/year? ➔	LABORATORY ACTIVITIES New instruments are not allowed to be bought. Thermometers totally 150 kg. Reagents banned.	to SAKAB ➔ 10 m3 COD-solution/year
600 kg/year? ➔	INSTRUMENTS	to SAKAB ➔
300 kg/year ➔	FLUORESCENT LAMPS Ban of lamps with Hg-contents above norm is suggested.	300 kg/year to SAKAB ➔
1400 kg/year ➔	BATTERIES Tax increase with a factor of 60. Lower EU:s permitted contents of Hg in batteries.	1400 kg/year to SAKAB ➔

Table 3

TO NATURE AND END DEPOSIT		
FROM WHERE?	DEPOSITION	EMISSION
From the atmosphere ➔ 10 000 kg/year of which 3 000 kg/year is a natural basic level, viz. global spread from volcanos and oceans.	THE SWEDISH SURFACE Deposit (soil, lakes, sediments): ? Change in the deposit: + 10 000 kg/year but: + 3 000 kg/year even if all anthropogenic activity ends! Perspective on mining projects.	To the atmosphere 1 000 kg/year ➔ viz. our emissions from deposits, cremation plants and industries (emissions from soil and lakes are negligible).
FROM CULTURE TO NATURE		

200 kg/year to air 100 kg/year to soil/sewage		
All amalgam carriers → 600 kg/year to air/sewage systems		
Goods & products → 19 000 kg/year	SAKAB Deposit: ? Change in deposit: + 22 000 kg/year	
All amalgam carriers through dentistry → 1 500 kg/year (separated particles)		
	0 kg/year ↓ Deposition in rock shelters of mercury waste after sorting and possibly enriching.	
Proposal will come from the National EPA in 1997.		
CONCLUSION: We will have an ongoing increase of the amount of mercury in the environment regardless from our behavior because of the increase of entropy in the world. The only thing we can do, is to counteract/avoid increases in local concentrations (occupational environment, fish, &c) INGVAR SKARE (thoughts on a report 961127) [editor's translation from Swedish]		

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