- *Question*: We, as a state, are currently meeting the TMDL so why is EPA objecting to permit over 12 ng/L?
    - *Response*: We need the TMDL approved first so they can see we have a plan in place to control mercury.

- *Question*: Even with the TMDL, permittees are capped at 47 ng/L, which still isn't that reasonable.
    - *Response*: There will be flexibility in the permitting strategy; cases made for a higher discharger concentration will be considered.

- *Question*: How does reasonable potential (for determining monitoring requirements) work?
    - *Response*: If your sample comes back with a mercury concentration at or above the detection limit you will probably receive mercury monitoring requirements.
    - There was a discussion about monitoring cost.

- *Question*: Is there a plan in place to allocate the 81 lbs of mercury per year to the NPDES wastewater dischargers?
    - *Response*: We need to see what the current total mercury discharge is then we will allocate the mercury to the dischargers, leaving any remaining allocation available for future dischargers.

<u>Air Quality Modeling and Options for Nonpoint Source Reductions</u>

- *Question*: The Minnesota TMDL lists naturally occurring mercury as a source. Where does naturally occurring mercury fit into this model?
    - *Response*: In the model, part of the naturally occurring would occur in the area source. In the TMDL, naturally occurring mercury was assumed to contribute about 6% of the total nonpoint source load in NC.

- *Question*: Looking at the TMDL target we would like for the Commission to know that North Carolina has met the reductions and done our fair share and that we can't bear the cost of reductions for the rest of the world.
    - *Response*: We are proposing that NC get reductions proportional to our contributions.

- *Question*: What is the margin of error in the model?
    - *Response*: It's difficult to determine the margin of error largely due to the lack of ambient mercury monitoring data, especially for dry deposition. The model does closely match the data from the few mercury wet deposition monitoring sites in NC.