

Example Calculation of Cost to Remove Mercury with a Dental Amalgam Separator Program

City of Greensboro, NC

- Total effluent mercury per year without a dental amalgam separator program is about **0.475 lbs.**
- Assume that effluent mercury is reduced by 50 percent with a dental amalgam separator program to **0.238 lbs.**
- Assume one full-time employee (FTE) to help establish and implement dental amalgam separator program for the approximately 270 dentists in the POTW service area. **Cost per year of FTE = \$50,000.**
- Cost per pound to remove mercury with a dental amalgam separator program:
 $\$50,000 / 0.238 \text{ lbs} = \mathbf{\$210,000/lb}$
(This is only the cost to the POTW and does not include the costs to the dentists.)