Message

From: Hewitt, James [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=41B19DD598D340BB8032923D902D4BD1-HEWITT, JAM]
Sent: 2/14/2019 4:24:50 PM
To: Dunlap, David [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=591eb15a268249dda0c05a7451f765c3-Dunlap, Dav]
CC: Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]
Subject: FOR REVIEW//Quote

If asked about the story:

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By Anthony Adragna

02/14/2019 11:03 AM EDT

A draft Government Accountability Office report found that senior EPA political appointees directed a chemicals research office to reduce the number of chemicals it studied or continued researching for health risks, the Wall Street Journal reported today.

According to the report, the Integrated Risk Information System, or IRIS, dropped nine of the 16 chemical assessments the office wanted to research to look for threats to human health after a directive from agency management in October 2018. That included one concerning whether exposure to formaldehyde increases risks of leukemia.

POLITICO reported last year that the Trump administration was suppressing a draft assessment showing Americans faced health risks from formaldehyde exposure.

A spokesperson for Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), the ranking member of Environment and Public Works Committee who requested the GAO report, said the office did not have a copy of the draft findings.

EPA spokesperson James Hewitt disputed the draft GAO report's findings in a statement to the WSJ.

"The Trump EPA believes it is using the best available science to determine its proposed rules and regulations, just as the former administration believed it was doing the same thing. However, this administration clearly has huge disagreements with the way the Obama administration carried out the agency's mission," he said.

To view online:
https://subscriber.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2019/02/report-epa-political-appointees-hindered-chemicals-office-2692147

James Hewitt
Environmental Protection Agency
Press Secretary

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