Message

From: Cheryn Robles [crobles@nola.gov]
Sent: 5/28/2019 6:06:45 PM
To: Coats, Janetta [coats.janetta@epa.gov]
CC: Fife, Greg [fife.greg@epa.gov]
Subject: Statement from the Mayor

Ms. Janetta,

The Mayor's office would like to send out the statement below. Are you okay with that? They'd like to send it this afternoon or tomorrow morning. It basically mimics the communications plan language.

Cheryn

Response to Query – Removal of Radiation Contaminated Soil

Our utmost priority is ensuring the safety of our residents. Last year, the Cantrell Administration learned about the presence of radiation contaminated soil at the intersection of Lowerline Street and Coolidge Court. The origin of the material is unknown and while it has been properly contained since being identified, it is now being removed out of an abundance of caution.

After learning about the contamination, the City and its contractor began to remove and dispose of what had been identified as a small amount of hazardous material located beneath the surface of the Lowerline Street and Coolidge Court intersection. During the course of this work, the team, which also included the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, discovered that the contamination area was larger than originally anticipated and would need to be addressed as part of a subsequent effort.

Since that time, the City has been working alongside the Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to develop a plan to
address the contamination area on Lowerline Street between Olive and Edinburgh streets.

In advance of the start of this work, representatives from the City's Health Department and the Department of Public Works canvassed a two block radius of the location to talk with residents and distribute information about the contamination and what to expect during the removal process.

The removal and disposal plan ensures the safety of residents, workers and the environment during and following the removal. Representatives from EPA, LDEQ and the City will be onsite throughout operations to answer questions and be sure that any possible exposure is below the established limits.Crew members are wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including disposable coveralls and gloves is necessary to limit their exposure.

Work began on Tuesday, May 28 and will take about two weeks to complete.

Sent from my iPhone