



## **MMAE SEMINAR**

**Monday, January 11, 2010  
E-1 BUILDING – CRAWFORD AUDITORIUM  
3:30 – 4:30 PM**

### **Analytical aspects of mercury determination and speciation in environmental samples**

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#### **Abstract**

The purpose of this talk is to describe the activity of the Department of Environmental Sciences in Energy Research, in the field of determination and speciation of mercury in environmental samples. The assessment of mercury contamination in Ebro River within the frame of FP6 EU project "Aquaterra" will be described.

Mercury is a toxic environmental contaminant, and in particular a form of a methylmercury (MeHg) is a dangerous neurotoxin. From an analytical point of view the determination of MeHg in environmental samples is a special challenge. For the MeHg determination in the environmental samples the head space, solid phase micro extraction, gas chromatography, pyrolysis, atomic fluorescence spectrometry (HS-SPME-Pyr-AFS) method could be applied. Important improvements that enable to control the quality of the HS-SPME-Pyr-AFS method will be presented.

A review of the mercury emission from energy sector in Poland and Europe will be provided.