

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
United States House of Representatives
Marietta Office
3823 Roswell Road, Suite 200
Marietta, GA 30067

Dear Congressman Gingrich:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 1997 in which you requested information in response to a letter that you received from your constituent, Rick Pflieger. Mr. Pflieger's letter summarizes his recommendations for finalizing the July 17, 1994 (59 FR 38288) fluorescent lamp proposed rule. The proposed rule presents two different approaches for the management of spent mercury lamps: a conditional exclusion from hazardous waste regulations and adding lamps to universal waste regulations.

EPA received over 300 comments on the proposed rulemaking. Many of these addressed technical concerns over the risks associated with the management of spent mercury-containing lamps. To address those concerns, the Agency will be making available for public comment a mercury emissions study later this month. The study describes mercury emissions from a range of lamps management options, including those in the proposal. The Agency is planning on using this study, in conjunction with information gathered from the comments, to finalize a rule shortly.

I hope this information will be helpful to you. If you have any further questions or comments please have your staff contact Rita Cestanc of my staff at (703) 308-0769.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cotsworth, Acting Director
Office of Solid Waste