



### **RIO GRANDE MERCURY TESTING 8/16/03**

This follow-up testing completed on 8/16/03 was the result of the recommendation made by the Texas Department of Health in the TDH Mercury Sampling Report, dated 12/19/01. This report documents the sampling results from the mercury vapor testing TDH performed, at ACC's request, on 12/11/01.

There were three other attempts to conduct this recommended "Hot-box Testing" at RGC.

- The first testing met with requests for a retest and it was agreed that a retest would be performed.
- The second scheduled test was scheduled on a weekend, when Austin had a cold front come in and the testing was canceled on Friday afternoon because the outdoor temperature did not meet the TDH condition recommendations.
- The third attempt was scheduled for the following weekend. Immediately before the testing, it was found that cleaning contractors had been inside the building stripping and waxing the floors. This kept us from meeting the recommended testing conditions that TDH had recommended.

The intent of this sampling was to create the ideal survey conditions for detecting any possible sources of mercury or any mercury vapors present. The recommended conditions outlined in the TDH report are as follows:

- Shut all doors and windows to the areas to be surveyed and keep human traffic out prior to the survey, for a period of at least 24 hours;
- Set the thermostat in the areas to be surveyed to 80 - 85 degrees F to increase the vapor pressure of any mercury present; and
- If possible, perform the survey when the building is subject to a greater thermal loading (outside temperature at least 70 degrees F for the entire period prior to the survey)

ACC Environmental Health Safety and Insurance Office