Message

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Sent: 2/1/2019 1:47:48 PM
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Subject: Previous PFAS Communication
Attachments: PFAS_TalkingPoints_Revised_June15_ATSDR Final.docx; EPA Response_5_21_2018.pdf

Flag: Follow up

Here's a pretty comprehensive compilation of press responses and congressional communications on the ATSDR study. I know there was one more letter that was sent from Dave on this subject. OCIR – can you track that down? I have an email into Matt Klasen, so I can circulate that when I get it. Please let me know if you have any questions! Attached you'll also find final talking points and the document that was put together through extensive cooperation with federal agencies with equity on this matter. It's 9 pages and I believe it's also available online.

Molly

"Protecting America's drinking water is a top priority for EPA. EPA is committed to evaluating PFOA and PFOS under the regulatory determination process using the best available science. As a part of the evaluation, EPA will be reviewing all newly available scientific information including the ATSDR report. EPA is taking steps to accelerate the determination process before the existing statutory deadline." – EPA spokesperson

On background: EPA's health advisories are based on the best available peer-reviewed studies of the effects of PFOA and PFOS on laboratory animals (rats and mice) and were also informed by epidemiological studies of human populations that have been exposed to perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). These studies indicate that exposure to PFOA and PFOS over certain levels may result in adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants (e.g., low birth weight, accelerated puberty, skeletal variations), cancer (e.g., testicular, kidney), liver effects (e.g., tissue damage), immune effects (e.g., antibody production and immunity), thyroid

effects and other effects (e.g., cholesterol changes). To learn more about the underlying studies for the health advisories, see EPA's Health Effects Support Documents for PFOA and PFOS.

ATSDR

- Addressing Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is one of EPA's top priorities and the agency is committed to continuing to participate in and contribute to a coordinated approach across the federal government. Federal agencies are developing a variety of tools, including toxicity values, analytical methods, and treatment options, that can work together to provide states, tribes, local governments, health professionals, and communities with information and solutions to address these chemicals. EPA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with ATSDR and all of our federal partners as we work together to protect public health.

- **What are the differences between ATSDR's MRL and EPA's Health Advisory?**

  Federal agencies have a variety of tools that provide federal, state, tribal, and local governments, as well as health professionals and the public with information about how a chemical might affect a person's health. All of them can be used together to create a more complete picture of how to assess health risks and protect people from future exposures.

  ATSDR's MRLs and EPA's Health Advisories (HAs) are two different tools that are used in different situations. MRLs are intended to be used to help public health professionals determine areas and populations potentially at risk for health effects from exposure to a particular chemical. An MRL is an estimate of the amount of a chemical a person can eat, drink, or breathe each day without a detectable risk to health. MRLs are unique to each substance. These are used as screening levels by public health professionals.

  ATSDR may work with EPA at a national or regional level to more fully examine these exposures. MRLs and HAs are presented in different units because MRLs are daily doses while HAs are concentrations. Mg/kg/day is a unit of daily dose, while ppt is a unit of concentration.

  Drinking water HAs, on the other hand, provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. EPA uses reference doses (RfDs) to develop HAs. RfDs estimate a daily exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups, such as infants) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of harmful effects *during a lifetime*. HAs are non-enforceable and provide technical guidance to states agencies and other public health officials who have the primary responsibility for overseeing drinking water systems, with information on the health risks of chemicals, so they can take the appropriate actions to protect their residents from harmful exposure.

"Addressing Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is one of EPA's top priorities and the agency is committed to continuing to participate in and contribute to a coordinated approach across the federal government. Federal agencies are developing a variety of tools, including toxicity values, analytical methods, and treatment options, that can work together to provide states, tribes, local governments, health professionals, and communities with information and solutions to address these chemicals. EPA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with ATSDR and all of our federal partners as we work together to protect public health." **- Dr. Peter Grevatt, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water**

Background

EPA's efforts to provide national leadership on this critical issue include committing to take concrete action at the federal level that support our state, tribal, and local partners, and providing opportunities to engage with and hear from stakeholders. In May, EPA held a National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. that brought together federal, state, tribal, and local partners. The agency is also planning to travel to communities across the country that are facing challenges associated with these chemicals. Additional information: www.epa.gov/PFAS

In response to media reports about "blocking" the study:

- Pruitt 5/21/18 Letter: "The Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is preparing this study and has the authority to release is… But to be clear, EPA does not have the authority to release this study."