Message

From: Bravo, Antonio [Bravo.Antonio@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/2/2018 4:49:26 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: a letter did go to NACEPT - thank you Andrea for tracking this down. Fwd: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

Thanks…this is the one Allison shared with us recently….

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 12:48 PM
To: Hurld, Kathy <Hurld.Kathy@epa.gov>; Bravo, Antonio <Bravo.Antonio@epa.gov>; Chemerys, Ruth <Chemerys.Ruth@epa.gov>; Goodin, John <Goodin.John@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: a letter did go to NACEPT - thank you Andrea for tracking this down. Fwd: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

Here's an example one-page comm plan for the upcoming WIFIA announcement. Since this hasn't happened yet, please keep this close hold!!!

From: Hurld, Kathy
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 12:46 PM
To: Bravo, Antonio <Bravo.Antonio@epa.gov>; Chemerys, Ruth <Chemerys.Ruth@epa.gov>; Goodin, John <Goodin.John@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: a letter did go to NACEPT - thank you Andrea for tracking this down. Fwd: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

Here is the signed version, so this went. Since this is out, seems the next step in the communication of this effort/response is to craft talking points for Dave to use during water week. We had developed a talking point during the wotus input sessions last month. I have tweaked it here based upon our discussion this AM. What are people's thoughts on it?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Drinkard, Andrea" <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Date: April 2, 2018 at 12:16:57 PM EDT

To: "Hurld, Kathy" <Hurld.Kathy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

FYI...here's the signed letter that went out.

From: Fields, Wanda
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 12:16 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 12:01 PM
To: Fields, Wanda <Fields.Wanda@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

Can you check to see if this went out?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Hurld, Kathy" <Hurld.Kathy@epa.gov>
> **Date:** April 2, 2018 at 11:53:01 AM EDT
> **To:** "Drinkard, Andrea" <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>, "Strickler, Jacob" <Strickler.Jacob@epa.gov>, "Chemerys, Ruth" <Chemerys.Ruth@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** "Bravo, Antonio" <Bravo.Antonio@epa.gov>
> **Subject: Fw: CMS control AX-17-000-9629**
>
> This may be the control number. Hopefully this went forward? I never got a signed version. - Kathy
>
> Andrea the 74 page attachment was the report from the FACA.
>
> _____
> From: Resper, Wanda
> Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2017 3:23 PM
> To: Hurld, Kathy
> Subject: FW: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

-----Original Message-----
From: Hurld, Kathy
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2017 10:40 AM
To: McDavit, Michael W. <Mcdavit.Michael@epa.gov>; Resper, Wanda <Resper.Wanda@epa.gov>
Cc: Weinstock, Larry <Weinstock.Larry@epa.gov>; Brown, Sineta <Brown.Sineta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

Wanda, here are the other two addresses you will need to go forward with this letter. The Chair's address is in the letter itself, everyone else is internal EPA. - Kathy

Ms. Shannon Dosemagen
NACEPT Acting Vice Chair
President and Executive Director
Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science
4035 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125

Email: shannon@publiclab.org

Barry Rabe, Ph.D
Chair, Assumable Waters Subcommittee
Director, Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
735 S. State Street, 5316
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-3091

734.765.1677
Brabe@umich.edu

From: McDavit, Michael W.
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2017 8:49 AM
To: Resper, Wanda; Hurld, Kathy
Cc: Weinstock, Larry; Brown, Sineta
Subject: RE: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

Hi Wanda,

Here is the response to this control. It has been reviewed and approved by Mindy. Please take next steps for completing this action.

Thanks for the great support,
Michael

W. Michael McDavit, Chief
Program Development and Jurisdiction Branch Office of Water/USEPA (MC 4502T)
1200 Penn. Ave, NW (Room 7303 West Bldg) Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2465

From: Resper, Wanda
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2017 2:12 PM
To: McDavit, Michael W. <Mcdavit.Michael@epa.gov>; Hurld, Kathy <Hurld.Kathy@epa.gov>
Cc: Weinstock, Larry <Weinstock.Larry@epa.gov>; Brown, Sineta <Brown.Sineta@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

Mike
I have to give you the attachments of 74 pages the printer is having a problem trying to print I requested a 2-week extension (new due date 7/21/2017) this control was assigned to OWCD by Yvonne Smothers on 7-5-2017. For the AA-OW-Assistant Administrator-OW signature the subject is Submission of the Assumable Waters Subcommittee Final Report from the National Advisory Council to Environmental Policy and Technology, and that PD&JB should reply. Do you agree? If you think this control needs to be re-assigned, could you let me know if you have any suggestions about who would be best?
If you are the correct responder, please draft a response. Since this is for AA-OW-Assistant Administrator-OW signature, I will upload in response in CMS when you provide me the draft. If you need an extension, please let me know the reasons (a need to research data, a need to secure management approval on the response, etc.) and I will request it.
Thanks and let me know if there is anything I can do to help, or if you have any questions.

CMS control # AX-17-000-9629
CMS Due Date: 7-21-2017
OWCD Due Date: 7-18-2017
From: William G. Ross

Thanks Wanda

From: DC-WJCW-7114F-M@epa.gov<mailto:DC-WJCW-7114F-M@epa.gov> [mailto:DC-WJCW-7114F-M@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2017 2:25 PM
To: Resper, Wanda <Resper.Wanda@epa.gov<mailto:Resper.Wanda@epa.gov>>
Subject: CMS control AX-17-000-9629

Message

From: Schollhamer, Mary [Schollhamer.Mary@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/27/2017 12:22:09 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
CC: Fligger, Karen [Fligger.Karen@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Proposal for Administrator visit: San Diego

Heads up: possible R9 Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Mary G Schollhamer
Communications Coordinator
Office of Wastewater Management
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office: 202-564-5759
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
schollhamer.mary@epa.gov

Office of Wastewater Management: Solutions for Clean Water

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Stein, Raffael" <Stein.Raffael@epa.gov>
> **Date:** July 26, 2017 at 6:47:26 PM EDT
> **To:** "Jernberg, Jorianne" <jernberg.jorianne@epa.gov>, "Schollhamer, Mary" <Schollhamer.Mary@epa.gov>
> **Subject: FW: Proposal for Administrator visit: San Diego**
>
> FYI (scroll down to very bottom, R9 is raising the possibility of Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Sawyers, Andrew
> **Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 6:35 PM
> **To:** Stein, Raffael <Stein.Raffael@epa.gov>; Allen, Catherine <Allen.Catherine@epa.gov>; Farris, Erika D. <Farris.Erika@epa.gov>; Sylvester, Francis <Sylvester.Francis@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Gueriguian, Leo <Gueriguian.Leo@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** FW: Proposal for Administrator visit: San Diego
>
> FYI – no action needed.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Torres, Tomas
> **Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 6:28 PM
> **To:** Shapiro, Mike <Shapiro.Mike@epa.gov>; Best-Wong, Benita <Best-Wong.Benita@epa.gov>; Sawyers, Andrew <Sawyers.Andrew@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Frace, Sheila <Frace.Sheila@epa.gov>; Albright, David <Albright.David@epa.gov>; Albright, David <Albright.David@epa.gov>; Aguirre, Hector <Aguirre.Hector@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** FW: Proposal for Administrator visit: San Diego
>
> Colleagues,
>
> Sharing an e-mail exchange (below) between my Acting RA and Jane Nishida/Sara Greenwalt, pertaining to a possible San Diego/Border site visit by the Administrator. At the August 1st

briefing with Sarah/Lee, I'm hopeful that Sarah can provide us feedback on the San Diego options, which can be adjusted based on preferences.

Regards,

Tomás

From: Strauss, Alexis
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 8:51 AM
To: Nishida, Jane <Nishida.Jane@epa.gov>
Cc: Torres, Tomas <Torres.Tomas@epa.gov>; Aguirre, Hector <Aguirre.Hector@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Proposal for Administrator visit: San Diego

Thank you Jane, we await further instruction.

Alexis Strauss
Acting Regional Administrator
E.P.A. Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-972-3572

From: Nishida, Jane
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 6:47 AM
To: Strauss, Alexis <Strauss.Alexis@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Proposal for Administrator visit: San Diego

Alexis,

Quick update on my meeting with Sarah regarding Mexico and San Diego trip. On San Diego, she wants to Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) On Mexico, it is primarily Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) My office will coordinate with your staff on briefing materials.

Let me know if you want to discuss further.

Jane

From: Strauss, Alexis
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 4:23 PM
To: Nishida, Jane <Nishida.Jane@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>
Cc: Strauss, Alexis <Strauss.Alexis@epa.gov>; Zito, Kelly <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>
Subject: Proposal for Administrator visit: San Diego

Dear Jane and Sarah,
We've identified a few options for you to consider should the Administrator wish to follow his Mexico City meetings with a San Diego visit.

We recommend Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

We also recommend the Administrator Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

We'd be glad to support you as plans are made, and can staff this from our San Diego Border Office (in downtown San Diego).
Kind regards, Alexis

Alexis Strauss
Acting Regional Administrator
E.P.A. Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-972-3572

Message

From: Drinkard, Andrea [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=808A6B7B65BF447F93DAD2F510FEAF61-ADRINKAR]
Sent: 5/29/2019 2:40:36 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Kelley, Jeff [kelley.jeff@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Heads up about some new research on lead in Flint water. Our biosolids paper will be finalized soon. Talking points attached and in the article. Embargoed until Thursday 1 pm.
Attachments: Embargoed Water Research Edited Galleys.pdf; ATT00001.htm; Draft Press Release.docx; ATT00002.htm

Should we discuss?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wadlington, Christina" <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>
Date: May 29, 2019 at 10:38:06 AM EDT
To: "Dennis, Allison" <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>, "Drinkard, Andrea" <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>, "Risley, David" <Risley.David@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Heads up about some new research on lead in Flint water. Our biosolids paper will be finalized soon. Talking points attached and in the article. Embargoed until Thursday 1 pm.

FYI.

From: Ellenbogen, Victoria
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 10:36 AM
To: Wadlington, Christina <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Heads up about some new research on lead in Flint water. Our biosolids paper will be finalized soon. Talking points attached and in the article. Embargoed until Thursday 1 pm.

From: Deltoral, Miguel
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Pierard, Kevin <pierard.kevin@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Shoven, Heather <shoven.heather@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Porter, Andrea <porter.andrea@epa.gov>; Bosscher, Valerie <bosscher.valerie@epa.gov>; Wilson, Jennifer <wilson.jenniferA@epa.gov>; Suero, Maryann <suero.maryann@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Lippert, Allison <lippert.allison@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Cc: Viveiros, Edward <Viveiros.Edward@epa.gov>; Ellenbogen, Victoria <Ellenbogen.Victoria@epa.gov>; Kempic, Jeffrey <Kempic.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Bendik, Kaitlyn <bendik.kaitlyn@epa.gov>; Schock, Michael <Schock.Michael@epa.gov>; Lytle, Darren <Lytle.Darren@epa.gov>; Triantafyllidou, Simoni <Triantafyllidou.Simoni@epa.gov>
Subject: Fw: Heads up about some new research on lead in Flint water. Our biosolids paper will be finalized soon. Talking points attached and in the article. Embargoed until Thursday 1 pm.

Please note the embargo until tomorrow and keep internal only. Copying OPA folks in case we get any calls.

[FLINT]
Miguel A. Del Toral
Regulations Manager
U.S. EPA R5 GWDWB
77 West Jackson Blvd, (WG-15J)
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (312) 886-5253

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 08:45 AM
To: 'LyonCallo, Sarah (DHHS)'; Durno, Mark
Cc: 'Krisztian, George (DEQ)'; Deltoral, Miguel; Kaplan, Robert
Subject: Heads up about some new research on lead in Flint water. Our biosolids paper will be finalized soon. Talking points attached and in the article. Embargoed until Thursday 1 pm.

A draft version of this with typo errors from the publication process, has already been released online. Feel free to send this information for background to anyone.

Also, I already had some inquiries from press people, and I provide some additional responses to Kevin Drum of Mother Jones below.

Marc

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:19 AM
To: 'Kevin Drum' < Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) >
Subject: RE: We have a new Water Research paper, that has estimated water lead levels each month of the FWC. Embargoed until 1 pm Thursday this week. These are drafts. Marc

The chart comparing Flint to DC is currently the only one that does that. It averages the first and second draw lead, to better reflect human exposure to lead in water for each case.
We could easily make a graph of first draw estimated lead in Flint vs. DC, but because only 30% of exposure is from first draw and 70% is flushed, the 50:50 average is considered a better estimate. If we used the 30 and 70% estimate, the difference between DC and Flint would have been even bigger.

While the lead in Flint water was above the EPA action level for a least 18 months, it raised the blood lead of children above recent historical norms for the three months in summer of 2014, and did not significantly do so in the other months of the water crisis. The data for lead in sewage sludge, tells the exact same story you have been publishing for the blood lead, but using a completely independent and complementary data source that directly reflects the total lead going into the drinking water every month.

ppb and ug/L are the same

We were somewhat shocked to find that the total lead in the sewage (i.e., reflecting lead released to drinking water) only increased 14% in the 18 months during the crisis, compared to the same time period before the switch to Flint River, but as the article shows, for some reason nearly all of that extra lead went into the water during summer 2014. That is the exact time that

the children's blood lead increased above recent historical norms (i.e, 2011). Again, as you have shown repeatedly, that is the same story reflected in the blood lead data.

We are not minimizing what happened, and remain outspoken that the failure to follow Federal law is an environmental crime, yet the independent and complementary data tell a remarkably consistent story about the true lead exposure occurring in Flint.

Another point is that this is all publicly available data that we obtained from official routine monitoring sources. It is not our data….some activists have been accusing us, the third and even fourth parties of falsifying water lead data.

Marc

From: Kevin Drum <Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 11:52 PM
To: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Subject: Re: We have a new Water Research paper, that has estimated water lead levels each month of the FWC. Embargoed until 1 pm Thursday this week. These are drafts. Marc

This looks great! One question: do you have data or a chart that directly shows the calculated water lead level in Flint over the past few years? Or is the chart comparing Flint to Washington DC the only one that does that?

(Is micrograms/liter the same as parts per billion? I thought ppm was the usual standard of measure.)

If I'm reading that chart correctly, it suggests that lead levels were high in Flint for only about six months. Is that right?

Kevin

Message

From: Drinkard, Andrea [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=808A6B7B65BF447F93DAD2F510FEAF61-ADRINKAR]
Sent: 2/12/2019 5:15:51 PM
To: Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: PFAS Action Plan - almost final
Attachments: PFAS Action Plan MASTER_02.11.19_9pm edits.docx

From: Mclain, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 11:23 AM
To: Leadership_Regional_Administrators <Leadership_Regional_Administrators@epa.gov>; Wildeman, Anna <wildeman.anna@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Kramer, Jessica L. <kramer.jessical@epa.gov>; Szaro, Deb <Szaro.Deb@epa.gov>; Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>; Rodrigues, Cecil <rodrigues.cecil@epa.gov>; Holst, Linda <holst.linda@epa.gov>; Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Chu, Ed <Chu.Ed@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Jordan, Deborah <Jordan.Deborah@epa.gov>; Pirzadeh, Michelle <Pirzadeh.Michelle@epa.gov>; Heard, Anne <Heard.Anne@epa.gov>; O'Connor, Darcy <oconnor.darcy@epa.gov>; Walker, Mary <walker.mary@epa.gov>; Dunn, Alexandra <dunn.alexandra@epa.gov>; Ross, David P <ross.davidp@epa.gov>; Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>; Dunlap, David <dunlap.david@epa.gov>; Bodine, Susan <bodine.susan@epa.gov>; Wehrum, Bill <Wehrum.Bill@epa.gov>; Bolen, Brittany <bolen.brittany@epa.gov>; Wright, Peter <wright.peter@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt (OGC) <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>; Starfield, Lawrence <Starfield.Lawrence@epa.gov>
Cc: Regional Public Affairs Directors <Regional_Public_Affairs_Directors@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Wadlington, Christina <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Burneson, Eric <Burneson.Eric@epa.gov>; Nickerson, William <Nickerson.William@epa.gov>; Tiago, Joseph <Tiago.Joseph@epa.gov>
Subject: PFAS Action Plan - almost final

Internal/close hold

EPA PFAS team –

Attached is an almost final version of the PFAS Action Plan, this has the final text but the file is still undergoing QA/formatting. Again, I want to extend our thanks to you and your staffs for your impressive work over the year on stakeholder engagement and development of this plan. This has truly been a team effort and it has been our pleasure to work with you.

We are working hard to get roll out materials to you as quickly as possible. In the meantime, if you have questions about anything in the PFAS Action Plan, please let me know.

Best,
Jennifer

Message

From: Drinkard, Andrea [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=808A6B7B65BF447F93DAD2F510FEAF61-ADRINKAR]
Sent: 10/12/2017 6:18:20 PM
To: Skadowski, Suzanne [Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Dennis, Allison [Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]
CC: Holsman, Marianne [Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Alaska Public Radio Q re Bristol Bay hearings — EPA response?

Here's where we landed, the AP statement, with the line in yellow added. Nancy, please confirm whether this would be for attribution. Thanks.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 10:14 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>
Cc: Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Alaska Public Radio Q re Bristol Bay hearings — EPA response?

Hi Nancy,

Just following up on this statement review for the APRN. Please call if we need to talk it through. I'd like to get a response back to the reporter today.

Thanks!
Suzanne

Suzanne Skadowski
Public Affairs | Media Relations Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Pacific Northwest - Seattle
O: 206-553-2160 C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Twitter: @EPAnorthwest
Facebook: @eparegion10

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 5:29 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>
Cc: Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Subject: Alaska Public Radio Q re Bristol Bay hearings — EPA response

Hello:

Can you please check and let me know if it would be ok for local radio reporter to use my "background" explanation re the hearings location? See emails below. This reporter is attending the Thurs. public hearing in Iliamna. I think it should

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Thank you!
Suzanne

Suzanne Skadowski
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Pacific Northwest Region 10
206-553-2160 Office
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Mobile

Begin forwarded message:

From: Elizabeth Harball <eharball@alaskapublic.org>
Date: October 11, 2017 at 4:47:51 PM PDT
To: "Skadowski, Suzanne" <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Attending Iliamna hearing

Hi Suzanne -

Can I attribute any of the emailed statement to EPA, not to you by name? We are going to be doing a two-way interview between me and our station host on this, and she really wants to ask why EPA is not having a hearing in Anchorage.

Elizabeth Harball
Energy Reporter
Alaska Public Media

Direct: 907-550-8462
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
eharball@alaskapublic.org
Twitter: @elizharball

On Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 12:18 PM, Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Elizabeth,

My response based on my understanding of our planning, for your info/background only, not for attribution:

During EPA's consultation and coordination on the proposed withdrawal with tribes in the Bristol Bay region, some of the tribes asked EPA leadership to come visit their communities in the watershed to listen and talk about this issue. EPA agreed to make an effort to visit and meet with tribes in person, and decided to also hold public meetings in those communities in the watershed. A public meeting in

Anchorage might have also been considered, but in the end, EPA determined that with limited time and travel challenges, that holding public meetings in the watershed were a priority. We would probably also point out that the 90-day public comment and tribal consultation period also allows an opportunity for stakeholders in and outside of the watershed and in and outside of Alaska to submit their feedback on the proposed withdrawal.

I hope this is helpful.

Thanks,

Suzanne

From: Elizabeth Harball [mailto:eharball@alaskapublic.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 1:05 PM
To: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Attending Iliamna hearing

Great, thank you!

I do have a question for now -- why is EPA not holding a hearing in Anchorage or another more accessible city for many in Alaska? I understand why you're having hearings in the places you are, of course, but as this is an issue of statewide interest I'm curious why this decision was made.

Elizabeth Harball
Energy Reporter
Alaska Public Media

Direct: 907-550-8462
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
eharball@alaskapublic.org
Twitter: @elizharball

On Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 5:52 AM, Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Elizabeth,

That's good to hear, thank you for letting me know.

I've alerted our public affairs director, Marianne Holsman, who will be staffing the hearings, to look for you in Iliamna.

Please let me know if you have questions or need info follow-up later.

Thanks,

Suzanne

Suzanne Skadowski
Public Affairs | Media Relations Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 10 Pacific Northwest - Seattle
O: 206-553-2160 C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Elizabeth Harball [mailto:eharball@alaskapublic.org]
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2017 5:25 PM
To: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>
Subject: Attending Iliamna hearing

Hi Suzanne -

Just letting you know that I got lucky and got approval to go to Iliamna this Thursday for the Pebble hearing.

Thanks!

Elizabeth Harball
Energy Reporter
Alaska Public Media

Direct: 907-550-8462
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
eharball@alaskapublic.org

Twitter: @elizharball

Message

From: Drinkard, Andrea [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=808A6B7B65BF447F93DAD2F510FEAF61-ADRINKAR]
Sent: 6/4/2018 12:45:01 PM
To: Wadlington, Christina [Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

I will make these changes this morning. Thanks!

From: Wadlington, Christina
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2018 5:35 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Grevatt, Peter" <Grevatt.Peter@epa.gov>
> **Date:** June 1, 2018 at 5:15:07 PM EDT
> **To:** "Wadlington, Christina" <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>, "Burneson, Eric" <Burneson.Eric@epa.gov>, "Mclain, Jennifer" <Mclain.Jennifer@epa.gov>, "Ellenbogen, Victoria" <Ellenbogen.Victoria@epa.gov>, "Goodwin, Kara" <goodwin.kara@epa.gov>, "Holsinger, Hannah" <Holsinger.Hannah@epa.gov>
> **Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement**
>
> Thanks. Looks good with just a few suggestions:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

> **From:** Wadlington, Christina
> **Sent:** Friday, June 01, 2018 4:29 PM
> **To:** Grevatt, Peter <Grevatt.Peter@epa.gov>; Burneson, Eric <Burneson.Eric@epa.gov>; Mclain, Jennifer <Mclain.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Ellenbogen, Victoria <Ellenbogen.Victoria@epa.gov>; Goodwin, Kara <goodwin.kara@epa.gov>; Holsinger, Hannah <Holsinger.Hannah@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Fwd: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement
>
> FYI
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Date: June 1, 2018 at 4:22:18 PM EDT
To: "Block, Molly" <block.molly@epa.gov>, "Wadlington, Christina" <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>, "Drinkard, Andrea" <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

Attached is the draft comms plan with some additional edits including some from DA Wheeler.

We will continue editing until Monday after the Senior Staff Meeting when Nancy will send this to the regions.

Thanks and have a great weekend.

John

From: Block, Molly
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:57 PM
To: Wadlington, Christina <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

Absolutely. I was just using NH as a guide. But we'd be happy to loosen it up. That's why I put Day 1/Part 1 in case these events aren't two days. Feel free to make those changes throughout.

From: Wadlington, Christina
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:55 PM
To: Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

Perhaps, consider making it a little more general?

For example, generic speaker placeholders (e.g. EPA HQ versus Peter), less prescriptive on the times (in the event it's one day event, as it will likely be in MI)

Happy to make these edits if that's helpful.

From: Block, Molly
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:51 PM
To: Wadlington, Christina <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Konkus, John

<konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

I envision this as the template for the regions to use for their community engagement events. That way there's consistency throughout and we have a coordinated press strategy. But I'm open to suggestions. Also, adding Konkus to the chain.

From: Wadlington, Christina
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:50 PM
To: Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

Quick follow up. Is this for workgroup planning or would it be to circulate to assist others with planning follow up events?

From: Block, Molly
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Wadlington, Christina <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

Attached.

From: Block, Molly
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:36 PM
To: Wadlington, Christina <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

Sure. I'll send that your way in a moment. It's just a rough outline, so any OW input/edits are welcome!

From: Wadlington, Christina
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:35 PM
To: Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

Sounds good. Did you want me to merge?

Also, once merged, if possible, can we give a moment for Peter and Dave to take a look before sending around?

From: Block, Molly
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:34 PM
To: Wadlington, Christina <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

I think we can definitely merge them. Your document looks like it would be a great first page with the goals section.

From: Wadlington, Christina
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:31 PM
To: Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

Sorry I misunderstood, I started the attached, have circulated in OGWDW and it is being reviewed by management prior to sending to OPA.

It's less specific on the communications end but is intended to lay the bigger picture for senior managers and briefings. Did you want to use your document instead? Merge? Your thoughts would be appreciated.

From: Block, Molly
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:17 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Wadlington, Christina <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: FOR REVIEW: DRAFT PFAS Community Engagement

Wanted to get some of the things we've chatted about over the past two days on paper. Feel free to edit the document attached, I think this will be helpful to stay on the same page. I've used New Hampshire as the example for the template, but will easily be able to change it up based on location. Please let me know what you think or if we need to add anything. Thanks!

Molly

Message

From: Drinkard, Andrea [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=808A6B7B65BF447F93DAD2F510FEAF61-ADRINKAR]
Sent: 3/12/2019 1:42:53 PM
To: Germann, Sandy [Germann.Sandy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: FY 2020 Budget Highlights

Yes.

From: Germann, Sandy
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FY 2020 Budget Highlights

You mean we can use to discuss externally, just not send out, right?

Sandy Germann
US EPA Office of Policy
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
germann.sandy@epa.gov

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:29 AM
To: Germann, Sandy <Germann.Sandy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FY 2020 Budget Highlights

Sure. Note that these are internal only.

From: Germann, Sandy
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:26 AM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FY 2020 Budget Highlights

Andrea, Hi, was just asked if we can now share the talking points w/ our management team. Can you confirm? (Shared w/ political folks yesterday).

Sandy Germann
US EPA Office of Policy
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
germann.sandy@epa.gov

From: Germann, Sandy
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 10:37 AM
To: Bolen, Brittany <bolen.brittany@epa.gov>; Letendre, Daisy <letendre.daisy@epa.gov>; Jones, Lindsey <jones.lindsey@epa.gov>; Kime, Robin <Kime.Robin@epa.gov>; Lovell, Will (William) <lovell.william@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FY 2020 Budget Highlights

FYI

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 10:34 AM
To: Regional Public Affairs Directors <Regional_Public_Affairs_Directors@epa.gov>; HQ Communications Directors <HQCommunicationsDirectors@epa.gov>
Cc: McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Sauerhage, Maggie <Sauerhage.Maggie@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Richardson, RobinH <Richardson.RobinH@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FY 2020 Budget Highlights

Hi all—

Just wanted you to have the materials for today's budget announcement. The release will be coming out of HQ around 12pm today. Please note that the talking points are for senior leadership only and should be kept close hold. The website linked in the press release (which will include the budget in brief document), will go live around noon as well.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks.

-Andrea-

From: Greaves, Holly
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 9:56 AM
To: Leadership_Assistant_Administators <Leadership_Assistant_Administators@epa.gov>; Leadership_Deputy_Assistant_Administrators <Leadership_Deputy_Assistant_Administrators@epa.gov>; Leadership_Regional_Administrators <Leadership_Regional_Administrators@epa.gov>; Leadership_Deputy_Regional_Administrators <Leadership_Deputy_Regional_Administrators@epa.gov>
Cc: Bloom, David <Bloom.David@epa.gov>; Terris, Carol <Terris.Carol@epa.gov>; Williams, Maria <Williams.Maria@epa.gov>; Baden, Beth <Baden.Beth@epa.gov>; McMichael, Nate <McMichael.Nate@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Hanson, Paige (Catherine) <hanson.catherine@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Molina, Michael <molina.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: FY 2020 Budget Highlights

Good morning,

Today, the Office of Management and Budget will present the overall Federal budget for FY 2020, and EPA will release the Agency's FY 2020 Budget in Brief and press release. Attached please find some budget highlights that you may use in conversations with your staff.

This is the first step in the budget process. The Executive branch presents a budget, and Congress ultimately enacts final appropriation levels.

Please do not distribute this document to your staff or any other external party – this is an internal document for your reference only.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Holly Greaves

Appointment

From: Davis, Alison [Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/20/2018 9:37:29 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]

Subject: Accepted: Call to discuss press strategy for Willowbrook community meeting on November 29
Location: Call in #: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Code: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Start: 11/20/2018 10:30:00 PM
End: 11/20/2018 11:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Message

From: US EPA New England Region [noreply-subscriptions@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/20/2019 6:40:35 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: Updated Advisory: Monday 9/23 10:30AM: EPA Funding for Coastal Projects in Rhode Island Announced

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

WWW.EPA.GOV/NEWSROOM

CONTACT:
David Deegan (News Media Only)
deegan.dave@epa.gov
(617) 918-1017

UPDATED ATTENDEE INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2019

* * * Media Event Monday, September 23 in Providence R.I. * * *

EPA Funding for Coastal Projects in Rhode Island Announced

(Providence, R.I.) – On Monday, September 23, Restore America's Estuaries will announce the selection and award of more than $1 million in project grants for seven Rhode Island municipalities and non-profit organizations.

Funding for these grants is provided under the U.S. EPA's Southeast New England Program (SNEP), a collaboration between RAE and U.S. EPA Region 1. The grant program supports partnerships and innovative approaches to tackle the region's most pressing environmental issues, such as nutrient pollution, coastal habitat loss, and the impacts of changing climate. The announcement will be followed by a tour of "green infrastructure" in Roger Williams Park — innovative, engineered installations that use plants and natural processes to reduce water pollution while beautifying public landscapes.

When: Monday, September 23, at 10:30 a.m.

Who: U.S. Senator Jack Reed
U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Congressman David Cicilline
Sean Dixon, EPA Region 1 Chief of Staff

Nicole Verdi, Chief of Staff for Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo
Sue Kiernan, Deputy Administrator, Office of Water Resources, RIDEM
City of Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza

Where: Roger Williams Park Casino, 1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence, RI, 02907

Day of Event Contact: Thomas Ardito, Restore America's Estuaries, 401-575-6109 (c), tardito@estuaries.org

# # #

Learn More about the **Latest EPA News & Events in New England** (https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-1-new-england)
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U.S. EPA, Region 1, 5 Post Office Square - Suite 100, Boston, MA 02109-3912 United States

Message

From: Jones.Enesta@epa.gov [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/10/2019 6:38:55 PM
Subject: Fwd: Press Inquiry: Speak to someone about storm/flood clean up?

Public info from OAR — good to send?

What do you do first if you smell gas or see downed powerlines near your home?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Are shovels the best way to remove debris from your home? Where should debris be piled up?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

If you have a dehumidifier (or multiple dehumidifiers), where should it be placed?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

How long should you keep an airflow through a house if you're trying to dry it out? Is there a magic number or moisture level?
If you have to remove drywall, how long should you leave your walls open and allow to dry? Is there an indoor moisture level recommended?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

If objects/surfaces in your home feel dry after a flood, should you just assume that they could still harbor mold?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

How soon can you replace vinyl, carpet, furniture, and other surfaces?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Is there any certification that people should look for if a contractor offers their services for mold cleanup? (ie: how do people know whether they're being scammed?)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Haniya Rae <haniya.rae@consumer.org>
Date: September 10, 2019 at 10:37:01 AM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>

Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Press Inquiry: Speak to someone about storm/flood clean up?

Hello Enesta,

Before 4pm EST today, if possible. Let me know if another agency might be better at answering, though.

Here are the questions:

What do you do first if you smell gas or see downed powerlines near your home?

Are shovels the best way to remove debris from your home? Where should debris be piled up?

If you have a dehumidifier (or multiple dehumidifiers), where should it be placed?

How long should you you keep an airflow through a house if you're trying to dry it out? Is there a magic number or moisture level?

If objects/surfaces in your home feel dry after a flood, should you just assume that they could still harbor mold?

If you have to remove drywall, how long should you leave your walls open and allow to dry? Is there an indoor moisture level recommended?

How soon can you replace vinyl, carpet, furniture, and other surfaces?

Is there any certification that people should look for if a contractor offers their services for mold cleanup? (ie: how do people know whether they're being scammed?)

On Tue, Sep 10, 2019 at 9:47 AM Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Hello Haniya,

Our indoor air office should be able to assist. Can you please send your specific questions and hard deadline?

On Sep 10, 2019, at 9:46 AM, Haniya Rae <haniya.rae@consumer.org> wrote:

Hello,

We're working on a story about cleaning up your home after a flood. I was wondering if I could speak to an expert for attribution who can talk about mold and cleanup. I'd need to speak to someone before EOD. Thanks!

--
Haniya Rae
Associate Content Manager, Home & Appliance
Consumer Reports Magazine
101 Truman Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703
O: 914.378.2012
M: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

haniya.rae@consumer.org

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Smarter choices for a better world

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***

--

Haniya Rae
Associate Content Manager, Home & Appliance
Consumer Reports Magazine
101 Truman Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703
O: 914 378 2012
M: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
haniya.rae@consumer.org

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***

Message

From: Hubbard, Carolyn [Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/9/2018 11:45:54 AM
To: Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]
CC: Ortiz, Julia [Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Blair, Susanna [Blair.Susanna@epa.gov]; Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]; Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Maguire, Megan [Maguire.Megan@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Adding Megan.

Carolyn Hubbard
Communications Director
EPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2189
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Jul 6, 2018, at 5:17 PM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

> Thanks, we can do a written for this. Have a great weekend.
>
> **From:** Ortiz, Julia
> **Sent:** Friday, July 06, 2018 5:16 PM
> **To:** Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity
>
> Thanks Linda. I'm checking with Gino to see if he's available. I'll be out on Monday so Alison will be covering this.
>
> **From:** Strauss, Linda
> **Sent:** Friday, July 06, 2018 5:16 PM
> **To:** Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>; Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity
>
> Adding Carolyn, ORD, and Susanna, OPPT.
>
> **From:** Jones, Enesta
> **Sent:** Friday, July 06, 2018 5:12 PM
> **To:** Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity
>
> Julia, he responded:

Hello - thanks! I am in London, UK, and would need to speak by end of UK day Monday [i.e. 18:00 here, 13:00 ET], or it would be ok to have answers to specific questions for my Tuesday morning -- i.e. end your day Monday. I appreciate this may be too short a deadline for you to respond, but we will go to press on Tuesday morning.

The context is new research by Thomas Hartung (Johns Hopkins), Craig Rowlands (Underwriter Laboratories) and others describing advances in computational models to predict chemical toxicity; these can now outperform animal tests for some simple toxicity endpoints.

I wanted to talk in general about the EPA's approach to computational methods for toxicity prediction, but if that is not possible, then answers to these specific questions would be great:

- is EPA working with Hartung/Rowland's computational model, or with the database of animal-test results that Hartung's team downloaded from the ECHA/Reach website?

- I spoke to Nicole Kleinstreuer (NICETAM, US toxicology program), about an April inter-agency workshop where research groups were invited to test their latest computational models to predict acute oral toxicity in around 40,000 chemicals [comparing against previous rat test data]. (I'm referring to https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/evalatm/3rs-meetings/past-meetings/tox-models-2018/index.html). She said that a consensus model performed just as well as the animal tests and the expectation is that the EPA would release this consensus model online for free download later this year. Do you know when that is planned to happen?

- I spoke to Kristie Sullivan, of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), about her group's concerns that EPA last year requested more than 300 animal safety tests involving more than 75,000 animals, up from a few dozen safety tests involving around 700 animals the year before. (The details were written up at Science in May: https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/05/animal-tests-surge-under-new-us-chemical-safety-law) Can you explain why so many more animal tests have been requested?

- Animal welfare groups are concerned that EPA is not taking full advantage of alternative non-animal tests to measure chemical toxicity, such as in vitro and computational models. What would you say to that concern?

On Jul 6, 2018, at 4:07 PM, Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Enesta,

Please see below for an interview request from Nature magazine. It looks like we've missed the reporter's deadline – please let us know how you'd like to proceed. Thank you!

From: Richard Van Noorden [mailto:R.VanNoorden@nature.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:14 AM
To: Scarano, Louis <Scarano.Louis@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino – I am not sure if you received this email, but I would like to talk to you about EPA's plans to assess chemicals without animal testing, for a story in Nature.

Would you be available this week or early next week?

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden.

From: Richard Van Noorden
Sent: 21 June 2018 17:58
To: 'Scarano.louis@epa.gov'
Subject: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino,

I'm a reporter at Nature, and am writing a news story about improvements to computational methods to predict chemical toxicity. IN particular, with reference to the attached paper by Hartung et al. It's to be published in *Toxicological Sciences* on 4 July and should be treated as under embargo until then (13:00 UK time).

This paper first argues that animal safety tests are far more inconsistent than was thought, with accuracies between the results of identical tests on identical chemicals dipping to around 78% for skin irritation tests, for instance. (Based on analysis of animal test results of tens of thousands of chemicals, from REACH submissions).

Then it claims that the latest computational software can outdo animal testing results. (It's presenting an updated approach which hasn't previously been disclosed). It's a mixture of QSAR and read-across, and I understand that this paper isn't unique, and that there are other computational efforts too. I talked to Craig Rowlands at Underwriter Laboratories, which is doing this work, and he noted that this software was one of a number of models tested out by EPA, FDA etc. at an April workshop that you talked at (https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/evalatm/3rs-meetings/past-meetings/tox-models-2018/index.html).

I am also aware that you are in charge of the strategic plan to assess chemicals without animals, due to be published June 22nd.

Would it be possible to talk next week – Thurs 28th June or Fri 29th June – about general progress in this field, with reference to the EPA's strategic plan, and on how significant this particular work by Hartung, Rowlands and their team is?

I am in London, UK, so it would be best to talk morning your time if this is possible. But I could discuss another time if this is not convenient.

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden

Richard Van Noorden
Features Editor
Nature, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
r.vannoorden@nature.com
@richvn | @naturenews
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Message

From: Hubbard, Carolyn [Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/7/2018 1:48:09 PM
To: Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]
CC: Ortiz, Julia [Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Blair, Susanna [Blair.Susanna@epa.gov]; Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]; Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Sorry to be late to the party. ORD can review written responses- will that work? Or let me know if you would like us to take a first pass.

Carolyn Hubbard
Communications Director
EPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2189
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Jul 6, 2018, at 5:17 PM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

> Thanks, we can do a written for this. Have a great weekend.
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> **From:** Ortiz, Julia
> **Sent:** Friday, July 06, 2018 5:16 PM
> **To:** Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity
>
> Thanks Linda. I'm checking with Gino to see if he's available. I'll be out on Monday so Alison will be covering this.
>
> **From:** Strauss, Linda
> **Sent:** Friday, July 06, 2018 5:16 PM
> **To:** Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>; Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity
>
> Adding Carolyn, ORD, and Susanna, OPPT.
>
> **From:** Jones, Enesta
> **Sent:** Friday, July 06, 2018 5:12 PM
> **To:** Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity
>
> Julia, he responded:

Hello - thanks! I am in London, UK, and would need to speak by end of UK day Monday [i.e. 18:00 here, 13:00 ET], or it would be ok to have answers to specific questions for my Tuesday morning -- i.e. end your day Monday. I appreciate this may be too short a deadline for you to respond, but we will go to press on Tuesday morning.

The context is new research by Thomas Hartung (Johns Hopkins), Craig Rowlands (Underwriter Laboratories) and others describing advances in computational models to predict chemical toxicity; these can now outperform animal tests for some simple toxicity endpoints.

I wanted to talk in general about the EPA's approach to computational methods for toxicity prediction, but if that is not possible, then answers to these specific questions would be great:

- is EPA working with Hartung/Rowland's computational model, or with the database of animal-test results that Hartung's team downloaded from the ECHA/Reach website?

- I spoke to Nicole Kleinstreuer (NICETAM, US toxicology program), about an April inter-agency workshop where research groups were invited to test their latest computational models to predict acute oral toxicity in around 40,000 chemicals [comparing against previous rat test data]. (I'm referring to https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/evalatm/3rs-meetings/past-meetings/tox-models-2018/index.html). She said that a consensus model performed just as well as the animal tests and the expectation is that the EPA would release this consensus model online for free download later this year. Do you know when that is planned to happen?

- I spoke to Kristie Sullivan, of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), about her group's concerns that EPA last year requested more than 300 animal safety tests involving more than 75,000 animals, up from a few dozen safety tests involving around 700 animals the year before. (The details were written up at Science in May: https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/05/animal-tests-surge-under-new-us-chemical-safety-law) Can you explain why so many more animal tests have been requested?

- Animal welfare groups are concerned that EPA is not taking full advantage of alternative non-animal tests to measure chemical toxicity, such as in vitro and computational models. What would you say to that concern?

On Jul 6, 2018, at 4:07 PM, Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Enesta,

Please see below for an interview request from Nature magazine. It looks like we've missed the reporter's deadline – please let us know how you'd like to proceed. Thank you!

From: Richard Van Noorden [mailto:R.VanNoorden@nature.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:14 AM
To: Scarano, Louis <Scarano.Louis@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino – I am not sure if you received this email, but I would like to talk to you about EPA's plans to assess chemicals without animal testing, for a story in Nature.

Would you be available this week or early next week?

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden.

From: Richard Van Noorden
Sent: 21 June 2018 17:58
To: 'Scarano.louis@epa.gov'
Subject: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino,

I'm a reporter at Nature, and am writing a news story about improvements to computational methods to predict chemical toxicity. IN particular, with reference to the attached paper by Hartung et al. It's to be published in *Toxicological Sciences* on 4 July and should be treated as under embargo until then (13:00 UK time).

This paper first argues that animal safety tests are far more inconsistent than was thought, with accuracies between the results of identical tests on identical chemicals dipping to around 78% for skin irritation tests, for instance. (Based on analysis of animal test results of tens of thousands of chemicals, from REACH submissions).

Then it claims that the latest computational software can outdo animal testing results. (It's presenting an updated approach which hasn't previously been disclosed). It's a mixture of QSAR and read-across, and I understand that this paper isn't unique, and that there are other computational efforts too. I talked to Craig Rowlands at Underwriter Laboratories, which is doing this work, and he noted that this software was one of a number of models tested out by EPA, FDA etc. at an April workshop that you talked at (https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/evalatm/3rs-meetings/past-meetings/tox-models-2018/index.html).

I am also aware that you are in charge of the strategic plan to assess chemicals without animals, due to be published June 22nd.

Would it be possible to talk next week – Thurs 28th June or Fri 29th June – about general progress in this field, with reference to the EPA's strategic plan, and on how significant this particular work by Hartung, Rowlands and their team is?

I am in London, UK, so it would be best to talk morning your time if this is possible. But I could discuss another time if this is not convenient.

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden

Richard Van Noorden
Features Editor
Nature, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW
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@richvn | @naturenews
Nature.com/news
Nature's online news is free for all

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Please note that Macmillan Publishers Limited and their agents and affiliates do not accept any responsibility for viruses or malware that may be contained in this e-mail or its attachments and it is your responsibility to scan the e-mail and attachments (if any).

Message

From: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/30/2018 5:11:58 PM
To: Davis, Alison [Davis.Alison@epa.gov]; Bremer, Kristen [Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov]
CC: DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]; Millett, John [Millett.John@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: OAQPS: Guardian story on air pollution - 5/1
Attachments: AAP_database_summary_results_2018_v4.pdf; ATT00001.htm; pnas.201801191.pdf; ATT00002.htm

THE GUARDIAN
OLIVER MILMAN
5/1

Good afternoon everybody,

What can we tell the reporter? **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**
Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Also, and since this references pieces of research, any need to loop ORD in?

Thanks, R.

Hi Enesta,

I'm writing a story based on two major pieces of research coming out this week on air pollution.

A World Health Organization report (attached) shows that much of the world is dealing with bad air quality but US cities are among the best in terms of clean air.

At the same time another piece of research from the National Center for Atmospheric Research (also attached) shows that there has been a slowdown in the reduction of air pollutants in the US over the past decade.

I'm keen to get some comment from the EPA on these findings. Specifically -

Does the EPA consider the US to be ahead of much of the world when it comes to air quality?

What is the EPA's reaction to the NCAR study that shows a slowdown in pollution cuts? Is this cause for concern?

How will the US be able to continue its progress in reducing air pollutants when the current administration is in the process of delaying or repealing various clean air initiatives such as the Clean Power Plan? Is it expected that key air pollutants will start to flatline/increase rather than decrease?

If you could get back to me on this by the close of business tomorrow I'd be very grateful.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

Oliver

Message

From: DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/12/2018 3:01:51 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]; Davis, Alison [Davis.Alison@epa.gov]; Maguire, Megan [Maguire.Megan@epa.gov]
CC: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Bremer, Kristen [Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: S&P Global

Ok, thanks! I'll leave it up to OAQPs and OPA to decide the best level of attribution…

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 10:54 AM
To: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: S&P Global

Usually, yes. This said, we've *__occasionally__* sent responses for attribution to either

- A specific SME
- Different program offices
- A specific senior official, with other parts of the interview on background.

It really depends on the kind of piece the reporter is writing, whether it's a long-form interview, how much of the piece EPA's info will take, how we fit into their larger story, things like that.

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: DeLuca, Isabel
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 10:48 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: S&P Global

Hi Robert,
I'm curious -- isn't attribution usually to either a specific person or to an "EPA Spokesperson"? I've never seen attribution to an entire office before, but perhaps I've not been around long enough! ☺

Isabel

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 10:46 AM

To: Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>
Cc: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: S&P Global

Thanks, Alison. I was thinking of attributing to OAQPS – or just OAR if you feel more comfortable. Please advise.

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 10:33 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>
Cc: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: S&P Global

Hi Robert,
The OAQPS answers came from a variety of people (and one actually came from OAP). What were you thinking wrt attribution for us?

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 10:30 AM
To: Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>
Cc: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: S&P Global

Thanks, Megan. That's exactly what I was planning to do. Can you give me his exact title, or at least what you'd think most appropriate for attribution purposes?

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Maguire, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 10:28 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>
Cc: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: S&P Global

Ron is fine with the responses being attributed as long as it clearly states he is with EPA's Office of Research and Development.

Thanks,
Megan

Megan Maguire
US EPA, Office of Research and Development
RRB 41261
O: (202)564-6636
C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Maguire, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 10:20 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>
Cc: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: S&P Global

Double checking with Ron

Megan Maguire
US EPA, Office of Research and Development
RRB 41261
O: (202)564-6636
C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 8:43 AM
To: Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: S&P Global

Good morning Alison,

Just so you know, OPA seniors have approved our attributing

- ORD's answers to Ron Williams directly; and
- OAR's answers directly to OAQPS.

Does that work for everyone?

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 5:08 PM
To: Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: S&P Global

Thanks, Alison, Megan, and everyone who contributed.

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Davis, Alison
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 5:06 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: S&P Global

Robert,
Sorry for the delay on this, which is on us. Plus Enesta for awareness.
Please read the note below. Thanks!

Note (internal):
We had considerable discussion between offices on this – and basically, the reporter initially had indicated an interest in sensors, yet her questions are worded in a way that they could also cover more traditional monitoring. We've addressed this by re-grouping the questions, and indicating which ones have answers that are sensor-focused. If she's looking for something else, she can let us know.

We've also grouped a few questions that called for speculation – and for which the answer is the same. Rather than repeat the answer, we put the three questions together and answered that way.

Let me know if you have questions. Office has been reinstalled, so I can work again!

Thanks.
-Alison

For the reporter

The following information applies to air quality sensors

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

-Can you tell me how technology is changing air quality monitoring, and what advances you are most excited about?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

How is the cost of air monitoring equipment changing? Are we seeing costs come down for this equipment, and what will that mean for states or communities as they seek to meet the nation's air quality standards?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- What kind of timeline do you see for wider adoption of the kinds of technologies you're researching?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- What does the future of air quality technology look like to you? Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- Can you tell me a bit about some of the programs EPA has supported with air quality research grants? I've heard a lot about the projects going on in California, Minnesota and Kentucky. What EPA-supported research are you excited about?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- What kind of advancements are happening on the software side? How do we process all this data into something usable?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

The questions that follow are your questions about other monitoring technologies, modeling and data transparency

My publication has a specific interest in the power and energy industry. So can you tell me how are power or natural gas utilities are adapting new technologies to monitor their emissions?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

We have combined the following questions, because they share an answer:

- **Are we getting better at pinpointing where emissions come from and how to mitigate them?**
- **I've been told that the air regulation community is on the cusp of a tech transformation with respect to air quality issues -- similar to how smart grids have helped utilities pinpoint distribution and reliability issues. Do you agree that we could see a disruption in how states and sources of pollution monitor/model their emissions, and how regulations are developed as a result?**
- **Much of the EPA's air quality standards, such as the NAAQS, rely on an averaged air quality reading across a region. Could we see that change as data gets better and we can see hot spots better?**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- When it comes to transparency and the public having access to air quality data, what is EPA doing?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- President Trump in a recent executive order directed the EPA to focus on monitored data over modeled data for regulatory decisions. This is an idea that has been around for a while. Can you explain how this change is being implemented at the EPA, and how it might alter the EPA's regulatory process?"

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Message

From: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/12/2018 2:44:03 PM
To: Maguire, Megan [Maguire.Megan@epa.gov]; Davis, Alison [Davis.Alison@epa.gov]
CC: DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Bremer, Kristen [Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: S&P Global

Copy that.

From: Maguire, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 10:37:58 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert; Davis, Alison
Cc: DeLuca, Isabel; Jones, Enesta; Bremer, Kristen
Subject: RE: S&P Global

His title is research chemist

Megan Maguire
US EPA, Office of Research and Development
RRB 41261
O: (202)564-6636
C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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Cheers, R.

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-Alison

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Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- President Trump in a recent executive order directed the EPA to focus on monitored data over modeled data for regulatory decisions. This is an idea that has been around for a while. Can you explain how this change is being implemented at the EPA, and how it might alter the EPA's regulatory process?"

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Message

From: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/3/2018 8:01:10 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
CC: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Open Inquiries, 3 August 2018

All right, good to know. Thanks.

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 4:00 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Open Inquiries, 3 August 2018

And also, you should include all the ones that came into the press box today that were not responded to. I'll see if there are any examples when I get a minute.

Tricia's edition yesterday is an example.

On Aug 3, 2018, at 3:58 PM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Cool, thanks. Which one was that, BTW?

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 3:58 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Open Inquiries, 3 August 2018

I have one awaiting approval. But I'll ping on my own. NABD.

On Aug 3, 2018, at 3:54 PM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Only three require OPS approval at the moment. Please advise.

WHYY-FM (NPR Philadelphia) – Pharmaceutical drugs in water

Chemical Watch – Scope of Risk Evaluations under TSCA

Columbus Dispatch – Ozone Pollution

++

SUMMARY: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) **The reporter is looking to produce a piece tonight for broadcast over the weekend or Monday morning. He already knows we won't be granting an interview, as Christian Daughton, the ORD researcher he'd reached out to, has retired from the agency – Alan Yu – WHYY-FM Philadelphia – ayu@whyy.org**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Alan Yu <ayu@whyy.org>
Date: August 2, 2018 at 10:02:14 AM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: URGENT: Request interview for public radio story about research on drugs in well water

Questions I'd like to ask:

- how big of a problem is this? And how widespread, i.e. in what places?
- how do these drugs get into water?
- What have we learned in the past couple of years; what new research is there?

I'll definitely have more follow up questions in the actual interview.

This will take a little extra effort because it's a radio story, so we need to try and get high quality sound.

Usually, an easy way is to do the interview online using Zencastr. All he needs to do is open the link that I'll send him using the latest version of Google Chrome on a computer, and talk to me using a headset (or headphones with a microphone, like what comes with an iPhone) from a quiet room with a stable internet connection.

Or, we can talk over a landline, and he record himself with a smartphone. I will send a PDF with instructions for how to do that with an iPhone. If he has an Android phone, the process is very similar but he would use a different app. If he has a Samsung Galaxy, he can try the default Voice Recorder App. If not, he can download that app here: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sec.android.app.voicenote&hl=en

I know this takes a bit of work on your part, but please let me know if I can help you both out and walk through the steps. Thanks.

Alan

Alan

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

OK to send for attribution? Kelly Franklin – Chemical Watch – kelly.franklin@chemicalwatch.com

-Can you comment on the assertion that EPA *"intends to abandon its November 2017 'New Chemicals Decision-Making Framework'"*?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- What is the agency's current approach to issuing a SNUR alongside a "not likely to present an unreasonable risk" determination? The EDF charges: *"Initially, EPA staff indicated the "not likely" finding would be made only once a final SNUR had been promulgated. That then slipped to have issuance of the finding coincide with the proposal of the SNUR. That then slipped further to allow the finding to be issued based on EPA's mere intent to develop a SNUR. Now, however, the Trump EPA plans to decouple completely its ability to issue a "not likely" finding from any dependency at all on promulgation of a SNUR."* Can you confirm the accuracy of this? If there have been changes over time to how it is using SNURs, what is the reasoning behind that evolution?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- Do you care to respond to EDF's claim that EPA "*apparently intends to so narrowly define "reasonably foreseen" as to render it effectively the same as "intended"*"?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- If what EDF says about SNURs is correct - that the agency does not intent to routinely issue SNURs alongside 'not likely' findings - how does EPA plan to safeguard against potentially concerning uses of new substances, beyond those uses outlined in PMN?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- Do you care to respond to EDF's assertion that EPA *"appears intent on never imposing testing requirements on new chemicals"*? Is this true? If not, can you provide any examples?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- The EDF claims that changes being pushed by political appointees will lead to inconsistent decisions in similar cases. Can you address how the EPA is ensuring consistency across the new chemicals review program?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- Would you like to respond to the charge that changes to the program will result in "rubber stamping" of new chemicals?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- Is there any data on 'not likely' findings, test orders and promulgated SNURs that you could share with me?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Kelly Franklin [mailto:kelly.franklin@chemicalwatch.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 2:47 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Media inquiry: Changes to TSCA new chemicals program

Hi Robert,

I expect EPA has seen the recent Environmental Defense Fund blog post, "Trump's EPA pivots yet again on reviews of new chemicals under TSCA, leaving public and worker health in the dust".

I would really like to hear EPA's response to the various concerns raised in this report. Would the agency be willing to comment on some or all of the following:

- Can you comment on the assertion that EPA *"intends to abandon its November 2017 'New Chemicals Decision-Making Framework'"*?
- What is the agency's current approach to issuing a SNUR alongside a "not likely to present an unreasonable risk" determination? The EDF charges: *"Initially, EPA staff indicated the "not likely" finding would be made only once a final SNUR had been promulgated. That then slipped to have issuance of the finding coincide with the proposal of the SNUR. That then slipped further to allow the finding to be issued based on EPA's mere intent to develop a SNUR. Now,*

however, the Trump EPA plans to decouple completely its ability to issue a "not likely" finding from any dependency at all on promulgation of a SNUR." Can you confirm the accuracy of this? If there have been changes over time to how it is using SNURs, what is the reasoning behind that evolution?
- Do you care to respond to EDF's claim that EPA "*apparently intends to so narrowly define "reasonably foreseen" as to render it effectively the same as "intended"*"?
- If what EDF says about SNURs is correct - that the agency does not intent to routinely issue SNURs alongside 'not likely' findings - how does EPA plan to safeguard against potentially concerning uses of new substances, beyond those uses outlined in PMN?
- Do you care to respond to EDF's assertion that EPA *"appears intent on never imposing testing requirements on new chemicals"*? Is this true? If not, can you provide any examples?
- The EDF claims that changes being pushed by political appointees will lead to inconsistent decisions in similar cases. Can you address how the EPA is ensuring consistency across the new chemicals review program?
- Would you like to respond to the charge that changes to the program will result in "rubber stamping" of new chemicals?
- Is there any data on 'not likely' findings, test orders and promulgated SNURs that you could share with me?

My deadline is end of day Tuesday, though any information that you could give me ahead of then would be most appreciated. I think our readers would be really interested to hear EPA's perspectives on this issue.

All best,
Kelly

--
Kelly Franklin

North America Editor
Chemical Watch

Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Email: kelly.franklin@chemicalwatch.com
www.chemicalwatch.com

ChemicalWatch
GLOBAL RISK & REGULATION NEWS

++

Colleagues, the progam is suggesting Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Please advise – Beth Burger – Columbus Dispatch – bburger@dispach.com

RESPONSE:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Burger, Beth [mailto:bburger@dispatch.com]
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Media Request - Ozone pollution

Hi there,

Can someone help me with this? I left a voicemail yesterday and sent emails to Region 5 but haven't heard back.

I'm working on a story about ozone pollution in Ohio.

It's my understanding that Columbus, or Franklin County, has never passed Clean Air Act standards for ozone. Can you let me know if our area is considered non-attainment?

What year has Franklin County/Columbus been given to meet the standard? What will happen if the standard is not met? Are there penalties? If so, what are they? Is the EPA helping metro areas come into compliance like ours? If so, how?

I'm also hoping you could provide similar information for Stark County, Ohio.

Have there been improvements for Stark and Franklin counties?

I'm writing this story for Sunday's paper. Any information you can provide would be helpful.

Thanks!

--
Beth Burger
The Columbus Dispatch
62 E. Broad St
Columbus, OH 43215
614-461-5178
bburger@dispatch.com
@bybethburger

This message may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient or authorized to receive this for the intended recipient, you must not use, copy, disclose or take any action based on this message or any information herein. If you have received this message in error, please advise the sender immediately by sending a reply e-mail and delete this message. Thank you for your cooperation.

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

Message

From: Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/9/2018 5:26:13 PM
To: Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]
CC: Linnenbrink, Monica [Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Hubbard, Carolyn [Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Stopped by your office. Can you put on Jeff's and Monica put on Rusty's? I'll be coming over to Jeff's 5 minutes before then we will loop in the others.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2018, at 1:23 PM, Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov> wrote:

> Is someone officially sending an invite for this one..?
> Or should we just expect Linda and Enesta to show up at Jeff's at 1:55?
>
> ALISON PIERCE
> 202.564.2437
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Strauss, Linda
> **Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2018 12:29 PM
> **To:** Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity
>
> We'll call Rusty from Jeff's office 5 minutes before.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Linnenbrink, Monica
> **Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2018 11:50 AM
> **To:** Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity
>
> You can either call or video Tandberg Rusty in his office. His telephone number is Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Let me know what you prefer.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Strauss, Linda
> **Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 11:47 AM
> **To:** Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity
>
> Meet in Jeff's office. Or should we make the call and loop ORD in? What phone for you, ORD?

From: Linnenbrink, Monica
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 11:20 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Yes we are good with 2 PM eastern time.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 11:11 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Carolyn, does 2 pm work for you all?

On Jul 9, 2018, at 11:08 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

Enesta, will you send a calendar invite? Is that the conference line?

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

2 pm works for the reporter. He'll be on Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Jul 9, 2018, at 10:52 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

OK, let us know when. Jeff is free (for now) anytime.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 10:24 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Linda,

Approved by OPA.

Reporter is fine with it on background.

He prefers to do it before 3 p.m., because he is in London.

On Jul 9, 2018, at 10:12 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

Enesta, call me about this when you have a chance.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 10:04 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

What's the preference — background or attribution?

On Jul 9, 2018, at 10:03 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) This was stated as a meeting w/Erik. Nancy Beck is out this am, but she believes Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) I didn't ask whether it would be for background or attribution.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 9:59 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

I need to get this approved. Has Nancy or Erik or Richard signed off on this? Would this be on background or for attribution?

So we definitely want to do an interview vs written responses?

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:57 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

Alison and Monica, do Jeff and Rusty need to talk before the call? Enesta, what are the slots that the reporter is available?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:50 AM, Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov> wrote:

> Linda – If it helps, Jeff is currently open beginning at 11:45. Perhaps that's a good time to suggest to the reporter?
>
> ALISON PIERCE
> 202.564.2437
>
> **From:** Linnenbrink, Monica
> **Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2018 9:43 AM
> **To:** Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>; Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Thomas, Russell <Thomas.Russell@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Rusty is available this morning if you would like for him to join the interview with Jeff Morris. Please let us know how he should join the call.

Monica

From: Blackburn, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:08 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>; Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; linnenbronk.monica@epa.gov; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Adding Monica.

Liz Blackburn
Chief of Staff
EPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2192
Cell Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:03 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

> Jeff can give an interview that addresses #3 and #4. Carolyn, Jeff Morris believes that #1 and #2 are ORD's - and to pull in Liz and Monica. Would Rusty or another ORD person be able to be on the phone to address?
>
> Looks like outlet needs by 1:00 today.
>
> Linda
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Jul 6, 2018, at 5:15 PM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:
>
>> Adding Carolyn, ORD, and Susanna, OPPT.
>>
>> ---
>>
>> **From:** Jones, Enesta
>> **Sent:** Friday, July 06, 2018 5:12 PM
>> **To:** Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>
>> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
>> **Subject:** Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Julia, he responded:

Hello - thanks! I am in London, UK, and would need to speak by end of UK day Monday [i.e. 18:00 here, 13:00 ET], or it would be ok to have answers to specific questions for my Tuesday morning -- i.e. end your day Monday. I appreciate this may be too short a deadline for you to respond, but we will go to press on Tuesday morning.

The context is new research by Thomas Hartung (Johns Hopkins), Craig Rowlands (Underwriter Laboratories) and others describing advances in computational models to predict chemical toxicity; these can now outperform animal tests for some simple toxicity endpoints.

I wanted to talk in general about the EPA's approach to computational methods for toxicity prediction, but if that is not possible, then answers to these specific questions would be great:

- is EPA working with Hartung/Rowland's computational model, or with the database of animal-test results that Hartung's team downloaded from the ECHA/Reach website?

- I spoke to Nicole Kleinstreuer (NICETAM, US toxicology program), about an April inter-agency workshop where research groups were invited to test their latest computational models to predict acute oral toxicity in around 40,000 chemicals [comparing against previous rat test data]. (I'm referring to https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/evalatm/3rs-meetings/past-meetings/tox-models-2018/index.html). She said that a consensus model performed just as well as the animal tests and the expectation is that the EPA would release this consensus model online for free download later this year. Do you know when that is planned to happen?

- I spoke to Kristie Sullivan, of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), about her group's concerns that EPA last year requested more than 300 animal safety tests involving more than 75,000 animals, up from a few dozen safety tests involving around 700 animals the year before. (The details were written up at Science in May: https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/05/animal-tests-surge-under-new-us-chemical-safety-law) Can you explain why so many more animal tests have been requested?

- Animal welfare groups are concerned that EPA is not taking full advantage of alternative non-animal tests to measure chemical toxicity, such as in vitro and computational models. What would you say to that concern?

On Jul 6, 2018, at 4:07 PM, Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Enesta,

Please see below for an interview request from Nature magazine. It looks like we've missed the reporter's deadline – please let us know how you'd like to proceed. Thank you!

From: Richard Van Noorden [mailto:R.VanNoorden@nature.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:14 AM
To: Scarano, Louis <Scarano.Louis@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino – I am not sure if you received this email, but I would like to talk to you about EPA's plans to assess chemicals without animal testing, for a story in Nature.

Would you be available this week or early next week?

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden.

From: Richard Van Noorden
Sent: 21 June 2018 17:58
To: 'Scarano.louis@epa.gov'
Subject: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino,

I'm a reporter at Nature, and am writing a news story about improvements to computational methods to predict chemical toxicity. IN particular, with reference to the attached paper by Hartung et al. It's to be published in *Toxicological Sciences* on 4 July and should be treated as under embargo until then (13:00 UK time).

This paper first argues that animal safety tests are far more inconsistent than was thought, with accuracies between the results of identical tests on identical chemicals dipping to around 78% for skin irritation tests, for instance. (Based on analysis of animal test results of tens of thousands of chemicals, from REACH submissions).

Then it claims that the latest computational software can outdo animal testing results. (It's presenting an updated approach which hasn't previously been disclosed). It's a mixture of QSAR and read-across, and I understand that this paper isn't unique, and that there are other computational efforts too. I talked to Craig Rowlands at Underwriter Laboratories, which is doing this work, and he noted that this software was one of a number of models tested out by EPA, FDA etc. at an April workshop that you talked at (https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/evalatm/3rs-meetings/past-meetings/tox-models-2018/index.html).

I am also aware that you are in charge of the strategic plan to assess chemicals without animals, due to be published June 22nd.

Would it be possible to talk next week – Thurs 28th June or Fri 29th June – about general progress in this field, with reference to the EPA's strategic plan, and on how significant this particular work by Hartung, Rowlands and their team is?

I am in London, UK, so it would be best to talk morning your time if this is possible. But I could discuss another time if this is not convenient.

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden

Richard Van Noorden
Features Editor
Nature, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW
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@richvn | @naturenews
Nature.com/news
Nature's online news is free for all

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Message

From: Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/9/2018 3:47:13 PM
To: Linnenbrink, Monica [Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Hubbard, Carolyn [Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov]
CC: Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Meet in Jeff's office. Or should we make the call and loop ORD in? What phone for you, ORD?

From: Linnenbrink, Monica
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 11:20 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Yes we are good with 2 PM eastern time.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 11:11 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Carolyn, does 2 pm work for you all?

On Jul 9, 2018, at 11:08 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

Enesta, will you send a calendar invite? Is that the conference line?

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

2 pm works for the reporter. He'll be on Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Jul 9, 2018, at 10:52 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

OK, let us know when. Jeff is free (for now) anytime.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 10:24 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Linda,

Approved by OPA.

Reporter is fine with it on background.

He prefers to do it before 3 p.m., because he is in London.

On Jul 9, 2018, at 10:12 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

Enesta, call me about this when you have a chance.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 10:04 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

What's the preference — background or attribution?

On Jul 9, 2018, at 10:03 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) This was stated as a meeting w/Erik. Nancy Beck is out this am, but she believes Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) I didn't ask whether it would be for background or attribution.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 9:59 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

I need to get this approved. Has Nancy or Erik or Richard signed off on this? Would this be on background or for attribution?

So we definitely want to do an interview vs written responses?

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:57 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

Alison and Monica, do Jeff and Rusty need to talk before the call? Enesta, what are the slots that the reporter is available?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:50 AM, Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov> wrote:

> Linda – If it helps, Jeff is currently open beginning at 11:45. Perhaps that's a good time to suggest to the reporter?
>
> ALISON PIERCE
> 202.564.2437

From: Linnenbrink, Monica
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 9:43 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>; Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Thomas, Russell <Thomas.Russell@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Rusty is available this morning if you would like for him to join the interview with Jeff Morris. Please let us know how he should join the call.

Monica

From: Blackburn, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:08 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>; Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; linnenbronk.monica@epa.gov; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Adding Monica.

Liz Blackburn
Chief of Staff
EPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2192
Cell Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:03 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

> Jeff can give an interview that addresses #3 and #4. Carolyn, Jeff Morris believes that #1 and #2 are ORD's - and to pull in Liz and Monica. Would Rusty or another ORD person be able to be on the phone to address?
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>
>> Adding Carolyn, ORD, and Susanna, OPPT.
>>
>> ---
>>
>> **From:** Jones, Enesta
>> **Sent:** Friday, July 06, 2018 5:12 PM

To: Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>
Cc: Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Julia, he responded:

Hello - thanks! I am in London, UK, and would need to speak by end of UK day Monday [i.e. 18:00 here, 13:00 ET], or it would be ok to have answers to specific questions for my Tuesday morning -- i.e. end your day Monday. I appreciate this may be too short a deadline for you to respond, but we will go to press on Tuesday morning.

The context is new research by Thomas Hartung (Johns Hopkins), Craig Rowlands (Underwriter Laboratories) and others describing advances in computational models to predict chemical toxicity; these can now outperform animal tests for some simple toxicity endpoints.

I wanted to talk in general about the EPA's approach to computational methods for toxicity prediction, but if that is not possible, then answers to these specific questions would be great:

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- I spoke to Nicole Kleinstreuer (NICETAM, US toxicology program), about an April inter-agency workshop where research groups were invited to test their latest computational models to predict acute oral toxicity in around 40,000 chemicals [comparing against previous rat test data]. (I'm referring to https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/evalatm/3rs-meetings/past-meetings/tox-models-2018/index.html). She said that a consensus model performed just as well as the animal tests and the expectation is that the EPA would release this consensus model online for free download later this year. Do you know when that is planned to happen?

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- Animal welfare groups are concerned that EPA is not taking full advantage of alternative non-animal tests to measure chemical

toxicity, such as in vitro and computational models. What would you say to that concern?

On Jul 6, 2018, at 4:07 PM, Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Enesta,

Please see below for an interview request from Nature magazine. It looks like we've missed the reporter's deadline – please let us know how you'd like to proceed. Thank you!

From: Richard Van Noorden [mailto:R.VanNoorden@nature.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:14 AM
To: Scarano, Louis <Scarano.Louis@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino – I am not sure if you received this email, but I would like to talk to you about EPA's plans to assess chemicals without animal testing, for a story in Nature.

Would you be available this week or early next week?

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden.

From: Richard Van Noorden
Sent: 21 June 2018 17:58
To: 'Scarano.louis@epa.gov'
Subject: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino,

I'm a reporter at Nature, and am writing a news story about improvements to computational methods to predict chemical toxicity. IN particular, with reference to the attached paper by Hartung et al. It's to be published in *Toxicological Sciences* on 4 July and should be treated as under embargo until then (13:00 UK time).

This paper first argues that animal safety tests are far more inconsistent than was thought, with accuracies between the results of identical tests on identical chemicals dipping to around 78% for skin irritation tests, for instance. (Based on analysis of animal test results of tens of thousands of chemicals, from REACH submissions).

Then it claims that the latest computational software can outdo animal testing results. (It's presenting an updated approach which hasn't previously been disclosed). It's a mixture of QSAR and read-across, and I understand that this paper isn't unique, and that there are other computational efforts too. I talked to Craig Rowlands at Underwriter Laboratories, which is doing this work, and he noted that this software was one of a number of models tested out by EPA, FDA etc. at an April workshop that you talked at (https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/evalatm/3rs-meetings/past-meetings/tox-models-2018/index.html).

I am also aware that you are in charge of the strategic plan to assess chemicals without animals, due to be published June 22nd.

Would it be possible to talk next week – Thurs 28th June or Fri 29th June – about general progress in this field, with reference to the EPA's strategic plan, and on how significant this particular work by Hartung, Rowlands and their team is?

I am in London, UK, so it would be best to talk morning your time if this is possible. But I could discuss another time if this is not convenient.

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden

Richard Van Noorden
Features Editor
Nature, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW
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r.vannoorden@nature.com
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Nature's online news is free for all

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Message

From: Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/9/2018 1:38:44 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Hmmm those are the ones that Jeff can speak to...good story.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:23 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

He writes:

End of your day would be fine.

Also, I realise that I will not really have room to address the third and fourth questions in the article [which focuses on the latest computational toxicology research]. So if you need to prioritize, just answers to the first two questions would be great. I won't be able to use the third and fourth in the article.

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:12 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

Hopefully we'll hear soon on who from ORD could jump on the phone – or guess ORD could provide written to those...Linda

---

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 9:11 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

1 like you said.

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:10 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

What's the latest timing for an interview on this? Need to see what Jeff's calendar looks like for today. This has been approved for an interview for #3 and 4.

From: Blackburn, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 9:08 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>; Blair, Susanna <Blair.Susanna@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>; linnenbronk.monica@epa.gov; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Linnenbrink, Monica <Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Adding Monica.

Liz Blackburn
Chief of Staff
EPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2192
Cell Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:03 AM, Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov> wrote:

> Jeff can give an interview that addresses #3 and #4. Carolyn, Jeff Morris believes that #1 and #2 are ORD's - and to pull in Liz and Monica. Would Rusty or another ORD person be able to be on the phone to address?
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>>
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>> **Cc:** Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
>> **Subject:** Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity
>>
>> Julia, he responded:
>>
>> Hello - thanks! I am in London, UK, and would need to speak by end of UK day Monday [i.e. 18:00 here, 13:00 ET], or it would be ok to have answers to specific questions for my Tuesday morning - - i.e. end your day Monday. I appreciate this may be too short a deadline for you to respond, but we will go to press on Tuesday morning.

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- is EPA working with Hartung/Rowland's computational model, or with the database of animal-test results that Hartung's team downloaded from the ECHA/Reach website?

- I spoke to Nicole Kleinstreuer (NICETAM, US toxicology program), about an April inter-agency workshop where research groups were invited to test their latest computational models to predict acute oral toxicity in around 40,000 chemicals [comparing against previous rat test data]. (I'm referring to https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/evalatm/3rs-meetings/past-meetings/tox-models-2018/index.html). She said that a consensus model performed just as well as the animal tests and the expectation is that the EPA would release this consensus model online for free download later this year. Do you know when that is planned to happen?

- I spoke to Kristie Sullivan, of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), about her group's concerns that EPA last year requested more than 300 animal safety tests involving more than 75,000 animals, up from a few dozen safety tests involving around 700 animals the year before. (The details were written up at Science in May: https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/05/animal-tests-surge-under-new-us-chemical-safety-law) Can you explain why so many more animal tests have been requested?

- Animal welfare groups are concerned that EPA is not taking full advantage of alternative non-animal tests to measure chemical toxicity, such as in vitro and computational models. What would you say to that concern?

On Jul 6, 2018, at 4:07 PM, Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Enesta,

Please see below for an interview request from Nature magazine. It looks like we've missed the reporter's deadline – please let us know how you'd like to proceed. Thank you!

From: Richard Van Noorden [mailto:R.VanNoorden@nature.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:14 AM
To: Scarano, Louis <Scarano.Louis@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino – I am not sure if you received this email, but I would like to talk to you about EPA's plans to assess chemicals without animal testing, for a story in Nature.

Would you be available this week or early next week?

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden.

From: Richard Van Noorden
Sent: 21 June 2018 17:58
To: 'Scarano.louis@epa.gov'
Subject: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

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Features Editor
Nature, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW
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@richvn | @naturenews

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Message

From: Hubbard, Carolyn [Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/9/2018 1:24:44 PM
To: Blackburn, Elizabeth [Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov]
CC: Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Ortiz, Julia [Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov]; Blair, Susanna [Blair.Susanna@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Maguire, Megan [Maguire.Megan@epa.gov]; Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]; Linnenbrink, Monica [Linnenbrink.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Thanks. Megan has this and can work with Monica to coordinate.

Carolyn Hubbard
Communications Director
EPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2189
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Jul 9, 2018, at 9:08 AM, Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov> wrote:

> Adding Monica.
>
> Liz Blackburn
> Chief of Staff
> EPA Office of Research and Development
> 202-564-2192
> Cell Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
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> Sent from my iPhone
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Richard Van Noorden.

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Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden

Richard Van Noorden
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Message

From: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/22/2017 5:41:58 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Louisiana Weekly Inquiry on ozone

FYI, hence my attributing the follow-up response to you.

Cheers, R.

-----Original Message-----
From: Hewitt, James
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 12:35 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Louisiana Weekly Inquiry on ozone

You can actually quote Enesta. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----
From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 12:31 PM
To: Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Louisiana Weekly Inquiry on ozone

I do indeed, sorry I didn't notify the press box.

BTW, are you, or Liz, OK, for attribution to either of you, as this reporter is requesting?

-----Original Message-----
From: Hewitt, James
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 12:25 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Louisiana Weekly Inquiry on ozone

Sorry if I missed, but does anyone have this?

-----Original Message-----
From: Susan Buchanan [mailto: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 9:43 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Louisiana Weekly Inquiry on ozone

Mr. Daguillard and EPA press office,

Thank you for the information from Enesta Jones last night.
Two questions here, please: "Declining due in part to precursor (VOCs and NOx) emissions going down (over what period, and in Louisiana as a whole or in certain parts of the state?)"

Also, we can't attribute to an anonymous spokesperson. We need a name, or at the very least an office and location at EPA.
I appreciate your help.

Regards, Susan, Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Tue, 11/21/17, Susan Buchanan < Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) wrote:

Subject: RE: Inquiry on ozone
To: "EnestaJones" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: "Press" <Press@epa.gov>
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017, 8:30 PM

Enesta,

Thank you so much for this information
Two questions here, please:
"Declining due in part to precursor (VOCs and NOx) emissions going down (over what period, and in Louisiana as a whole or certain parts of the state?)"

Also, we can't attribute to an anonymous spokesperson. We need a name, or at the very least an office and location at EPA.

I appreciate all your help,
Enesta.

Thanks again, Susan, Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
.

On Tue, 11/21/17, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
wrote:

Subject: RE: Inquiry on Ozone
To: "Susan Buchanan" < Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Cc: "Press" <Press@epa.gov>
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017, 7:19 PM

Hi Susan, our responses are
attributable
to an EPA spokesperson:

Is ozone smog increasing or declining
in Louisiana or
greater New Orleans, and why?

EPA Response: Declining due in part to precursor
(VOCs and NOx) emissions going down.

Is exposure to oil-and-gas pollution
among African
Americans in Louisiana increasing or
declining?

EPA Response: We don't have
information on
exposure to oil and gas emissions.

-----Original
Message-----

From: Susan Buchanan [mailto: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 10:53 AM

To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Inquiry on Ozone

Hi Enesta,

Thank you so much for your phone
call and email
today. I appreciate your help on my
pollution story.
My deadline is tonight, Tuesday,
Nov. 21.

Thanks again, Susan, Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Tue, 11/21/17, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
wrote:

Subject: Inquiry on Ozone
To: " Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Cc: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017, 7:35 AM

Hi Susan, per my voicemail, I am reaching out re:
your inquiry on ozone and oil/gas.

After I left my voicemail, David Gray shared your
email.

Please let me know your hard deadline.

Thanks,
Enesta

Message

From: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/9/2018 11:07:42 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: For Review: BuzzFeed News (Nidhi Subbaraman) re: EPA lead water rule (Deadline: 1/9)

Yes.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2018, at 5:46 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

> Ok to give this to BuzzFeed tonight?
>
> **Suggested Response:** **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**
>
> **From:** Nidhi Subbaraman [mailto:nidhi.s@buzzfeed.com]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, January 09, 2018 5:04 PM
> **To:** Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: BuzzFeed News query: EPA lead water rule
>
> Hi again,
>
> Has the presentation been posted yet? Looks like Bloomberg BNA has published what appears to be the presentation: https://bnanews.bna.com/environment-and-energy/epa-in-closed-door-meeting-foresees-billions-in-lead-rule-costs
>
> Can you confirm that this was the one that was used at the Jan 8 meeting?
>
> Thanks, Nidhi
>
> On Mon, Jan 8, 2018 at 8:35 PM, Nidhi Subbaraman <nidhi.subbaraman@buzzfeed.com> wrote:
>
> > Got it. Thanks.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Jan 8, 2018, at 6:57 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > Hi Nidhi, for attribution to an EPA spokesperson:
> > >
> > > We will be posting the presentation online. We will let you know when it is available.
> > >
> > > On Jan 8, 2018, at 9:24 AM, Nidhi Subbaraman <nidhi.s@buzzfeed.com> wrote:
> > >
> > > Thanks. If you have any announcements or releases following the meeting, please send them my way.
> > >
> > > On Thu, Jan 4, 2018 at 9:29 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Nidhi, attributable to an EPA spokesperson:

We have nothing more to provide at this time.

On Jan 4, 2018, at 7:52 AM, Nidhi Subbaraman <nidhi.s@buzzfeed.com> wrote:

Hello again Enesta, Checking if the attendee list is confirmed/shareable just yet.

Thanks, Nidhi

On Thu, Dec 14, 2017 at 7:13 PM, Nidhi Subbaraman <nidhi.s@buzzfeed.com> wrote:

Got it, thanks.

On Thu, Dec 14, 2017 at 2:12 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Not at this time.

On Dec 14, 2017, at 2:10 PM, Nidhi Subbaraman <nidhi.s@buzzfeed.com> wrote:

Thank you. Are there any details about the individuals who are invited that you can provide?

On Thu, Dec 14, 2017 at 2:03 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Here you go, Nidhi.

<image001.png>

From: Nidhi Subbaraman <nidhi.s@buzzfeed.com>

Date: December 14, 2017 at 1:58:38 PM EST
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: BuzzFeed News query: EPA lead water rule

Hello,

This query is regarding the Jan 8. meeting about the Lead and Copper Rule, proposed by the EPA in the following letter.

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-12/documents/lcr_federalism_consultation_letter.signed.12_14_17.pdf

Can you send a list of the parties that are invited to this meeting?

Thank you, Nidhi

--

Nidhi Subbaraman BuzzFeed News Science reporter
O: (202) 602 1715 | M: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) | Twitter: @NidhiSubs
1630 Connecticut Ave NW, 7th Floor Washington, DC 20009

--

Nidhi Subbaraman BuzzFeed News Science reporter
O: (202) 602 1715 | M: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) | Twitter: @NidhiSubs
1630 Connecticut Ave NW, 7th Floor Washington, DC 20009

--

Nidhi Subbaraman BuzzFeed News Science reporter
O: (202) 602 1715 | M: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) | Twitter: @NidhiSubs
1630 Connecticut Ave NW, 7th Floor Washington, DC 20009

--

Nidhi Subbaraman BuzzFeed News Science reporter
O: (202) 602 1715 | M: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Twitter: @NidhiSubs
1630 Connecticut Ave NW, 7th Floor Washington, DC 20009

<image001.png>

--

Nidhi Subbaraman BuzzFeed News Science reporter
O: (202) 602 1715 | M: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Twitter: @NidhiSubs
1630 Connecticut Ave NW, 7th Floor Washington, DC 20009

--
Nidhi Subbaraman BuzzFeed News Science reporter
O: (202) 602 1715 | M: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Twitter: @NidhiSubs
1630 Connecticut Ave NW, 7th Floor Washington, DC 20009

Message

From: DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/29/2018 6:41:55 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
CC: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Millett, John [Millett.John@epa.gov]; Welderufael, Miriam [welderufael.miriam@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: ENERGY STAR announcements for review
Attachments: attachment 1.docx; ATT00001.htm

Hi Enesta,
The POY comms plan has some info of the schedule for 4/20. I believe Mandy will introduce Bill at the award ceremony.

Let me know if you need more info!
Thanks,
Isabel

On Mar 29, 2018, at 2:35 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Isabel,
I would like to add the POY Awards Ceremony to the OMR calendar as I recall it being open press in past years.

+ Is Wehrum the confirmed MOC? Another OAR senior official?
+ Time and location on 4/20? Time of his/her remarks?

On Mar 16, 2018, at 9:11 AM, DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Nancy. April 2 for POY is not a mistake. The awards are on April 20th, but ENERGY STAR has historically put out the press release a few weeks in advance of the ceremony. This helps build a buzz and also prevents the awardees (who must be notified in advance) from putting out their own releases before EPA announces.

On Mar 16, 2018, at 7:54 AM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks . .presume you meant april 20 on the POY – that's what's in the press release. thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **(mobile)**

From: DeLuca, Isabel
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 11:35 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Millett, John <Millett.John@epa.gov>; Welderufael, Miriam <welderufael.miriam@epa.gov>
Subject: ENERGY STAR announcements for review

Hi Nancy,
I think John has given you a heads up on three ENERGY STAR award announcements coming up: Certified Manufacturing Plants, Partner of the Year, and Top Cities. Attached are press releases for the first two, which Bill has approved.

The program was hoping we could issue the Manufacturing Plants announcement on March 27th, and Partner of the Year on April 2nd. Would this be feasible?

ENERGY STAR typically announces POY winners about a month before the award event, and gives the winners an embargo date so that they don't make their own announcements before we do. The program is hoping to firm up April 2nd as a definite release date so they can let winning companies know to hold their own messaging until then. Winners often do their own press releases which help amplify the ENERGY STAR message leading up to the award ceremony.

I'll send you the Top Cities release hopefully next week. The program is hoping that one can be cleared and released around April 11th, provided it has cleared OAR IO and OPA by then.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Thanks,
Isabel

Message

From: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/30/2018 3:15:41 PM
To: Stevens, Katherine [stevens.katherine@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]; Sylvan, Stephan [Sylvan.Stephan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: PREVIEW: EPA Honors 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year

All - -the embargo lift should be 1 pm est to accommodate the west coast.

Given that the awards event is not until april 20th -- this seems reasonable.

Can folks get to the POY folks and let them know this.

Thnks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **(mobile)**

From: Stevens, Katherine
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 11:06 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PREVIEW: EPA Honors 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year

Press releases and social media.
K

Kati Stevens
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Desk: (202)-564-3251

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 10:48 AM
To: Stevens, Katherine <stevens.katherine@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: PREVIEW: EPA Honors 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year

I *never* gave Stephan a time re an embargo lift.

Looping Nancy to confirm that 10 a.m. is ok with the embargo lift, even with the press release being issued at 1 p.m.

Kati: And to be clear, that means the partners would issue their press releases at 10 a.m.? Anything else they would do at that time?

On Mar 30, 2018, at 10:43 AM, Stevens, Katherine <stevens.katherine@epa.gov> wrote:

Is it possible to do an earlier release? Or are we just fine with releasing the embargo a few hours prior to publication?

Thanks,
K

Kati Stevens
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Desk: (202)-564-3251
Π
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

-----Original Message-----
From: Sylvan, Stephan
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 10:40 AM
To: Stevens, Katherine <stevens.katherine@epa.gov>; DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Welderufael, Miriam <welderufael.miriam@epa.gov>; Millett, John <Millett.John@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PREVIEW: EPA Honors 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year

Hi Kati,

One more thing ...

Enesta indicated a couple weeks ago that the embargo would be lifted at 9:30 AM on Monday. The message below indicates a 1:00 PM publication. Was that a mistake? Based on Enesta's direction, we've been telling the 163 winning partners that the embargo date and time was 10:00 AM on Monday.

Stephan

Stephan D. Sylvan
Climate Protection Partnerships Division U.S. EPA
Office: 202 566 2232
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Stevens, Katherine
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 9:58 AM
To: DeLuca, Isabel; Sylvan, Stephan; Welderufael, Miriam; Millett, John
Subject: RE: PREVIEW: EPA Honors 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year

Thanks!
K

Kati Stevens
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Desk: (202)-564-3251
P
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: DeLuca, Isabel
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 9:43 AM
To: Sylvan, Stephan <Sylvan.Stephan@epa.gov>; Stevens, Katherine <stevens.katherine@epa.gov>; Welderufael, Miriam <welderufael.miriam@epa.gov>; Millett, John <Millett.John@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: PREVIEW: EPA Honors 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year

FYI final version of POY press release is below, for release Monday at 1 pm.

Begin forwarded message:
From: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov<mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>>
Date: March 30, 2018 at 9:39:59 AM EDT
To: "DeLuca, Isabel" <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov<mailto:DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>>
Cc: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov<mailto:Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>>, "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov<mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>>
Subject: Re: PREVIEW: EPA Honors 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year Yes.

On Mar 30, 2018, at 9:39 AM, DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov<mailto:DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>> wrote:
This is going out at 1 pm on Monday, right? Thats the date we told all the partners it would go out.

On Mar 30, 2018, at 9:34 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov<mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>> wrote:

Looks good! All links work. Nano typo; Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov<mailto:Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>>
Date: March 30, 2018 at 9:28:27 AM EDT
To: "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov<mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>>, "DeLuca, Isabel" <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov<mailto:DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>>, "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov<mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>>
Subject: PREVIEW: EPA Honors 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year Good morning,

The following will go out at 1 PM. Can you:

* Flag any edits; and
* Report any issue with the links? They all open on my end, but please confirm everything's working.

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: EPA Press Office [mailto:noreply-subscriptions@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 9:27 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov<mailto:Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>>
Subject: EPA Honors 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year

[EPA NEWS RELEASE. www.epa.gov/newsroom]<https://www.epa.gov/newsroom>

CONTACT: press@epa.gov<mailto:press@epa.gov>

EPA Honors 2018 ENERGY STAR® Partners of the Year

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

If you would rather not receive future communications from Environmental Protection Agency, let us know by clicking here.<http://USEPA.pr-optout.com/OptOut.aspx?518041x25793x0x3x0x24000x6&Email=daguillard.robert%40epa.gov>
Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

Message

From: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/29/2018 10:35:49 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]; AO OPA Media Relations [AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: 2018 ENERGY STAR POY materials for regional PADs

Thanks

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **(mobile)**

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 6:16 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; AO OPA Media Relations <AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: 2018 ENERGY STAR POY materials for regional PADs

Got it. I can format in the AM.

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 5:01 PM
To: AO OPA Media Relations <AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: 2018 ENERGY STAR POY materials for regional PADs

Attached is the ESTar Partner of the Year press release to go out on Monday at 1 p.m. est.

If we hear back on the earth day connection proposed by Enesta, we can make adjustments.

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **(mobile)**

From: Sylvan, Stephan
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 5:27 PM

To: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>
Cc: Welderufael, Miriam <welderufael.miriam@epa.gov>; Clarke, Deirdre <clarke.deirdre@epa.gov>; Montoro, Marta <Montoro.Marta@epa.gov>
Subject: 2018 ENERGY STAR POY materials for regional PADs

Hi Isabel,

As discussed, I am attaching four items to help regional PADs with ENERGY STAR POY (Partner of the Year) amplification, all with a 9:30 AM 4-2-18 embargo:

- EPA HQ approved press release
- EPA HQ approved social media
- ENERGY STAR POY winner profiles in leadership
- Spreadsheet listing the POY winners by state and region

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Stephan

Stephan D. Sylvan
Climate Protection Partnerships Division
U.S. EPA
Office: 202 566 2232
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/21/2017 6:08:31 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia [lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
CC: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; StClair, Christie [StClair.Christie@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: LIZ/JOHN FOR REVIEW: Response to Bloomberg BNA RE: OECA and States (DEADLINE: 4 p.m., 4/21)

Cue Rocky music!!

Julia P. Valentine
Office of Media Relations
202.564.2663
Sent from USEPA iPhone

On Apr 21, 2017, at 1:54 PM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Naa naa na naa naa!

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: LIZ/JOHN FOR REVIEW: Response to Bloomberg BNA RE: OECA and States (DEADLINE: 4 p.m., 4/21)

Tricia is such a show off. She got love and now you can't tell her ish. 😉

But srsly, her first official OK; WOOT! 😀

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

Begin forwarded message:

> **Resent-From:** <Press@epa.gov>
> **From:** "Freire, JP" <Freire.JP@epa.gov>
> **Date:** April 21, 2017 at 1:49:52 PM EDT
> **To:** "Lynn, Tricia" <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Press <Press@epa.gov>
> **Subject: Re: LIZ/JOHN FOR REVIEW: Response to Bloomberg BNA RE: OECA and States (DEADLINE: 4 p.m., 4/21)**
>
> Thanks Tricia. See below.
>
> J.P. Freire

Environmental Protection Agency
Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

For attribution to JP Freire.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Best,

Tricia

From: Schoof, Renee [mailto:rSchoof@bna.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 10:52 AM
To: Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Bloomberg BNA questions for OECA-states story [WARNING: DKIM validation failed]

Hi Julia,

Here are three questions for the administrator for a story next week. Thanks for passing them on. I need to wrap up the reporting and writing by COB Friday. As you know, our stories appear to a wide audience on the Bloomberg terminal, as well as for our professional subscribers.

What is your vision for how OECA ought to work?

Does EPA need to have a different relationship with states than it had in the past administration? Is the one set out in National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) outmoded, and if so what changes are needed?

Some states say that they may do fewer inspections and less enforcement if EPA grants to states are cut as proposed. Is this a likely and acceptable outcome, and why or why not?

Thank you.

Renee Schoof

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Renee Schoof

Reporter/Editor

Bloomberg BNA

Direct: 703.341.3511

Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

rschoof@bna.com

@ReneeSchoof

Message

From: Lynn, Tricia [lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/20/2017 4:28:31 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: 1,4-dioxane

LOL

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: 1,4-dioxane

Girl I know! They like you today and hate you tomorrow! ☺

Like my relationships! 🤦‍♀️

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Apr 20, 2017, at 12:15 PM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

> Careful…there are still at least 5 hours left of TPT. ;)
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jones, Enesta
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:59 AM
> **To:** Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Fwd: 1,4-dioxane
>
> I'm such a show-off. ☺
>
> **Enesta Jones**
> **U.S. EPA**
> **Office of Media Relations**
> **Office: 202.564.7873**
> **Cell:** Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
>
> **"The root of all joy is gratefulness."**

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bowman, Liz" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Date: April 18, 2017 at 11:27:15 AM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: 1,4-dioxane

Thank you for being so organized and quick to respond!

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 11:12 AM
To: Emily Dooley <Emily.Dooley@newsday.com>
Cc: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: 1,4-dioxane

Hi Emily,

For attribution to an EPA spokesperson:

Research in animals has indicated that 1,4-dioxane can cause both adverse, noncarcinogenic effects as well as cancer. The lifetime health advisory (HA) is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water that a person can be exposed to over a lifetime without experiencing any adverse, noncarcinogenic (i.e., non-cancer) effects(found in the 2012 Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisory Table). The critical effect that serves as the basis for the derivation of the health advisory value for 1,4-dioxane is liver and kidney toxicity. The 10^{-6} cancer risk describes the concentration of a chemical in drinking water that gives a person an estimated cancer risk of 1 in 1,000,000 over their lifetime. The 10^{-6} cancer risk is 0.35 ppb for 1,4-dioxane and is based on observed hepatocellular adenomas and carcinomas in mice (found in the IRIS 2010 Chemical Assessment Summary for 1,4 Dioxane, page 14 and 17). In other words, the cancer risk is meant to protect against cancer while the lifetime HA is meant to protect against non-cancer effects. A lifetime HA for non-cancer effects (in this case 200ppb) is made available to risk assessment managers for comparison to the cancer risk level (in this case 0.35ppb) drinking water concentration, allowing them to determine whether the non-cancer lifetime HA or the cancer risk level drinking water concentration provides a more meaningful scenario-specific risk reduction.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Apr 7, 2017, at 4:33 PM, Emily Dooley <Emily.Dooley@newsday.com> wrote:

Hi Mary, Enesta and Dave,
Thanks for sending this along.
While I have you all, is it possible to set up a call next week about the 1,4-dioxane health advisories?
I'm confused by the disparity between the cancer risk and lifetime other health risk advisory and want to be sure I understand how the .35 ppb can be a risk (albeit small) but 200 ppb is the threshold for other ill effects.
Thanks, Emily

From: Mears, Mary [mailto:Mears.Mary@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 10:10 AM
To: Emily Dooley <Emily.Dooley@newsday.com>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
Subject: 1,4-dioxane
Importance: High

Hi Emily,
Enesta let me know you were looking for the response letters to Gov. Cuomo and Commissioners Seggos and Zucker on 1,4-dioxane. Both responses came from Catherine McCabe – the first in her capacity as Acting Administrator and the second on behalf of Administrator Pruitt in her capacity as Acting Regional Administrator. Both are attached.

Mary Mears
Public Affairs Director
U.S. EPA Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, the US VI and eight Indian Nations)
(212) 637-3673 (Direct Office)
(212) 637-3660 (General Office)

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Message

From: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/20/2017 4:00:14 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]; Lynn, Tricia [lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: 1,4-dioxane

☺

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) m/txt

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: 1,4-dioxane

I'm such a show-off. ☺

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Bowman, Liz" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
> **Date:** April 18, 2017 at 11:27:15 AM EDT
> **To:** "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
> **Subject: RE: 1,4-dioxane**
>
> Thank you for being so organized and quick to respond!
>
> **From:** Jones, Enesta
> **Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2017 11:12 AM
> **To:** Emily Dooley <Emily.Dooley@newsday.com>
> **Cc:** Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: 1,4-dioxane
>
> Hi Emily,

For attribution to an EPA spokesperson:

Research in animals has indicated that 1,4-dioxane can cause both adverse, noncarcinogenic effects as well as cancer. The lifetime health advisory (HA) is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water that a person can be exposed to over a lifetime without experiencing any adverse, noncarcinogenic (i.e., non-cancer) effects(found in the 2012 Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisory Table). The critical effect that serves as the basis for the derivation of the health advisory value for 1,4-dioxane is liver and kidney toxicity. The 10^{-6} cancer risk describes the concentration of a chemical in drinking water that gives a person an estimated cancer risk of 1 in 1,000,000 over their lifetime. The 10^{-6} cancer risk is 0.35 ppb for 1,4-dioxane and is based on observed hepatocellular adenomas and carcinomas in mice (found in the IRIS 2010 Chemical Assessment Summary for 1,4 Dioxane, page 14 and 17). In other words, the cancer risk is meant to protect against cancer while the lifetime HA is meant to protect against non-cancer effects. A lifetime HA for non-cancer effects (in this case 200ppb) is made available to risk assessment managers for comparison to the cancer risk level (in this case 0.35ppb) drinking water concentration, allowing them to determine whether the non-cancer lifetime HA or the cancer risk level drinking water concentration provides a more meaningful scenario-specific risk reduction.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Apr 7, 2017, at 4:33 PM, Emily Dooley <Emily.Dooley@newsday.com> wrote:

> Hi Mary, Enesta and Dave,
> Thanks for sending this along.
> While I have you all, is it possible to set up a call next week about the 1,4-dioxane health advisories?
> I'm confused by the disparity between the cancer risk and lifetime other health risk advisory and want to be sure I understand how the .35 ppb can be a risk (albeit small) but 200 ppb is the threshold for other ill effects.
> Thanks, Emily
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Mears, Mary [mailto:Mears.Mary@epa.gov]
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2017 10:10 AM
> **To:** Emily Dooley <Emily.Dooley@newsday.com>
> **Cc:** Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** 1,4-dioxane
> **Importance:** High
>
> Hi Emily,
> Enesta let me know you were looking for the response letters to Gov. Cuomo and Commissioners Seggos and Zucker on 1,4-dioxane. Both responses came from Catherine

McCabe – the first in her capacity as Acting Administrator and the second on behalf of Administrator Pruitt in her capacity as Acting Regional Administrator. Both are attached.

Mary Mears
Public Affairs Director
U.S. EPA Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, the US VI and eight Indian Nations)
(212) 637-3673 (Direct Office)
(212) 637-3660 (General Office)

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Message

From: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/15/2017 6:38:11 PM
To: Lydia Mulvany [lmulvany2@bloomberg.net]
Subject: RE: SAP minutes question

Thanks, Lydia. Will follow up for you.

From: Lydia Mulvany (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [mailto:lmulvany2@bloomberg.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:35 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: SAP minutes question

Hi Robert,

Thanks for talking with me just now.

I had previously asked about the meeting minutes from the FIFRA SAP December meeting on glyphosate, which are slated for release tomorrow. I wanted to confirm I was correctly describing what they are - on background is fine.

My understanding is the following:
* The minutes will include a formal recommendation to the agency on glyphosate's cancer-causing potential. They're a non-binding report to the EPA that synthesizes the public deliberations from the December meeting. (https://www.epa.gov/sap/meeting-materials-december-13-16-2016-scientific-advisory-panel)
* EPA will use these to inform its decision on how glyphosate can be used on farms and in residential gardens/landscaping, as it conducts its registration review for the chemical.

Please let me know if this looks incorrect in any way. Thank you!

Lydia Mulvany
Bloomberg News
+1 312 443 5972

From: Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov At: 03/14/17 11:22:16
To: LYDIA MULVANY (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: RE: Your questions for EPA

Yep.

From: Lydia Mulvany (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [mailto:lmulvany2@bloomberg.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:11 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Your questions for EPA

No problem. I was planning to look here:

https://www.epa.gov/sap/meeting-materials-december-13-16-2016-scientific-advisory-panel

That look correct?

Lydia Mulvany
Bloomberg News
+1 312 443 5972

From: Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov At: 03/14/17 11:08:29

To: LYDIA MULVANY (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: RE: Your questions for EPA

Hey Lydia,

I imagine a simple Google search would take you to the glyphosate SAP web page (sorry, I don't have the link handy right this minute). Let me know if you're having trouble finding the minutes on Thursday.

From: Lydia Mulvany (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [mailto:lmulvany2@bloomberg.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:07 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Your questions for EPA

Hi Robert - Thank you very much - I was just in the middle of responding to your other email. Just on background, as I will be monitoring, what's the best place to watch for the release of the minutes?

Lydia Mulvany
Bloomberg News
+1 312 443 5972

From: Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov At: 03/14/17 11:02:41

To: LYDIA MULVANY (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: RE: Your questions for EPA

Lydia, for attribution to U.S. EPA, please:

We are planning on releasing the meeting minutes on March 16.

Regards, R.

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:21 AM
To: 'lmulvany2@bloomberg.net' <lmulvany2@bloomberg.net>
Subject: Your questions for EPA

Hullo Lydia,

My colleague Julia Valentine forwarded me your inquiry. We're already working on your answers. Perhaps you could share your hard deadline?

Thanks, R.

On Mar 13, 2017, at 6:22 PM, Lydia Mulvany (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <lmulvany2@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Hello,

I have a question about minutes from a FIFRA SAP December meeting on glyphosate that I believe are due to be released soon. I just wanted to ask about timing and how/where they will be released, as I'm interested in monitoring. Or, if it will be emailed, I'd like to be on the list for that.

Please feel free to give me a call any time Tuesday.

Thank you very much

Lydia Mulvany
Bloomberg News
+1 312 443 5972

Robert Daguillard

Office of Media Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

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Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

Message

From: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/9/2017 3:04:49 PM
To: Bobby Magill [bmagill@climatecentral.org]
Subject: RE: Energy Star

Actually, you can attribute to Julia Valentine, an EPA spokesperson.

Thanks.

From: Bobby Magill [mailto:bmagill@climatecentral.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 10:03 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Energy Star

You guys can't even say "no comment" for attribution? Seriously?

Bobby Magill
Senior Science Writer
Climate Central
New York | Princeton
bmagill@climatecentral.org | @bobbymagill
Click here for my latest work
President, Society of Environmental Journalists

On Thu, Mar 9, 2017 at 9:58 AM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Good morning Bobby,

For attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

We are not commenting at this early stage in the process.

Thanks, R.

Robert Daguillard

Office of Media Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

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Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) M)

From: Bobby Magill [mailto:bmagill@climatecentral.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 9:41 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Energy Star

Can you tell me how EPA responded to the OMB's budget "pass back" that targeted the Energy Star program to be "zeroed out"? How do you expect the Energy Star program to shrink?

My deadline is 12 p.m. today.

Thanks!

Bobby Magill

Climate Central

Bobby Magill

Senior Science Writer

Climate Central

New York | Princeton

bmagill@climatecentral.org | @bobbymagill

Click here for my latest work

President, Society of Environmental Journalists

Message

From: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/9/2017 3:02:28 PM
To: Ciulac, Andreea [aciulac@tronc.com]
Subject: RE: Subject: Chicago Tribune Story

Andreea, for attribution to Julia Valentine, an EPA spokesperson, please:

We recommend you consult the following web links:

Bed Bugs
https://www.epa.gov/bedbugs
Prevent, identify, and treat bed bug infestations using EPA's step-by-step guides, based on IPM principles. Find pesticides approved for bed bug control, check out the information clearinghouse, and dispel bed bug myths.
Top Ten Tips to Prevent or Control Bed Bugs
https://www.epa.gov/bedbugs/top-ten-tips-prevent-or-control-bed-bugs
Confirm you have bed bugs rather than other insects (if needed, show to your local extension agent trained in pest control), assess Integrated Pest Management (IPM) options before considering pesticide, try mattress encasements, and more.
Tips for Travel
https://www.epa.gov/bedbugs/tips-travel
Avoid bringing bed bugs home by taking precautions when traveling such as inspecting bedding and luggage racks in hotel rooms, and upon returning home unpacking directly into a washing machine and dry at high temperatures.
[More results from https://www.epa.gov/bedbugs]

Thanks, R.

From: Ciulac, Andreea [mailto:aciulac@tronc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 10:36 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Subject: Chicago Tribune Story

Yes

From: Daguillard, Robert [mailto:Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 9:36 AM
To: Ciulac, Andreea
Subject: RE: Subject: Chicago Tribune Story

Of the City of Chicago's health department, you mean?

From: Ciulac, Andreea [mailto:aciulac@tronc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 10:31 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Subject: Chicago Tribune Story

Should I contact Anel Ruiz?

From: Daguillard, Robert [mailto:Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 9:31 AM

To: Ciulac, Andreea
Subject: RE: Subject: Chicago Tribune Story

Hullo Andreea,

Let me see what I can do.

Thanks, R.

From: Ciulac, Andreea [mailto:aciulac@tronc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 10:30 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Subject: Chicago Tribune Story

Hey, Robert! There's just one big question and the person can talk freely about what he or she thinks our readers might benefit from: **what you should never pick up from an alley (due to bed bugs, dust mites etc).** Think toys, sofas, mattresses, clothes, kitchen appliances etc.

I'll take a comment today via email if an interview is not possible. The practical the tips, the better!

Let me know

From: Daguillard, Robert [mailto:Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 7:17 AM
To: Ciulac, Andreea
Subject: Subject: Chicago Tribune Story

Hullo Andreea,

Our regional office in Chicago has forwarded me your inquiry. Would you care to send questions and to share your hard deadline? I can ask about an interview, but cannot promise we'd be able to do one at this stage, primarily for schedule reasons.

Happy to discuss. Let me know.

Thanks, R.

From: Ciulac, Andreea [mailto:aciulac@tronc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 3:12 PM
To: Baumgartner, Donald <baumgartner.donald@epa.gov>
Cc: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Subject: Chicago Tribune Story

Hi, Donald and Cathy!

I'm a reporter at the Chicago Tribune and I'm hoping you can connect me with one of your seasoned experts for a 10 minute phone interview. **I am doing a story on what you should never pick up from an alley (due to bed bugs etc).**

I would like to do it tomorrow morning if possible.

Let me know!

Andreea Ciulac
Chicago Tribune
435 N Michigan Avenue TT400, Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312/222-3422 aciulac@tronc.com

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
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Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) M)

Message

From: Birgfeld, Erin [Birgfeld.Erin@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/1/2019 1:47:00 AM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
CC: Millett, John [Millett.John@epa.gov]; DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Media request: ethanol/E15 announcement

Thanks Enesta. Have a great weekend!

Sent from my iPhone

On May 31, 2019, at 6:58 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

FYI.

From: "Murdie, Ashley" <murdie.ashley@epa.gov>
Date: May 31, 2019 at 6:57:22 PM EDT
To: "bengt@internetbrands.com" <bengt@internetbrands.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Media request: ethanol/E15 announcement

Hi Bengt,

Responses to your questions are below. For attribution to U.S. EPA, please.

For your last question, I'm copying our headquarters' Office of Public Affairs.

Kind regards,

Ashley Murdie | Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 7
Office: 913-551-7785 EPA Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Bengt Halvorson <bengt.halvorson@internetbrands.com>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 3:23 PM
To: Murdie, Ashley <murdie.ashley@epa.gov>
Subject: Media request: ethanol/E15 announcement

Hi Ashley,

Three questions about today's announcement, please:

- How soon can we expect to see the higher level of ethanol in pumps?

Retail stations will be permitted to sell E15 at the same RVP as E10 starting June 1, excluding in Federal reformulated gasoline areas and areas where existing state and local rules limit the RVP of gasoline. EPA is not pre-empting state and local rules on the matter.

- To what regions of the country does this apply?

The 1-psi waiver applies for E15 in the same way that the 1-psi waiver applies to E10 today. This is not nationwide, however, as the 1-psi waiver does not apply in Federal reformulated gasoline (RFG) areas and other state and local areas where their rules limit it. In such areas E15 can already use the same gasoline blendstocks as E10, so no 1-psi waiver is needed.

- The common argument against more ethanol in fuel tanks is that it contributes to smog. Does the EPA have any comprehensive number for how much the crops used for fuel reduce carbon dioxide?

For an answer to this question, I'm copying the EPA Headquarters Office of Public Affairs.

Thanks!

--
Bengt Halvorson
Editor, Green Car Reports
bengt@internetbrands.com
503-381-5662

Message

From: Daniel Ross [dross1@gm.slc.edu]
Sent: 5/5/2017 2:52:28 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
CC: Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: FW: EPA's RMP rules

Thanks Robert.

Dan Ross
(323) 482 8911
@1danross

On Fri, May 5, 2017 at 7:43 AM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Dan, for attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

The proposal to further delay the effective date of the amendments will allow the Agency time to evaluate the objections raised by multiple petitioners and consider other issues that may benefit from additional public input. The Agency will also use this time to ensure that all provisions in the RMP Amendments are in accordance with the explicit mandate granted to EPA by Congress in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Warm regards, R.

Robert Daguillard

Office of Media Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

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Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Daniel Ross [mailto:dross1@gm.slc.edu]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 10:25 AM
To: StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Cc: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: EPA's RMP rules

Thanks Christie!

Dan

On Fri, May 5, 2017 at 7:25 AM, StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov> wrote:

Got it, Dan. Either Robert or Tricia will be working on this today, since I'm off today.

Christie St. Clair

EPA Public Affairs

C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On May 5, 2017, at 10:21 AM, Daniel Ross <dross1@gm.slc.edu> wrote:

HI Christie --

Just checking in again to make sure you received the email yesterday. Do I need to send the request to someone else at EPA?

Cheers,

Dan

On Thu, May 4, 2017 at 12:53 PM, Daniel Ross <dross1@gm.slc.edu> wrote:

Hi Christie --

Thought I should send again in a separate email:

I'm working on a piece for Truthout, looking at the stay on the amendments to the EPA's Risk Management Plan. And I was wondering if the EPA would respond to the following question:

What is the EPA's response to concerns that any further stay on the amendments to the Risk Management Plan, and possible rollback of the rule, would put communities that live in close proximity to chemical facilities at undue risk of harm?

My deadline for this is COB next Tuesday (absolute deadline - no wriggle room with that one, I'm afraid).

Cheers,

Dan Ross

(323) 482 8911

@1danross

Message

From: Orquina, Jessica [Orquina.Jessica@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/4/2017 7:31:12 PM
To: Shah, Surabhi [Shah.Surabhi@epa.gov]
CC: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]; Thomas, Latosha [Thomas.Latosha@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Embargoed Sammies Finalists News Release

I am working on getting this approved. I have not gotten an answer yet.

Jess

Jessica Ann Orquina
Associate Director
Office of Web Communications
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: orquina.jessica@epa.gov
Office: 202-564-0446
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Shah, Surabhi
Sent: Thursday, May 04, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Orquina, Jessica <Orquina.Jessica@epa.gov>
Cc: Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>; Thomas, Latosha <Thomas.Latosha@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Embargoed Sammies Finalists News Release

Hi Jessica,

Below, PPS is offering us the opportunity to be featured in this twitter chat on Tuesday. Seems like a great opportunity and a positive story for the agency.

Are we interested? If so, they need the handle we plan to use.

If we're not interested, we need to let them know asap to give someone else the opportunity.

Your thoughts?

Thank you so much for your engagement on this!

Best,
Surabhi

Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2017, at 2:50 PM, Katie Koziara <KKoziara@ourpublicservice.org> wrote:

> Good afternoon:
>
> Congratulations again on being a Sammies finalist! I am getting back in touch to share an early look at our embargoed news release announcing the finalists, please note attached. We encourage your

communications office to put out a press release/statement about your selection as a finalist and share the news internally and through social media channels too after the embargo lifts Sunday night. Our hashtag for Sammies is #Sammies2017 and our handle is @rpublicservice.

Additionally, we're hosting a Twitter chat on Tuesday, May 9 at 2 p.m. entitled "Why do Sammies finalists serve?" Questions include the following:

- Why did you join public service?
- What motivated you to pursue the accomplishment that earned you a Sammies nomination?
- How does recognition make a difference for federal employees?

Let me know if you're interested in joining and I can add you as a featured panelist. We look forward to sharing Sammies finalists' work with Federal News Radio, GovLoop, Government Matters TV and other media outlets throughout the summer!

Again, congratulations on your selection as a finalist, and I look forward to meeting you on Tuesday.

Best,
Katie

Katie Koziara
Associate Manager, Communications
Partnership for Public Service
(202) 464-3094

@RPublicService
facebook.com/partnershipforpublicservice
ourpublicservice.org

We help federal agencies deliver results by improving their management and strengthening their leadership capacity. Learn more about our open programs and upcoming events at https://ourpublicservice.org/calendar.

<2017 Sammies finalists news release Embargoed.pdf>

Message

From: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/28/2017 6:13:48 PM
To: Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RESPONSE: Texas Tribune; DDL ASAP; Pesticide Approval/Registry

GTG?

Outlet Texas Tribune

Reporter Morgan Smith

Contact msmith@texastribune.com

DDL ASAP

Source Louise Wise, OPP; approved by Linda Strauss, OCSPP Communications Director

Incoming

I'd like to know whether, if the EPA approves a pesticide for use, do states have the authority to reject registration of the pesticide if a company applies for it?

Response

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Strauss, Linda
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 2:07 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: Sisco, Debby <Sisco.Debby@epa.gov>; Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>; Overstreet, Anne <overstreet.anne@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: LINDA/OPP: Texas Tribune; DDL ASAP; Pesticide Approval/Registry

Here you go, Robert. Linda

From: Wise, Louise
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 2:05 PM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Cleland-Hamnett, Wendy <Cleland-Hamnett.Wendy@epa.gov>; Wise, Louise <Wise.Louise@epa.gov>; Mojica, Andrea <Mojica.andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LINDA/OPP: Texas Tribune; DDL ASAP; Pesticide Approval/Registry

Looks good to me.

From: Strauss, Linda
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Cleland-Hamnett, Wendy <Cleland-Hamnett.Wendy@epa.gov>; Wise, Louise <Wise.Louise@epa.gov>; Mojica,

Andrea <Mojica.andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: LINDA/OPP: Texas Tribune; DDL ASAP; Pesticide Approval/Registry

Follow-up to Kaput questions.

INCOMING:
I'd like to know whether, if the EPA approves a pesticide for use, do states have the authority to reject registration of the pesticide if a company applies for it?

RESPONSE:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:13 PM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Sisco, Debby <Sisco.Debby@epa.gov>; Overstreet, Anne <overstreet.anne@epa.gov>; Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Subject: LINDA/OPP: Texas Tribune; DDL ASAP; Pesticide Approval/Registry

Team a follow up from the Texas Tribune on their Kaput inquiry. Thanks for letting me know.

Best, R.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Morgan Smith**
Date: Mon, Mar 20, 2017 at 10:56 AM
Subject: Re: Pesticide Approval/Registry
To: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>

Hi Robert,

I had a quick follow up question to this response:

> **2) I'd like to know whether, if the EPA approves a pesticide for use, do states have the authority to reject registration of the pesticide if a company applies for it?**

Yes, a State can refuse the sale, distribution and use of any pesticide product.

On what grounds can a state refuse the sale/distribution/use of a pesticide product?

Thanks!

On Thu, Mar 16, 2017 at 1:20 PM, Morgan Smith wrote:

Thank you!

On Thu, Mar 16, 2017 at 1:17 PM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Dear Morgan, for attribution to U.S. EPA, or to "an agency spokesperson," please:

I'm trying to understand how pesticide approval/registry works at the federal and state levels.

1) My understanding is that once a company receives EPA approval for a pesticide, they must register that pesticide in the states they want to operate. (Please correct me if I'm wrong.)

Yes, this is correct. Once a company is granted an EPA registration, the company must also receive registration from the State in which the company wishes to sell and distribute the product.

2) I'd like to know whether, if the EPA approves a pesticide for use, do states have the authority to reject registration of the pesticide if a company applies for it?

Yes, a State can refuse the sale, distribution and use of any pesticide product.

3) And if states wish to enact additional restrictions for use, does that happen during the registration process or separately?

States can impose additional use restrictions on a pesticide product beyond the federal restrictions; however, the State cannot allow less restrictions or restrictions contrary to those imposed by the federal registration. Whether and when additional state restrictions are placed on a registration would be dictated by state laws or regulations.

Message

From: Fenton, Kathleen [Fenton.Kathleen@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/24/2017 5:22:25 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia [lynn.tricia@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
CC: Brees, Angela [Brees.Angela@epa.gov]; Carey, Curtis [Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]; Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Re: Media inquiry

Tricia and all – Just to keep you all in the loop, yesterday, my boss, Curtis Carey, has shared this request with Nancy Grantham. We are awaiting her reply. klf

Kathleen L. Fenton Office of Public Affairs US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
11201 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, KS 66219 913 - 551-7874 fenton.kathleen@epa.gov

---

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 11:29 AM
To: Fenton, Kathleen <Fenton.Kathleen@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Brees, Angela <Brees.Angela@epa.gov>; Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>; Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Re: Media inquiry

Hi all—

Just looping in Enesta as I'll be out this afternoon and all of next week.

Thanks!

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 3:41 PM
To: Fenton, Kathleen <Fenton.Kathleen@epa.gov>
Cc: Brees, Angela <Brees.Angela@epa.gov>; Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Re: Media inquiry

Hi Kathleen—

In Curtis and Angela's absence, I'm writing to see if you can help with the press inquiry below. As you'll see, the reporter is asking for specific information about Energy Star in Kansas. OAR said they're not able to provide state-specific information, but that maybe R7 could.

Thanks so much,

Tricia

Tricia Lynn
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
Office: 202.564.2615

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Cc: Welderufael, Miriam <welderufael.miriam@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Re: Media inquiry

Hi Tricia,

Our program actions aren't broken down on the state level as the reporter is requesting. You could check with the region for good measure, if you wanted (please note that you've already checked with us if you do). But for now, I don't think we have anything further to provide.

Thanks.

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 1:39 PM
To: Kelty, Diane <Kelty.Diane@epa.gov>
Cc: McMichael, Nate <McMichael.Nate@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Re: Media inquiry

Hi Diane—

Please see the string below. The reporter came back with the following:

I still need the data on what Energy Star programs are used in Kansas, and the annual expenditure of funds in Kansas for 10 years.

Is this something you can answer, or do I need to go to the region? Something else?

Thanks so much,

Tricia

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 9:52 AM
To: 'morgan.rothenberger@cjonline.com' <morgan.rothenberger@cjonline.com>
Subject: Re: Media inquiry

Morgan—

See below for EPA's response to your inquiry.

Best,

Tricia

EPA Response:

The budget blueprint reflects the President's priorities of preserving clean air and water as well as to ease the burden of costly regulations to industry. Administrator Pruitt is committed to leading the EPA in a more effective, more focused, less costly way as we partner with states to fulfill the agency's core mission

- For attribution to Julia Valentine, an EPA spokesperson

From: "Chilson, Morgan" <morgan.rothenberger@cjonline.com>
Date: March 21, 2017 at 3:27:31 PM EDT
To: "media@energystar.gov" <media@energystar.gov>
Subject: Media inquiry

Good afternoon:

I'm working on a story about potential cuts under the Trump budget proposal. I understand the Energy Star program may be cut. I'd like to narrow in on what Energy Star programs are utilized in Kansas, how such cuts would impact the state and also would like to see an annual expenditure of funds in Kansas through the past 10 years.

I'd also love to interview someone about Energy Star, its focus as a program, its accomplishments and tie in any Kansas numbers possible.

Thank you!
Morgan

Morgan Chilson
The Topeka Capital-Journal
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) cell
(785) 295-5659
@crazeywriter

Message

From: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/27/2017 12:28:43 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: JULIA: +RESPONSE: ProPublica (DDL 3/22): Open Burn

Thanks, Enesta
It's looking more like OLEM so I am going to work w R&C on this one for now

On Apr 27, 2017, at 7:22 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Julia,
What's the latest here? OLEM's responses are simple: they suggest Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

I can repackage this and send it up for approval. Abrahm has been waiting nearly a month for these responses, which is absurd.

And his request to Robert -- that arrived on 4/7 -- is to speak to an expert who has done research on open burning and air pollution. Now that we have approval to work with the programs, Robert should get Abrahm's specific questions, get messages from the program on what the researcher would say and then send up the interview request for approval.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Apr 25, 2017, at 4:32 PM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

All, please hold while I am looking into this. I will circle back.

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) m/txt

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 4:31 PM
To: Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; StClair,

Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: +RESPONSE: ProPublica (DDL 3/22): Open Burn

FYI. Here's what Christie sent up for approval awhile back. I was just about to reformat and send up to 3.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
> **Date:** April 25, 2017 at 4:29:52 PM EDT
> **To:** "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: +RESPONSE: ProPublica (DDL 3/22): Open Burn**

> **Enesta Jones**
> **U.S. EPA**
> **Office of Media Relations**
> **Office: 202.564.7873**
> **Cell:** Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
>
> **"The root of all joy is gratefulness."**

> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **Resent-From:** <Press@epa.gov>
> > **From:** "StClair, Christie" <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
> > **Date:** March 30, 2017 at 1:07:09 PM EDT
> > **To:** Press <Press@epa.gov>
> > **Subject: +RESPONSE: ProPublica (DDL 3/22): Open Burn**
> >
> > GTG?
> >
> > ProPublica
> > Andrew Lustgarten
> > Abrahm.Lustgarten@propublica.org

1. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**I've obtained the attached partial list of sites that appear to have allowed, or are currently allowing the open burn and detonation of munitions and related waste. I'd like to ask the EPA to confirm the accuracy of this list or point out any caveats to the material which may not be clear to me or to the general public, as I plan to base my reporting on it. In particular and at a minimum, The EPA should let me know if it sees inaccuracies in the number of currently operating, and interim permitted open burn facilities in the U.S.**

2. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Given the length of this list, could the EPA explain why only seven facilities are listed in the public RCRAInfo database when "open burn" is selected as a site criteria?**

3. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**You've referred me to the RCRAinfo database, which I have used extensively to research this process. The database results show there are seven OBOD sites in the United States. I believe that number is extremely low. Can you confirm to me that this does reflect the accurate count of RCRA permitted OBOD sites in the United States? Or can you confirm that the number of sites is not known by the EPA? (Or explain otherwise?).**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

4. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Can you tell me which offices and which staff provided the Open Burn/Open Detonation responses that you sent? Not for attribution, but to help me understand which offices have expertise and whether the appropriate ones were engaged?**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

5. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**How is the open burn and detonation of munitions and energetics in the United States different from the burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan? For this point in particular, through my research and reading of sample permits and case studies, I am not understanding a difference. So I hope for an EPA response for my story on this, as well any technical explanation of the emissions, burned constituents, distance to public, etc that I might have previously failed to understand.**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Christie St. Clair
Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
o: 202-564-2880
m: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Sundin, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:44 AM
To: Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>; ORCR Press <ORCR_Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: ProPublica (DDL 3/22): Open Burn

Hi Julia,

Our response to the ProPublica inquiry can be found below the OPA background and approval. Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Background: This reporter reached out to us in mid-February for specific Open Burn/Open Detonation responses. I have attached our previous responses. Much like the previous inquiry, for the current inquiry we are advising the reporter to request the information through a FOIA due to the fact that we would need to do a data pull and analysis to fully answer these questions.

This response was approved by the Division Director that handles RCRA Open Burn/Open Detonation

Response:

1. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->I've obtained the attached partial list of sites that appear to have allowed, or are currently allowing the open burn and detonation of munitions and related waste. I'd like to ask the EPA to confirm the accuracy of this list or point out any caveats to the material which may not be clear to me or to the general public, as I plan to base my reporting on it. In particular and at a minimum, The EPA should let me know if it sees inaccuracies in the number of currently operating, and interim permitted open burn facilities in the U.S.

2. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Given the length of this list, could the EPA explain why only seven facilities are listed

in the public RCRAInfo database when “open burn” is selected as a site criteria?

3. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->You’ve referred me to the RCRAinfo database, which I have used extensively to research this process. The database results show there are seven OBOD sites in the United States. I believe that number is extremely low. Can you confirm to me that this does reflect the accurate count of RCRA permitted OBOD sites in the United States? Or can you confirm that the number of sites is not known by the EPA? (Or explain otherwise?).

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

4. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Can you tell me which offices and which staff provided the Open Burn/Open Detonation responses that you sent? Not for attribution, but to help me understand which offices have expertise and whether the appropriate ones were engaged?

5. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->How is the open burn and detonation of munitions and energetics in the United States different from the burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan? For this point in particular, through my research and reading of sample permits and case studies, I am not understanding a difference. So I hope for an EPA response for my story on this, as well any technical explanation of the emissions, burned constituents, distance to public, etc that I might have previously failed to understand.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Thanks!

Elizabeth Sundin
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery
(703) 347-8955

From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 5:19 PM
To: Arcari, Christine <Arcari.Christine@epa.gov>
Cc: Sundin, Elizabeth <Sundin.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; ORCR Press <ORCR_Press@epa.gov>; Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>; Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ProPublica (DDL 3/22): Open Burn

Thanks, Christine. I'm looping Julia, as I'll be in training all next week - so she will be the one sorting this out.

I appreciate all your work on this!

Have a great weekend.

Christie

Christie St. Clair
EPA Public Affairs
C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Mar 17, 2017, at 4:43 PM, Arcari, Christine <Arcari.Christine@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hi Christie,
>
> We have checked with a number of people in the group that handles open burn open detonation inquiries and they have not seen any FOIAs come through. We have one more person to check with and will let you know.
>
> I also heard from that group about the Wednesday deadline and it will not be possible for a full response to this inquiry. This request would require the same amount of work as this reporter's previous inquiries since we'd have to do our own data pull to be able to verify his. We will be able to provide responses by Wednesday, but they will likely include similar language that we provided to his last inquiry.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Christine
> ---
> Christine Arcari
> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
> Email: arcari.christine@epa.gov
> Phone: 703-308-8462
> Follow us on Twitter @EPAland

From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 5:10 PM
To: Sundin, Elizabeth <Sundin.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; ORCR Press <ORCR_Press@epa.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: ProPublica (DDL 3/22): Open Burn

Yes, he says he has submitted several FOIAs.

Christie St. Clair
Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
o: 202-564-2880
m: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Sundin, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 5:09 PM
To: StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>; ORCR Press <ORCR_Press@epa.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: ProPublica (DDL 3/22): Open Burn

Hi Christie,

In our previous response in February, we advised that the reporter submit a FOIA to obtain some of this information as it will take several weeks to pull together. Do you know if he submitted one? Since the questions have narrowed from the last inquiry, we can check back in with our program and see if this deadline is attainable.

Thanks,

Elizabeth Sundin
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery
(703) 347-8955

From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:27 PM
To: ORCR Press <ORCR_Press@epa.gov>
Cc: Cohen, Nancy <Cohen.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: ProPublica (DDL 3/22): Open Burn

Is this deadline reasonable? Thanks - Christie

ProPublica
Andrew Lustgarten
Abrahm.Lustgarten@propublica.org
DDL 3/22

1. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->I've obtained the attached partial list of sites that appear to have allowed, or are currently allowing the open burn and detonation of munitions and related waste. I'd like to ask the EPA to confirm the accuracy of this list or point out any caveats to the material which may not be clear to me or to the general public, as I plan to base my reporting on it. In particular and at a minimum, The EPA should let me know if it sees

inaccuracies in the number of currently operating, and interim permitted open burn facilities in the U.S.

2. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Given the length of this list, could the EPA explain why only seven facilities are listed in the public RCRAInfo database when “open burn” is selected as a site criteria?

3. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->You’ve referred me to the RCRAinfo database, which I have used extensively to research this process. The database results show there are seven OBOD sites in the United States. I believe that number is extremely low. Can you confirm to me that this does reflect the accurate count of RCRA permitted OBOD sites in the United States? Or can you confirm that the number of sites is not known by the EPA? (Or explain otherwise?).

4. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Can you tell me which offices and which staff provided the Open Burn/Open Detonation responses that you sent? Not for attribution, but to help me understand which offices have expertise and whether the appropriate ones were engaged?

5. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->How is the open burn and detonation of munitions and energetics in the United States different from the burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan? For this point in particular, through my research and reading of sample permits and case studies, I am not understanding a difference. So I hope for an EPA response for my story on this, as well any technical explanation of the emissions, burned constituents, distance to public, etc that I might have previously failed to understand.

Christie St. Clair
Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
o: 202-564-2880
m: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/10/2017 1:39:54 PM
To: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]; Freire, JP [Freire.JP@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Graham, Amy [graham.amy@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
CC: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]; Lynn, Tricia [lynn.tricia@epa.gov]; Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: OPEN INQUIRIES FOR REVIEW: Tues. 5/9, (Liz recused)
Attachments: RE: JOHN/JP - FOR REVIEW: FOR REVIEW: RESPONSE TO Aaron Kessler of CNN on TCE and drinking water contaminants - DEADLINE Friday May 5 ; Re: Subject: An inquiry on TCE proposed rule, EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0163

CNN (Aaron Kessler) is now closed. Please see attached.

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 9:15 AM
To: Freire, JP <Freire.JP@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: OPEN INQUIRIES FOR REVIEW: Tues. 5/9, (Liz recused)

Resending these two open inquiries for review.
Liz recused from these.
- WNYT Albany re: PFOA, DEADLINE: 5/3
- Aaron Kessler of CNN on TCE and drinking water contaminants, DEADLINE 5/5

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 11:32 AM
To: Freire, JP <Freire.JP@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: OPEN INQUIRIES FOR REVIEW: Tues. 5/9, (Liz recused)

Two open inquiries from which Liz is recused:

WNYT Albany re: PFOA, DEADLINE: 5/3 (Tricia Lynn for Enesta Jones)

Background: This inquiry was referred by Region 2. The reporter's interest is prompted by what happened in Hoosick Falls with perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in the community's drinking water. She is looking at where the waste ended up and wants to know at what concentration is PFOA a concern; the difference between PFOA and PFTE; how EPA classifies PFOA; and whether there is any talk of changes. Reporter is Kathy Barrans, WNYT, kbarrans@wnyt.com

Suggested Response Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Inquiry: How does the EPA classify PTFE? How does the EPA classify PFOA? Are both "hazardous"? Any talk of changing classifications? Any recent changes?

Aaron Kessler of CNN on TCE and drinking water contaminants - DEADLINE 5/5 (Robert Daguillard)

BACKGROUND:
EPA has proposed to ban trichloroethylene, or TCE, a chemical used in the manufacture of refrigerants. Concerns include the chemical's carcinogenicity. The comment period for the agency's proposed action ended March 16. The agency has not committed itself to quick action on the matter - and has not yet responded to the comments. EPA is also evaluating perchlorate, Chromium-6 and PFOA/PFOS as contaminants. CNN is looking at the new administration's views on these pending evaluations and regulatory actions, which began under the agency's previous leadership. Aaron Kessler – aaron.kessler@cnn.com

RESPONSE:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Kessler, Aaron [mailto:Aaron.Kessler@turner.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Subject: An inquiry on TCE proposed rule, EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0163

Robert,

As you might imagine, it's always better to actually talk about these things than just get a statement. But should I understand that it sounds like a statement it what the agency will be offering on TCE in this case?

If that is true, then it's probably a good idea for me to ask you about three other chemicals as well – though again, I'm more than happy to talk about them on background first, if that would be helpful. They are:

-PFOS/PFOA
-Chromium 6
-Perchlorate

Since all of the above chemicals have been in some stage of moving towards possible regulation under the SDWA, we'd like to also find out where each of those stands as well?

1) Where do things currently stand in the process for possibly moving to regulate the three chemicals under the Safe Drinking Water Act?
2) What steps remain to be completed before adding the chemical to the list of regulated SDWA substances?
3) When does the agency anticipate the chemical will be added to the regulated list?
4) Does the agency plan to put plans for regulating the chemical on hold? Or so, for how long.

Much thanks,
Aaron

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 4/14/2017 12:08:39 PM
To: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
CC: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]; StClair, Christie [StClair.Christie@epa.gov]; Enesta Jones [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: UPDATE: ENESTA: Final GHG Inventory tomorrow

We're live: https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks-1990-2015

Nancy G., the OPS conduit for OAR, is looped. We are good.

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:53 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: ENESTA: Final GHG Inventory tomorrow

Close hold it is. Thanks, Enesta

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) m/txt

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:46 PM
To: Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
Cc: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>; Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ENESTA: Final GHG Inventory tomorrow

Please do not share. It's not prime time ready.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Apr 13, 2017, at 3:42 PM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

> Thanks, Enesta.
>
> I am drowning in email so you might have already sent it, but would you re-share with me and George, and Christie, too? And thanks for keeping us all in the loop tomorrow with timing etc.
>
> Hopefully I won't see it til the end of the day bc I will be on a plane!
>
> Thanks again, Enesta!
>
> Julia P. Valentine
> Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
> U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
> 202.564.2663 direct
> Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) m/txt
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jones, Enesta
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:38 PM
> **To:** Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>

Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>
Subject: ENESTA: Final GHG Inventory tomorrow

We are announcing via a reactive desk statement only. It's going live at midnight tonight.

I have everything I need and so does OPS. We are good.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/9/2017 3:20:23 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Query from an Associated Press reporter
Attachments: image002.jpg; ATT00001.htm; image002.jpg; ATT00002.htm; image002.jpg; ATT00003.htm; image002.jpg; ATT00004.htm; removed.txt; ATT00005.htm

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Elliott, Dan" <delliott@ap.org>
Date: February 9, 2017 at 10:15:51 AM EST
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Query from an Associated Press reporter

Enesta:

Many thanks.

Dan

Dan Elliott

303-825-0123 (Office)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (Mobile)

delliott@ap.org
@DanElliottAP

http://bigstory.ap.org/content/dan-elliott

1120 Lincoln St.

Suite 901

Denver, CO 80203

From: Press [mailto:Press@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 7:43 AM
To: Elliott, Dan
Cc: Jones, Enesta
Subject: RE: Query from an Associated Press reporter

Hi Dan,

For attribution to the agency or an agency spokesperson:

The methane rules for the oil and gas industry became effective on August 2, 2016. EPA is not aware of any companies that have been cited for violating the rules.

Thanks

Office of Public Affairs

US EPA Headquarters

Washington, DC

From: Elliott, Dan [mailto:delliott@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 7:13 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Query from an Associated Press reporter

Dear Press Office and Enesta:

Thank you for this. It's very helpful.

A follow-up question:

- Has the EPA found anyone in violation of the oil and gas industry methane rules?
- If so, can you tell me how many violations have been found?
- What is the range of penalties that have been imposed?

Thanks.

Dan

cid
:im
ag

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 1/25/2017 7:36:37 PM
To: dpkemery@kemerymedia.com; Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP); dpkemery@kemerymedia.com
Subject: FW: POLITICO: Spicer: Social media crackdown isn't directed by White House

Alternative facts.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 2:35 PM
To: AO OPA Media Relations <AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov>
Subject: POLITICO: Spicer: Social media crackdown isn't directed by White House

Spicer: Social media crackdown isn't directed by White House

By Andrew Restuccia

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said today that the White House is not directing federal agencies to rein in their public communications.

"There's nothing that has come from the White House," Spicer said. "Absolutely not."

A series of internal directives at federal agencies — including EPA and the Interior Department, which houses the National Park Service — to limit social media and other public-facing communications have caused a firestorm in recent days, with watchdog groups raising red flags.

But Spicer insisted those directives were agency-specific policies, not a broader directive from the White House.

Spicer also blamed rogue employees for tweets from National Park Service Twitter accounts, including images comparing crowds at former President Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration with Trump's inauguration and posts about climate change.

He said a "an unauthorized user had an old password in the San Francisco office, went in and started retweeting inappropriate things that were in violation of their policy."

Spicer said both EPA and the National Park Service are working to resolve the issue.

"A couple of these agencies have had trouble adhering to their own policies, and I'd refer you back to them as to why those things are happening," he said. "But I know they are taking steps in both of those two cases to address inappropriate use of social media."

And Spicer also pointed to Obama administration violations of social media policy, such as the 2015 Government Accountability Office report that EPA had violated federal law with a social media campaign to win public support for a controversial water regulation.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/30/2017 2:20:41 PM
To: cdorobek@chrisdorobek.com.
CC: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: PITCH: EPA Staffer Named A Fellow

Hi Christopher,

Hope all is well. I have a story idea that I would like to pitch to you. It is under embargo until June 1.

One of our staffers has been named a Fellow for the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE). This honor recognizes the most distinguished "individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the profession of environmental and resource economics." AERE is the leading association for environmental economics; it has more than 1,000 members from over 30 countries, representing academia, and the public and private sectors. He is the first Fellow from government.

Are you interested in an interview?

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 4/30/2019 2:08:29 PM
To: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]; Millett, John [Millett.John@epa.gov]
CC: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Heads up --Close Hold: Cummins Announcement at 8pm This Evening

Tnx all.

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/19/2017 2:43:03 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia [lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
CC: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: AMY/JP - FOR REVIEW - Response to Morgan Smith of Texas Tribune on state registration of Kaput - DEADLINE 5/17

Yea Liz approved then Amy approved three hours later.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Bowman, Liz" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Date: May 18, 2017 at 12:38:58 PM EDT
To: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>, Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: AMY/JP - FOR REVIEW - Response to Morgan Smith of Texas Tribune on state registration of Kaput - DEADLINE 5/17

Great, thanks

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 11:43 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: AMY/JP - FOR REVIEW - Response to Morgan Smith of Texas Tribune on state registration of Kaput - DEADLINE 5/17

BACKGROUND

The reporter is following up on Tuesday's response to her questions on state pesticide product registration. We've worked with her on previous questions about warfarin, the active ingredient in "Kaput," a feral hog bait popular in West Texas. Morgan Smith – msmith@texastribune.com

RESPONSE

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Morgan Smith [mailto:msmith@texastribune.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: EPA Response: State registration of Kaput

Hi there,

My question is actually whether the state can make suggestions or edits to the EPA approved label, not about the registration process.

Thanks!

Morgan

On Tue, May 16, 2017 at 9:31 AM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

> Good morning Morgan,
>
> My colleague Tricia asked me to forward you the following, as she's out today. For attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:
>
> "Once a company is granted an EPA registration, the company must also receive registration from the State in which the company wishes to sell and distribute the product. States can impose additional use restrictions of a pesticide product beyond that of the federal restrictions; however, the State cannot allow less restrictions than those imposed by the federal registration. Whether additional state restrictions are placed on a registration would be dictated by state law and regulations."

--

Morgan Smith
The Texas Tribune - Reporter
823 Congress Ave., Suite 1400 Austin, TX 78701
www.texastribune.org
O (512) 716.8620 **F** (512) 716.8601
twitter: @morgansmith

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/19/2017 2:39:06 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia [lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
CC: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: EPA Response: State registration of Kaput

Yea. How did he send it @ 12:42 but Amy didn't GTG it until 3:29? Maybe someone else approved it. Now sent twice. NABD.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On May 19, 2017, at 10:35 AM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Is this the one you're looking for?

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 12:42 PM
To: Morgan Smith <msmith@texastribune.org>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA Response: State registration of Kaput

Morgan, for attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

States may issue restrictions in addition to EPA's through their own pesticide registration laws. They may discuss product labels or any other pesticide issues with EPA through the State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG). However, they can't make changes to EPA labels, or make their state product registration less restrictive than EPA's.

Thanks, R.

From: Morgan Smith [mailto:msmith@texastribune.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: EPA Response: State registration of Kaput

Hi there,

My question is actually whether the state can make suggestions or edits to the EPA approved label, not about the registration process.

Thanks!

Morgan

On Tue, May 16, 2017 at 9:31 AM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

> Good morning Morgan,
>
> My colleague Tricia asked me to forward you the following, as she's out today. For attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:
>
> "Once a company is granted an EPA registration, the company must also receive registration from the State in which the company wishes to sell and distribute the product. States can impose additional use restrictions of a pesticide product beyond that of the federal restrictions; however, the State cannot allow less restrictions than those imposed by the federal registration. Whether additional state restrictions are placed on a registration would be dictated by state law and regulations."
>
> Very best, R.
>
> Robert Daguillard
>
> Office of Media Relations
>
> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
>
> Washington, DC
>
> +1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
>
> Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

--

Morgan Smith

The Texas Tribune - Reporter
823 Congress Ave., Suite 1400 Austin, TX 78701
www.texastribune.org
O (512) 716.8620 **F** (512) 716.8601
twitter: @morgansmith

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 5/12/2017 8:05:32 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea (Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov) [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: FOR REVIEW: comment to respond to question on resignations

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

From: Freire, JP
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 3:57 PM
To: Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: comment to respond to question on resignations

Attributable to an epa spokesman

J.P. Freire
Environmental Protection Agency
Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On May 12, 2017, at 3:56 PM, Freire, JP <Freire.JP@epa.gov> wrote:

This has been approved by Sam.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

J.P. Freire
Environmental Protection Agency
Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On May 12, 2017, at 3:36 PM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

Two requests for comment: from New Repub and The Hill.

Suggested response:

[Here is the statement from earlier in the week. I added the last line (highlighted in yellow below) from Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Emily Atkin [mailto:eatkin@tnr.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Question on resignations

Hello,

Wanted to see if EPA had a response to this letter of resignation sent by Carlos Martin and Peter Meyer in protest of EPA not renewing the appointments of BOSC members.
https://twitter.com/carlosonhousing/status/863014824367841281

The letter said the two believe "our collective knowledge is not valued" by the EPA, and that the agency is "watering down" credible science. Is that a credible accusation?

How long will it take for EPA to fill the positions left by Martin, Meyer, and other BOSC members?

Best,

--
Emily Atkin
Staff Writer, *New Republic*
m Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
@emorwee

"Find the evidence,
that lets everyone see,
how the world works."

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/24/2017 6:01:07 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: EPA Response: Chemical Risk Assessments.

Yay! I got this upstairs for ya.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Apr 24, 2017, at 2:00 PM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Kristin, for attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

Yes, the pesticide program is assessing cumulative risk of pesticides acting via a common mode of action. There are ongoing examples of this with organophosphates, conazoles and pyrethroids pesticides. For guidance, see https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/201507/documents/guidance_on_common_mechanism.pdf

See completed cumulative risk assessments: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/cumulative-assessment-risk-pesticides

EPA continues to research a nonmonotonic dose response (NMDR) and "Low Dose" issues. The agency is currently working with the National Academy of Sciences to better understand "Low Dose" issues. More information on the status of this collaboration can be found here: https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/endocrine-disruption-research-testing-potential-low-dose-effects

Thanks, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

On Dec 23, 2016, at 1:44 PM, Kristin Wartman Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) wrote:

Hi Robert,

Since you've answered some of my questions before, I assume you are the correct person to send these questions to. I am working on my book and have some questions that various scientists I have interviewed have expressed concern about.

1. I was told that in risk assessment studies for many environmental chemicals, human data is not considered because humans are exposed to multiple chemicals at once, which makes it difficult to determine which one is causing harm. Is this correct?

2. As a follow-up to that question, have you or are you currently studying combined effects of multiple chemicals in humans or animals? If not, why not? If you are, can you please tell me which chemicals and direct me to the studies?

3. Many scientists I spoke to are concerned that the EPA is not adequately addressing low-dose exposures or sensitive endpoints when it comes to endocrine disrupting chemicals. Are you carefully considering low-dose exposures and sensitive endpoints for common EDCs? How so?

I realize we are heading into a holiday weekend -- sorry for the bad timing. My deadline is the the end of the month so if possible, if you could please respond by the middle to end of next week that would be very helpful.

Thank you,

Kristin

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/21/2017 7:41:16 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia [lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: JP FW: Bloomberg BNA questions for OECA-states story [WARNING: DKIM validation failed] [WARNING: DKIM validation failed]

Did he respond?

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Apr 21, 2017, at 2:29 PM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi JP…OK to give her your title? Spokesperson? Something else?

From: Schoof, Renee [mailto:rSchoof@bna.com]
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Bloomberg BNA questions for OECA-states story [WARNING: DKIM validation failed] [WARNING: DKIM validation failed]

What is JP Freire's position/title?

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Renee Schoof
Reporter/Editor
Bloomberg BNA
Direct: 703.341.3511
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
rschoof@bna.com

@ReneeSchoof

From: Lynn, Tricia [mailto:lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 1:57 PM
To: Schoof, Renee <rSchoof@bna.com>
Subject: RE: Bloomberg BNA questions for OECA-states story [WARNING: DKIM validation failed]

Hi Renee--

For attribution to JP Freire…

"We are stepping up our work alongside the states in assisting stakeholders with compliance to ensure fewer violations. Enforcement will continue, of course, but giving greater compliance assistance at the outset will help protect human health and the environment.

Administrator Pruitt is committed to leading the EPA in a more effective, more focused, less costly way as we partner with states to fulfill the agency's core mission. Washington shouldn't get in the way of the 50 states across our nation who care about air, land and water."

Best,

Tricia

Tricia Lynn
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
Office: 202.564.2615

From: Schoof, Renee [mailto:rSchoof@bna.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 10:52 AM
To: Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Bloomberg BNA questions for OECA-states story [WARNING: DKIM validation failed]

Hi Julia,
Here are three questions for the administrator for a story next week. Thanks for passing them on. I need to wrap up the reporting and writing by COB Friday. As you know, our stories appear to a wide audience on the Bloomberg terminal, as well as for our professional subscribers.

What is your vision for how OECA ought to work?
Does EPA need to have a different relationship with states than it had in the past administration? Is the one set out in National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) outmoded, and if so what changes are needed?
Some states say that they may do fewer inspections and less enforcement if EPA grants to states are cut as proposed. Is this a likely and acceptable outcome, and why or why not?
Thank you.
Renee Schoof
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Renee Schoof
Reporter/Editor
Bloomberg BNA
Direct: 703.341.3511
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
rschoof@bna.com

@ReneeSchoof

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 3/6/2019 4:02:30 PM
To: Labbe, Ken [Labbe.Ken@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Request for comment

We are all learning. Rules seem to change by the nanosecond.

On Mar 6, 2019, at 11:02 AM, Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov> wrote:

I have a page full of notes like this, that I'm keeping tabs on. Thanks. Learn by trying.

Kenneth T. Labbe
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Public Affairs
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
Office: 202-564-1486
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Request for comment

Going forward, you should Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: "Labbe, Ken" <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>
Date: March 6, 2019 at 10:59:34 AM EST
To: "Esther.Whieldon@spglobal.com" <Esther.Whieldon@spglobal.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Request for comment

Hello Esther: Please see our response. You can attribute to EPA Spokesperson, Molly Block

EPA has not reviewed the report.

As you may know, EPA estimates that the ACE Rule could reduce 2030 CO2 emissions by up to 1.5% from projected levels without the CPP – the equivalent of taking 5.3 million cars off the road. Further, when fully implemented, U.S. power sector CO2 emissions could be 33% to 34% below 2005 levels, higher than the projected CO2 emissions reductions from the never-implemented, so-called CPP.

Kenneth T. Labbe
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Public Affairs
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
Office: 202-564-1486

Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 3/5/2019 9:58:25 PM
To: Labbe, Ken [Labbe.Ken@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Question about report on the greenhouse gas emissions impact of the administration's regulations, by the NYU state impact center

Molly Block, an EPA Spokesperson.

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Abboud, Michael" <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Date: March 5, 2019 at 4:57:53 PM EST
To: "Labbe, Ken" <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>, Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Question about report on the greenhouse gas emissions impact of the administration's regulations, by the NYU state impact center

Molly's

From: Labbe, Ken
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 4:56 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Question about report on the greenhouse gas emissions impact of the administration's regulations, by the NYU state impact center

Can I use someone's name for attribution on this story from Juliet Eilperin?

Kenneth T. Labbe
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Public Affairs
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
Office: 202-564-1486
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 3/5/2019 9:54:56 PM
To: Labbe, Ken [Labbe.Ken@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Question about report on the greenhouse gas emissions impact of the administration's regulations, by the NYU state impact center

Ask third floor if you can use one of their names for attribution.

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Eilperin, Juliet" <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Date: March 5, 2019 at 4:54:14 PM EST
To: "Labbe, Ken" <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Question about report on the greenhouse gas emissions impact of the administration's regulations, by the NYU state impact center

Thanks very much for this. And in print, do you go by Kenneth, or Ken?
Best, Juliet

From: Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 4:52 PM
To: Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Question about report on the greenhouse gas emissions impact of the administration's regulations, by the NYU state impact center

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Juliet: Please see our response

EPA has not reviewed the report.

As you may know, EPA estimates that the ACE Rule could reduce 2030 CO2 emissions by up to 1.5% from projected levels without the CPP – the equivalent of taking 5.3 million cars off the road. Further, when fully implemented, U.S. power sector CO2 emissions could be 33% to 34% below 2005 levels, higher than the projected CO2 emissions reductions from the never-implemented, so-called CPP.

Kenneth T. Labbe
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Public Affairs
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
Office: 202-564-1486
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 7/6/2018 8:08:58 PM
To: Ortiz, Julia [Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov]
CC: Pierce, Alison [Pierce.Alison@epa.gov]; Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Tnx Julia. I'll reach to see if it's too late fr.

On Jul 6, 2018, at 4:07 PM, Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Enesta,

Please see below for an interview request from Nature magazine. It looks like we've missed the reporter's deadline – please let us know how you'd like to proceed. Thank you!

From: Richard Van Noorden [mailto:R.VanNoorden@nature.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:14 AM
To: Scarano, Louis <Scarano.Louis@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino – I am not sure if you received this email, but I would like to talk to you about EPA's plans to assess chemicals without animal testing, for a story in Nature.

Would you be available this week or early next week?

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden.

From: Richard Van Noorden
Sent: 21 June 2018 17:58
To: 'Scarano.louis@epa.gov'
Subject: Nature reporter --- reporting on computational methods to predict chemical toxicity

Dear Gino,

I'm a reporter at Nature, and am writing a news story about improvements to computational methods to predict chemical toxicity. IN particular, with reference to the attached paper by Hartung et al. It's to be published in *Toxicological Sciences* on 4 July and should be treated as under embargo until then (13:00 UK time).

This paper first argues that animal safety tests are far more inconsistent than was thought, with accuracies between the results of identical tests on identical chemicals dipping to around 78% for skin irritation tests, for instance. (Based on analysis of animal test results of tens of thousands of chemicals, from REACH submissions).

Then it claims that the latest computational software can outdo animal testing results. (It's presenting an updated approach which hasn't previously been disclosed). It's a mixture of QSAR and read-across, and I understand that this paper isn't unique, and that there are other computational efforts too. I talked to Craig Rowlands at Underwriter Laboratories, which is doing this work, and he noted that this software was one of a number of models tested out by

EPA, FDA etc. at an April workshop that you talked at (https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/evalatm/3rs-meetings/past-meetings/tox-models-2018/index.html).

I am also aware that you are in charge of the strategic plan to assess chemicals without animals, due to be published June 22nd.

Would it be possible to talk next week – Thurs 28th June or Fri 29th June – about general progress in this field, with reference to the EPA's strategic plan, and on how significant this particular work by Hartung, Rowlands and their team is?

I am in London, UK, so it would be best to talk morning your time if this is possible. But I could discuss another time if this is not convenient.

Best wishes

Richard Van Noorden

Richard Van Noorden
Features Editor
Nature, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW
+44 207 843 3670
r.vannoorden@nature.com
@richvn | @naturenews
Nature.com/news
Nature's online news is free for all

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Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 6/1/2018 3:09:29 PM
To: DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]; Bremer, Kristen [Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov]; Davis, Alison [Davis.Alison@epa.gov]; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan [Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: ACTION: E&E re Upcoming publication of area attainment designations for 2015 ozone NAAQS signed April 30

Tnx all. I'll work out attribution with the third floor.

From: DeLuca, Isabel
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2018 11:08 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>; Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>; Cortelyou-Lee, Jan <Cortelyou-Lee.Jan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: ACTION: E&E re Upcoming publication of area attainment designations for 2015 ozone NAAQS signed April 30

Thanks to Jan for pulling this together. Enesta, not sure about attribution -- think he'll take EPA Spokesperson?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2018 9:48 AM
To: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Bremer, Kristen <Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov>; Davis, Alison <Davis.Alison@epa.gov>
Subject: ACTION: E&E re Upcoming publication of area attainment designations for 2015 ozone NAAQS signed April 30

I'm working on a story today that will note that publication is coming after EPA was criticized for foot-dragging by environmental groups and about 15 states in filings last week with the D.C. Circuit Court (https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060082777/). Is EPA now going ahead with these designations because of that criticism?
My deadline is noon; I need any response to be on-the-record and for attribution. If not, I can't use it.

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 2/2/2018 7:16:53 PM
To: Lynne Peeples [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
CC: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Lynne,

We provided a lot of factual information. Can you pull out exactly what you would like to quote us on?

From: Lynne Peeples [mailto Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 2:13 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Thank you, Enesta. Yes, I do still need attribution. I'll be filing the story next week, but anytime before next Friday should still be fine. I'm not sure when Ensia will run the story, but probably within a week or two after that. I can let you know! Appreciate it, and have a great weekend.

Lynne

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 3:12 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Lynne, Tricia is out today and tomorrow. Do you still need attribution? What's the latest you can wait? When is the story slated to run?

Thanks,

Enesta

From: Lynne Peeples [mailto Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Hi Tricia. Just checking back in. Have a name I could attribute this to yet? Thank you!

Lynne

On Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 2:47 PM, Lynne Peeples < Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) > wrote:

That'd be great. Thanks again, Tricia!

On Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 2:47 PM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks for checking, Lynne. I'm not a spokesperson for EPA, so please don't use my name. I'll be back in the morning and do what I can to find you a name.

Thanks!

From: Lynne Peeples [mailto: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 5:33 PM

To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Very helpful. Thank you, Tricia. My editor would like us to be able to attribute to a person. Ok to use your name, as an EPA spokesperson?

Lynne

On Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 12:15 PM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Lynne—

For attribution to "an EPA spokesperson:"

1. I understand that, to date (12/21/17), 395 sites have now been remediated and removed from the Superfund list. Is this correct? Any ballpark for how many more sites might be remediated and removed from the list going forward -- in say, one year or 10 years?

That is correct. As of Jan. 18, 395 sites have been deleted from the Superfund National Priorities List. We display the up-to-date number of NPL sites, including deleted sites, at https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-national-priorities-list-npl.

The number of sites to be deleted in the coming years will be the number of sites where no further response is appropriate and EPA determines that criteria has been met to warrant a delisting decision.

2. Why is reuse of the sites important? What kind of follow-up, if any, does the EPA do after a site is removed from the Superfund list? Does the agency -- or others -- monitor the reuse?

EPA places a high priority on land revitalization as an integral part of its Superfund cleanup mission. This land would otherwise be unused. Instead, Superfund cleanups have allowed hundreds of communities to reclaim formerly contaminated Superfund sites for protective and productive uses.

This redevelopment brings major economic benefits. Information EPA has collected at 487 of the 888 sites in reuse indicate these sites supported approximately 6,600 businesses in 2017. These businesses' ongoing operations generate annual sales of $43.6 billion and employ more than 156,000 people who earned a combined income of $11.2 billion.

Regarding what EPA does after a site is deleted from the NPL, EPA conducts follow-up reviews — even after NPL deletion — every five years when hazardous substances remain on site above levels that permit unrestricted use and unlimited exposure.

3. Of the repurposing uses so far, could you share examples of what has worked the best? Any particularly innovative approaches that future projects could consider?

Communities have successfully reused Superfund sites for many industrial, commercial, ecological and recreational purposes. Many Superfund sites have been redeveloped in innovative ways, including alternative energy facilities (https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment-initiative/alternative-energy-superfund-sites) and mixed-use developments that bring together jobs and amenities.

The Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) provides success stories resulting from fruitful partnerships. These can be accessed on the SRI website: https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment-initiative/depth-case-studies-superfund-reuse. There are 30 in-depth case studies available. Two projects are highlighted below to give a sense of the redevelopment stories unfolding nationwide:

- The Sullivan's Ledge Solar Project is one of numerous renewable energy facilities located on current and former contaminated lands. Built on an old landfill affected by soil and groundwater contamination, the facility generates pollution-free energy and has restored a vacant area to beneficial use. The 1.75-megawatt facility includes over 5,000 block-mounted fixed-tilt solar panels. Project financier SunEdison, Inc., leases the site from the city and then sells the solar net metering credits back to the city at a reduced rate under a 20-year power purchase agreement.
- In the early 1980s, decades of disinvestment had left the Tacoma, Washington, waterfront abandoned and blighted. Industrial activities contaminated soil, groundwater and sediments across more than 10 square miles of Commencement Bay and Tacoma. The City of Tacoma, the Washington State Department of Ecology, EPA and other stakeholders collaborated to engage the public, clean up the area, address liability issues, establish public-private partnerships, secure funding, and revitalize the waterway. Today, the cleanup of the Thea Foss Waterway is complete. A public esplanade extends along the shore, punctuated by public parks, apartment buildings, restaurants and diverse businesses. The Museum of Glass is home to a contemporary collection of artists from around the world, with the Chihuly Bridge of Glass connecting the museum to downtown Tacoma. New, state-of-the-art marinas and water-based businesses have established the Thea Foss Waterway as a major boating destination in the Puget Sound region.

4. What uses so far have proved problematic? Any lessons we can take away to inform future repurposing projects?

EPA has not noticed that any one type of reuse has proven problematic.

Best,

Tricia

Tricia Lynn

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. EPA

Office: 202.564.2615

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **On Behalf Of** Lynne Peeples
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 8:20 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Thanks again, Tricia. Questions below. Yes, I would need answers by 1/26. A call would still be ideal, if at all possible. Appreciate it!

1. I understand that, to date (12/21/17), 395 sites have now been remediated and removed from the Superfund list. Is this correct? Any ballpark for how many more sites might be remediated and removed from the list going forward -- in say, one year or 10 years?

2. Why is reuse of the sites important? What kind of follow-up, if any, does the EPA do after a site is removed from the Superfund list? Does the agency -- or others -- monitor the reuse?

3. Of the repurposing uses so far, could you share examples of what has worked the best? Any particularly innovative approaches that future projects could consider?

4. What uses so far have proved problematic? Any lessons we can take away to inform future repurposing projects?

On Wed, Jan 17, 2018 at 10:29 AM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hi Lynne—
>
> Thanks for your email. In order to proceed, I'll need a complete list of your questions (though we can go back with follow-up if necessary). I also want to confirm that 1/26 is your deadline.

I'm happy to ask about a call, but please be aware that they're not always available. If not, we can generally respond in writing.

Thanks again. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

--Tricia

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **On Behalf Of** Lynne Peeples
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 12:41 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Good afternoon,

Just wanted to follow up on my request. Thanks so much again.

Lynne

On Fri, Jan 12, 2018 at 1:29 PM, Lynne Peeples <lpeeples@post.harvard.edu> wrote:

> Hi Tricia,
>
> I'm reporting a story for Ensia on the repurposing of former Superfund sites -- examples of what lands are being used for now, lessons learned so far as to what works well and what doesn't, etc. Would it be possible to connect me with someone at the EPA who could speak to this? The sooner the better, of course, but anytime in the next two weeks would be fine.
>
> Thanks so much, in advance, for your time and help.

Best,

Lynne

--

LYNNE PEEPLES | Science, Health and Environment Reporter

w: 646-233-3217 | c: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) | www.lynnepeeples.com

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Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 10/2/2017 9:53:56 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Press Release: Administrator Pruitt Announces Launch of Smart Sectors Program

Got it, thanks!

On Oct 2, 2017, at 10:48 AM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Fyi .. close hold – for Tuesday, october 2

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **(mobile)**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 1/10/2018 7:58:53 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Fuld, John [Fuld.John@epa.gov]
CC: Wadlington, Christina [Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov]
Subject: FINAL RESPONSE: The Doctors re Tap water

Thank you for the opportunity to review, Olivia. For attribution to an EPA spokesperson:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 11/2/2017 11:43:29 AM
To: Fuld, John [Fuld.John@epa.gov]
CC: Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: OW-Morning Insider

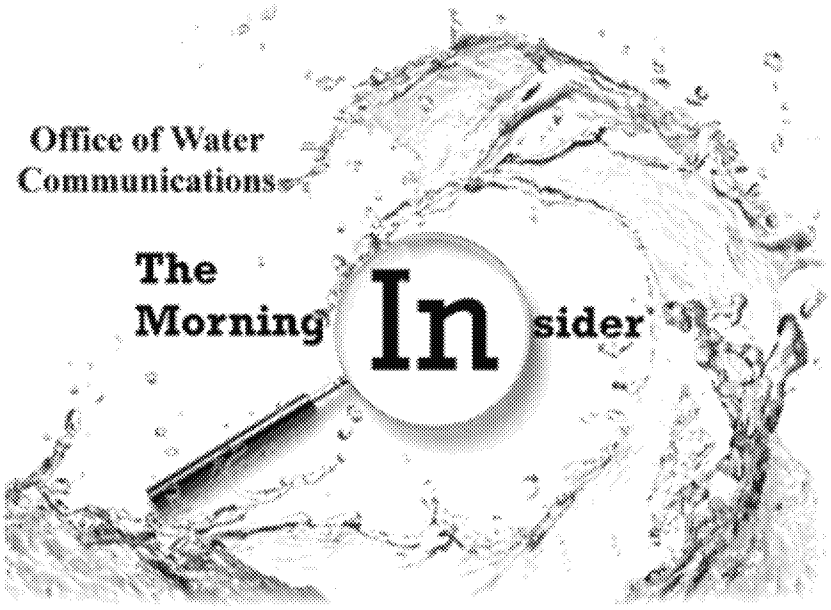
Lesson/take-away you should be aware of: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
This reporter didn't push; he just ignored me and quoted me in this story. Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Asked about the issue, EPA spokesperson Enesta Jones defended the EPA's approach during the study.

"EPA is aware that some laboratories are able to achieve reporting limits lower than those established (for the program)," Jones said, adding the EPA levels were "established so that a national array of laboratories could meet them and were based on looking at the capability of multiple commercial laboratories."

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Fuld, John" <Fuld.John@epa.gov>
Date: November 2, 2017 at 7:37:15 AM EDT
To: "Drinkard, Andrea" <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>, "Dennis, Allison" <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>, "Thomas, Latosha" <Thomas.Latosha@epa.gov>, "Shapiro, Mike" <Shapiro.Mike@epa.gov>, "Best-Wong, Benita" <Best-Wong.Benita@epa.gov>, "Campbell, Ann" <Campbell.Ann@epa.gov>, "Wadlington, Christina" <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>, "Schollhamer, Mary" <Schollhamer.Mary@epa.gov>, "Lalley, Cara" <Lalley.Cara@epa.gov>, "Bravo, Antonio" <Bravo.Antonio@epa.gov>, "Tiago, Joseph" <Tiago.Joseph@epa.gov>, "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>, "Lynn, Tricia" <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: OW-Morning Insider



November 2, 2017

NEWS:

Courier Times

<!--[if !vml]--><!--[endif]-->**Is the EPA missing PFC water contamination across the country? One expert says yes.**

A scientist from one of the nation's largest water testing labs says the EPA may be underestimating the presence of toxic perfluorinated compounds in drinking water systems across the country.

The Environmental Protection Agency might be underestimating the number of U.S. water systems contaminated with perfluorinated chemicals, which have been found in more than a dozen Bucks and Montgomery County water supplies, according to a report from one of the nation's largest water sampling laboratories.

The report by Eurofins Eaton Analytical laboratories, a California-based lab that did some of the initial water testing for the EPA, asserts that EPA data show only about 4 percent of the nation's drinking water supplies contain perfluorochemicals such as PFOS and PFOA, the two most well-known of the chemical family. But Eurofins' review of its own testing data suggests the number is much higher, with about 28 percent of water supplies containing the chemicals at some level.

The analysis means that tens of millions of Americans could be exposed to some amounts of the chemicals unknowingly, and asserts that dangers from larger, dynamic groundwater contaminations could be going unchecked.

"I think we're potentially missing early warnings of (contamination) plumes," said Andrew Eaton, technical director of the laboratory and author of the report. Eaton has been sharing the report with state government regulators and water industry professionals to demonstrate his concerns.

PFOS, PFOA and similar sister chemicals are currently unregulated by the EPA. First invented around 1950, they were used for decades in a variety of commercial applications, including non-stick pans, food containers and firefighting foams. The chemicals have been linked by some studies to a variety of health effects, including immunodeficiencies, reproductive issues, ulcerative colitis, and some cancers.

It was the chemicals' use in firefighting foams at military bases that led to the contamination of drinking water in this region, ultimately forcing more than 200 well closures in Warminster, Horsham and Warrington.

Contamination also has been found in the Doylestown area, although the source is still under investigation.

In 2013 the EPA required every water authority nationwide serving more than 10,000 people to test for six perfluorochemicals, including PFOS and PFOA. Ultimately, at least one of the chemicals was found in about 4 percent of those systems.

According to his report, Eaton's lab collected about a third of the 36,000 water samples used in the EPA analysis. He added that he raised concerns about the program's "minimum reporting level" — the lowest amount of a chemical that the EPA said could be reliably detected.

According to Eaton, after running tests in three separate labs, the EPA selected 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 40 ppt for PFOS as the lowest amount that would count as a reliable detection. A part per trillion is equivalent to about one water drop in an Olympic-sized swimming pool. But Eaton says the chemicals actually can be detected at the much lower level of about 2.5 ppt.

"I made the comment that I didn't expect we were going to see much (perfluorinated compound) contamination because the reporting limits were too high," Eaton said.

According to Eaton, the EPA's reporting levels were skewed when one of the three labs found it could only reliably detect PFOS down to 45 ppt, while the other two arrived at 6.5 and 11 ppt. He said typically in such situations, more labs are used to find a reportable level, especially if there's a large outlier in the data.

"That should have given the EPA pause to say 'Hmm, why were there such big differences here?'" Eaton said.

Asked about the issue, EPA spokesperson Enesta Jones defended the EPA's approach during the study.

"EPA is aware that some laboratories are able to achieve reporting limits lower than those established (for the program)," Jones said, adding the EPA levels were "established so that a national array of laboratories could meet them and were based on looking at the capability of multiple commercial laboratories."

Eaton said he believes part of the issue is that at the time, the EPA was primarily worried about PFOS contamination above 200 ppt, and PFOA above 400 ppt, as those were temporary health advisory levels at the time. But in 2016, the EPA created a new, much lower advisory level: 70 ppt combined.

With the safety level now about an eighth of what it was before, Eaton was newly concerned. First, the 70 ppt safety level is precariously close to the 60 ppt detection level the EPA used for its study. Second, there were four other perfluorinated compounds considered in the EPA program, and each was analyzed separately.

"The entire concept of the (program) is you're supposed to figure out what may be present in drinking water," Eaton said. "If you're not seeing something because you looked too high, you're not really doing your due diligence."

Eaton says his lab reanalyzed the more than 10,000 water samples it collected as part of the program. After dropping the detection limits to 5 ppt, Eaton found at least one of the six perfluorinated compounds in samples from 511 water systems — or 28 percent of those it tested. PFOA was found in 12.5 percent of systems, while PFOS was found in 11.5 percent, compared to less than 1 percent for each in the EPA's program.

If the 28 percent number held true across all public water systems tested by the EPA, it would mean about 1,377 systems, serving at least 13.8 million Americans, would contain at least one of the perfluorinated chemical. That number is strikingly close to a 15 million person estimate generated in a June 2017 analysis from Northeastern University and the nonprofit Environmental Working Group, which tallied up areas of known contamination nationwide.

In Eaton's data, five states had more than 40 systems detect either PFOS or PFOA: New Jersey, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Alabama and California. Pennsylvania fell into the second highest tier in the data, joining four other states with 20-39 water systems with PFOS or PFOA detections above 5 ppt.

Last year, with concerns above perfluorochemicals growing in Bucks and Montgomery counties, a number of local water utilities tested for the chemicals. The results helped illustrate Eaton's concerns: wells in Buckingham, Chalfont, Doylestown Borough, Hatboro, Northampton, Upper Dublin and Upper Southampton were among those where the chemicals were detected, but in amounts below what would have been found as part of the EPA's program.

Scientists are divided on the health implications of exposure to the chemicals below the EPA's recommended safety limit. New Jersey has proposed a limit of just 14 ppt for PFOA, which is actually less than the amount the EPA even counted as a reliable detection when looking for PFOA across the country.

Eaton adds an additional concern. Low levels of contamination, even if not harmful, could be a part of a larger contamination plume nearby — one that could potentially migrate and worsen over time.

The EPA's Jones said the agency has not collected any additional data on the chemicals' occurrence below the detection levels it used in 2013. She added that the agency "is currently conducting the scientific data collection and analysis called for under the Safe Drinking Water Act to evaluate PFOA and PFOS."

"EPA will consider occurrence data along with health effects information to determine where or not to initiate the process to develop (a regulation)," she said, adding a decision is expected in 2021.

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<!--[if !vml]--><!--[endif]-->States, Water Utilities Seek Funding Boost in Trump's Infrastructure Plan

Entire Article: https://insideepa.com/daily-news/states-water-utilities-seek-funding-boost-trumps-infrastructure-plan

States and water utilities are urging the White House to include increased federal funding for drinking water and wastewater projects as part of the Trump administration's upcoming national infrastructure package, arguing that private investment alone cannot fix a funding gap caused by cuts to EPA water infrastructure funds and money for states.

The Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA), which represents state water regulators, tells President Donald Trump in an Oct. 26 letter that it is "essential that the federal government maintain its commitment to supporting delegated state programs under" the Clean Water Act (CWA) by maintaining federal grants to states to ensure states can issue permits in a timely way.

ACWA also urges the Trump administration "to advocate for robust funding" for the clean water state revolving fund (SRF) "to address the ever-growing funding gap" between identified water infrastructure needs and available funding. The group says the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey 2012 Report to Congress, the most recent such report, documents water infrastructure needs of $271 billion dollars as of January 2012.

"Your Administration has proposed $200 billion in federal incentives to drive private investment in large scale infrastructure projects, but relying primarily on private investment will not be sufficient to meet the infrastructure funding gap, especially in rural America," ACWA writes, referencing the Trump administration's fiscal year 2018 budget proposal.

The administration is expected to propose in the coming months a package of principles to guide legislation on infrastructure funding, and White House officials have been meeting with water and other sectors to discuss their priorities and concerns. Water utility sources say this will likely be in 2018 because the Trump administration has said it wants to complete work on tax reform before moving forward with an infrastructure package.

ACWA references Trump's Aug. 15 executive order, which seeks to limit federal agencies' environmental reviews of infrastructure projects under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to two years, while establishing a series of "accountability" measures for federal agencies involved in the permitting process.

"ACWA members agree that there is tremendous need for additional and innovative funding and financing of infrastructure projects and support your efforts to reform and streamline the federal permitting process," the letter says before detailing the group's key recommendations on funding and state permitting for dredge-and-fill activities, including assisting states in assuming the authority to issue CWA section 404 dredge-and-fill permits

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an online news service from the publishers of Inside EPA

<!--[if !vml]--><!--[endif]-->9th Circuit to weigh legality of Corps wetlands manual

An Alaska land-holding company is urging a federal appeals court to overturn a district court ruling that upheld the Army Corps of Engineers' system of using region-specific handbooks to identify wetlands that may be subject to the Clean Water Act (CWA), setting the stage for a new ruling on whether a rider in a 25-year-old spending bill barred the practice permanently.

Tin Cup, LLC, filed a notice of appeal for its suit against the Corps on Oct. 31, sending the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. Judges there will be asked to consider whether the Corps is legally permitted to use regional "supplements" to its nationwide wetlands delineation manual instead of a single document -- with the potential to upend wetlands regulations across the country if the company prevails.

Tin Cup is claiming that a rider in the fiscal year 1993 Corps funding law was meant to block any new guidance on wetlands delineation other than a complete update to the nationwide handbook that dates to 1987, and that the bar is still in force even though funding under the FY93 law is long expired.

But District Judge Timothy M. Burgess, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, ruled for the Corps on Sept. 26, holding that even though it was unclear whether the spending measure was meant to apply permanently, the Corps' interpretation that it was only in force for a year merits judicial deference as a "reasonable" reading of an ambiguous law.

"Because Congress has not clearly expressed its intention that this provision be permanent, the Court concludes that the Corps' interpretation that this language is no longer operative is not unreasonable," Burgess wrote.

The FY93 law orders the Corps to continue using its 1987 wetlands guide "until a final wetlands delineation manual is adopted" -- a response to an update to the guide crafted during the George H.W. Bush administration that Congress opposed. Tin Cup argued in its suit that the FY93 language remains in force and bars any changes to wetlands delineation until the Corps crafts a new nationwide manual.

However, the Corps argued that such spending riders only apply after the year's funding expires when Congress uses "words of futurity," such as noting that the provision applies "hereafter," that were absent in the FY93 wetlands provision.

If the 9th Circuit -- or the Supreme Court on further appeal -- backs Tin Cup's claim, it would mean fresh uncertainty on which properties contain wetlands subject to the water law, just as the Trump administration is preparing to rewrite rules for determining CWA jurisdiction. It could also prompt new scrutiny of funding riders currently thought to be expired.

In addition to the broader effect of limiting the Corps' use of regional guidance for wetlands delineations, a win for Tin Cup would allow it to avoid CWA permit mandates for a property in North Pole, AK, that was found to contain permafrost considered wetlands under the Corps' 2007 Alaska supplement.

John W. Fuld, Ph.D.
U.S. Media Relations Manager Office of Water
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Constitution Ave
Washington DC 20460
Office: 202-564-8847
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Fuld.john@epa.gov

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 9/8/2017 6:33:41 PM
To: StClair, Christie [StClair.Christie@epa.gov]
CC: AO OPA Media Relations [AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: FOR REVIEW: NY TIMES (Danny Hakim) Dicamba - 9/8

This is where Robert left this one. He confirmed NB approved. He was waiting for 3's final approval.

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Date: September 7, 2017 at 11:19:30 AM EDT
To: "Graham, Amy" <graham.amy@epa.gov>, Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: NY TIMES (Danny Hakim) Dicamba - 9/8

Confirming that Nancy Beck approved the response.

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017 10:59 AM
To: Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: NY TIMES (Danny Hakim) Dicamba - 9/8

I'm happy to double-check, but my understanding is that she approves everything. Be right back.

From: Graham, Amy
Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017 10:51 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW: NY TIMES (Danny Hakim) Dicamba - 9/8

Did Nancy Beck approve this?

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2017 10:50 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: FOR REVIEW: NY TIMES (Danny Hakim) Dicamba - 9/8

BACKGROUND

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Danny Hakim – NY Times – hakim@nytimes.com

RESPONSE

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Hakim, Danny [mailto:hakim@nytimes.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 5:31 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Dicamba

Okay, thanks. Is there any data on dicamba being a particle drift issue vs volatility? Thanks

On Wed, Sep 6, 2017 at 4:41 PM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

> Danny, for attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:
>
> We are reviewing the current use restrictions on the labels for these dicamba formulations in light of the incidents that have been reported this year. The underlying causes of the various damage incidents are not yet clear, as on-going investigations have yet to be concluded. But EPA is reviewing all available information carefully. We will rely on the best information available to inform any regulatory change.
>
> Thanks, R.

--
Danny Hakim
Reporter
The New York Times
Office: 212-556-7320
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
hakim@nytimes.com
twitter: @dannyhakim
Signal/WhatsApp via cell

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 11/15/2017 9:43:17 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
CC: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: For Review: Beltway News (Samuel Northrop) re: GHG emissions (Deadline: 11/15)

He'll "no comment" us if he doesn't get something in next 10 mins.

Michael, he requires a name for attribution. Yours ok? Also, can you chime in on the highlighted second question? OAR defers to the third floor.

Background: Beltway News reporter is asking how GHG emissions are measured. Response input from OAR. Publicly available information. Samuel Northrop, Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Suggested Response:

How does the EPA measure emissions, specifically greenhouse gas emissions?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Samuel Northrop [mailto: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 11:01 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Emissions Inquiry for EPA

Also, if you could please include your full name and title so I can cite you accordingly it would be much appreciated.

Thanks

On Wednesday, November 15, 2017, Samuel Northrop Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) wrote:

Beltway news. And most likely later tonight.

On Wednesday, November 15, 2017, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

On it. Where will the story appear and when?

On Nov 15, 2017, at 10:39 AM, Samuel Northrop <Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)> wrote:

How does the EPA measure emissions, specifically greenhouse gas emissions.

What is the main recommendation of the EPA to reduce greenhouse gas emissions going forward?

Hard deadline is 3:30 this afternoon.

Thank you.

On Wednesday, November 15, 2017, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Samuel, please send me your specific questions and hard deadline.

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 10/10/2017 6:40:01 PM
To: Ashley, Jackie [Ashley.Jackie@epa.gov]
CC: Bremer, Kristen [Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: BBC Radio -- repeal of CPP

Thanks Jackie.

On Oct 10, 2017, at 2:38 PM, Ashley, Jackie <Ashley.Jackie@epa.gov> wrote:

FYI – came in to OAQPS staff this morning. We have not replied.

Jackie Ashley - US EPA - Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards - 919-541-7664 – ashley.jackie@epa.gov

From: Paul Coletti [mailto:paul.coletti@bbc.co.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 10:55 AM

Subject: BBC Radio -- repeal of CPP

Sir,
I am trying to locate confirmation of the repeal of the Clean Power Plan which was announced by Secretary Pruitt on 9th October.

I understand this is not an on-camera media event so could you point me to the relevant confirmation that the repeal has occurred?

Sincerely,

Paul Coletti
Tel: +447770820056
Twitter: @bbcworldservice, @pcoletti
Newshour podcasts: www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/newshour
BBC World Service listen live: www.bbc.co.uk/worldserviceradio/on-air

Newshour is the award-winning news and current affairs programme on BBC World Service English, the radio and online network which reaches 75 million listeners each week, including 12.5 million in the USA on National Public Radio.

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Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 11/13/2017 1:19:50 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
CC: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: NANCYFollow up: mosquitos

OCSPP asks if you want then to do another interview on this? They did one w/ the Boston Globe last week.

From: Julia Boccagno <jboccagno@sbgtv.com>
Date: November 9, 2017 at 6:27:11 PM EST
To: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up: mosquitos

Hi Robert,

Thanks so much for this. But I was wondering if it's possible to arrange an on-camera interview with someone who can say this since I'm producing a video on it?

From: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 5:57 PM
To: Julia Boccagno <jboccagno@sbgtv.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up: mosquitos

Julia, for attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

1.) **Why now? Why has the ZAP strain method just been approved?**

MosquitoMate, the ZAP Males® registrant, first requested an experimental use permit (EUP) to test the *Wolbachia* technology in 2013. Since that time MosquitoMate has continued testing *Wolbachia* under a number of EPA-issued EUPs in select locations across the U.S. More information about these field trials can be found onwww.regulations.gov under docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0254.

In early 2016, EPA received a registration application for the ZAP Males® as a microbial bio-pesticide. The data gathered during the preceding EUPs were used to inform the registration decision.

2.) **Why were certain states selected for trials? Is this where mosquito-related issues are rampant?**

The registrant, in this case, MosquitoMate, decides where they would like to conduct their testing and includes those areas in their applications for EUPs. More information about these field trials can be found on www.regulations.gov under docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0254.

3.) **Who will monitor the release? And what does that process look like?**

According to the label, ZAP Males® are for use only by MosquitoMate, Inc., those under direct contract with the company, government officials responsible for public health or vector control, or those certified to perform the applications. State lead pesticide agencies monitor for compliance with label requirements.

Robert Daguillard
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Washington D.C.
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)
202-564-6618 (O)

On Nov 8, 2017, at 12:02 PM, Julia Boccagno <jboccagno@sbgtv.com> wrote:

Hi Robert,

I'm not on a firm deadline, but sooner rather than later is always preferred.

Yes, I've already reached out to Mosquito Mate, and they're interested in talking to me for the piece as well. Since the EPA is the institution that approved it, I believe it's equally vital to include the government's perspective as well.

Does this help?

From: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 11:55 AM
To: Julia Boccagno <jboccagno@sbgtv.com>
Subject: RE: Follow up: mosquitos

Thanks, Julia. Are you on a firm deadline? When are you hoping to produce your piece (video/audio)?

Also, how will information from EPA fit into your larger story? Other voices you're hoping to include?

Thanks, R.

From: Julia Boccagno [mailto:jboccagno@sbgtv.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 11:50 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow up: mosquitos

Hi Robert,

Thanks for this. Still wondering if it's possible to arrange a quick on-camera interview, since we're primarily a video-centric news organization. I'd love to talk with someone from this department about the following:

1.) Why now? Why has the ZAP strain method just been approved?
2.) Why were certain states selected for trials? Is this where mosquito-related issues are rampant?
3.) Who will monitor the release? And what does that process look like?

Please let me know if you're able to assist,

Julia

From: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 11:24 AM
To: Julia Boccagno <jboccagno@sbgtv.com>
Subject: RE: Follow up: mosquitos

Hey Julia,

I hope the following helps. Thanks, R.

EPA Pesticide Program Updates

From EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs

www.epa.gov/pesticides

November 7, 2017

In This Update:

EPA Registers the Wolbachia ZAP Strain in Live Male Asian Tiger Mosquitoes

On November 3, 2017, EPA registered a new mosquito biopesticide – ZAP Males® - that can reduce local populations of the type of mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*, or Asian Tiger Mosquitoes) that can spread numerous diseases of significant human health concern, including the Zika virus.

ZAP Males® are live male mosquitoes that are infected with the ZAP strain, a particular strain of the *Wolbachia* bacterium. Infected males mate with females, which then produce offspring that do not survive. (Male mosquitoes do not bite people.) With continued releases of the ZAP Males®, local *Aedes albopictus* populations decrease. *Wolbachia* are naturally occurring bacteria commonly found in most insect species.

This time-limited registration allows MosquitoMate, Inc. to sell the *Wolbachia*-infected male mosquitoes for five years in the District of Columbia and the following states: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, and West Virginia. Before the ZAP Males® can be used in each of those jurisdictions, it must be registered in the state or district.

When the five-year time limit ends, the registration will expire unless the registrant requests further action from EPA.

EPA's risk assessments, along with the pesticide labeling, EPA's response to public comments on the Notice of Receipt, and the proposed registration decision, can be found on www.regulations.gov under docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0205.

EPA distributes its Pesticide Program Updates to external stakeholders and citizens who have expressed an interest in the agency's pesticide program activities and decisions. This update service is part of EPA's continuing effort to improve public access to federal pesticide information.

For general questions about pesticides and pesticide poisoning prevention, contact the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), by email at npic@ace.orst.edu or, by visiting http://npic.orst.edu.

For information about ongoing activities in the Office of Pesticide Programs, visit our homepage at: https://www.epa.gov/pesticides.

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This email was sent to Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: U.S. EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention · 707 17th St, Suite 4000 · Denver, CO 80202 · 1-800-439-1420

govDELIVERY

From: Julia Boccagno [mailto:jboccagno@sbgtv.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 11:21 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Follow up: mosquitos

Hi Robert,

It was a pleasure talking to you.

I'm following up on our conversation earlier to obtain more information about the EPA's recent approval of a bacterium to kill wild mosquitos. Would you be able to pass along that information, and I can re-evaluate from there.

Separately, I cover a lot of environmental stories here at Circa, and I was wondering if there's a press distribution list you would be able to add me to.

Many thanks,
Julia
—
Julia Boccagno | Multimedia journalist
571.457.6089.
@juliaboccagno

<image001.png>

<image001.png>

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 4/9/2018 3:44:53 PM
To: DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]
CC: Davis, Alison [Davis.Alison@epa.gov]; Bremer, Kristen [Bremer.Kristen@epa.gov]
Subject: FINAL RESPONSE: Signing of final rule for Primary NOx standard

On background (not for attribution): Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 3/29/2018 9:06:19 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Press inquiry for a story seeking to determine if the water crisis in Cape Town, South Africa, can happen in this country

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Date: March 27, 2018 at 11:03:09 AM EDT
To: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Press inquiry for a story seeking to determine if the water crisis in Cape Town, South Africa, can happen in this country

Dave, for attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

While state drinking water programs have the primary responsibility for overseeing water systems and monitoring their ability to provide potable water in the case of drought, EPA actively monitors the U.S. Drought Monitor (http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/) and provides resources to help water utilities become more resilient to drought including developing the *Drought Response and Recovery Guide for Water Utilities* and offering multiple drought and water loss workshops on a yearly basis.

See https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/drought-response-and-recovery-water-utilities

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Dave Montgomery [mailto Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 11:59 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Press inquiry for a story seeking to determine if the water crisis in Cape Town, South Africa, can happen in this country

Hi, Lynn, I'm a reporter for Stateline, a national online news publication, doing a story about water needs in the United States geared to Cape Town, South Africa, which is facing the potential of being without water. I noticed on the EPA media website that you deal with various aspects of water so I'm hoping you can steer me in the right direction and link me with an expert, as well as EPA research.

I'm looking for a national overview on areas of the country that are currently facing water hardships, areas that are facing continued drought. I saw an article in Texas Observer earlier this year quoting the EPA as reporting that the number of 100-degree days per year are expected to quadruple in the Southern Plains by 2050 and that parts of Texas and Oklahoma are expected to experience longer periods without rainfall. I'd like to confirm that as well any related information on weather patterns that could increase the potential of extended dry periods.

I'd also appreciate any other information on dangers to water supplies - I'm told that underground aquifers for example, have been shrinking for decades, and I'd like to get a national overview on how extensive that is and particular threats to major acquifers such as the Ogllala in the Plains. These are just some areas I'd like to pursue and I'm sure your experts have observations I may not be aware of. Of course, any recent reports - the later the better = would be much appreciated.

I've got a pretty severe deadline. I've got to write the story by the end of the week and of course I need the information before then. I may be going out of town to look at a water-starved area so I'm trying to get my fundamental research done in advance of that, so I'm trying to get an interview and research from your agency by tomorrow Thanks so much for your help. Dave

David Montgomery
Independent Journalist
Main Clients include:
New York Times, Stateline, Fort Worth Star-Telegram and McClatchy Newspapers, Texas Highways, Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, Dallas Innovates (D Magazine Group). Have also reported for Bloomberg News, Politico, Center for Public Integrity, Fort Worth Business Press and others.
7307 Holly Fern Cove
Austin, Texas 78750
512-739-4471
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Twitter: @daveymontgomery

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 4/6/2018 7:53:14 PM
To: Maria Hegstad [mhegstad@iwpnews.com]
Subject: RE: OPPT leadership changes

EPA – not for attribution/specific source.

From: Maria Hegstad [mailto:mhegstad@iwpnews.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 3:52 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: OPPT leadership changes

Thanks, Enesta!

How do you want me to background it? EPA source?

Maria Hegstad
Managing Editor, Risk Policy Report
703-416-8541
Inside Washington Publishers
www.InsideEPA.com

From: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
To: Maria Hegstad <mhegstad@iwpnews.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Sent: 4/6/2018 3:45 PM
Subject: RE: OPPT leadership changes

Maria,

On background:

This month, Maria Doa, CCD Director, is moving to new position in ORD and Lynn Vendinello will serve on an interim basis as Acting CCD Director. Also this month, Tanya Mottley, OPPT IO will be resuming her leadership role as NPCD director and Tala Henry, RAD, will be coming up to the OPPT IO for the next acting deputy director detail assignment. OPPT very soon will issue announcements for competitive details to back fill the positions of Lynn and Tala.

From: Maria Hegstad [mailto:mhegstad@iwpnews.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 3:19 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: OPPT leadership changes

Hello,
I've seen a report that there have been some changes in leadership within OPPT (with Maria Doa moving to ORD, Lynn Vendinello becoming acting Chemical Control Division director, Tala Henry becoming acting deputy director for OPPT and Cathy Fehrenbacher becoming the acting Risk Assessment Division director).

Does EPA have a statement on announcement on these changes? I am working on a blog today, so deadline asap.
Many thanks, Maria

Maria Hegstad
Managing Editor, Risk Policy Report
703-416-8541
Inside Washington Publishers
www.InsideEPA.com

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 6/19/2019 3:58:39 PM
To: Ashley, Jackie [Ashley.Jackie@epa.gov]
CC: DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: ACE ACTION: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

Tnx!

On Jun 19, 2019, at 11:58 AM, Ashley, Jackie <Ashley.Jackie@epa.gov> wrote:

It's up

Jackie Ashley - US EPA - Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards - 919-541-7664 – ashley.jackie@epa.gov

From: DeLuca, Isabel
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 11:49 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Ashley, Jackie <Ashley.Jackie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: ACE ACTION: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

Going up momentarily. Will let you know.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 11:48 AM
To: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ACE ACTION: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

Still holding. Not live.

On Jun 19, 2019, at 11:30 AM, DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov> wrote:

Sorry—Abboud said to hold until 11:45

On Jun 19, 2019, at 11:21 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Web isn't live. □

On Jun 18, 2019, at 5:25 PM, DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov> wrote:

https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/affordable-clean-energy-rule

I think 8:30 makes sense for sending. But we noticed on the invitation to the media briefing, it says there is an embargo on all information until 11:30 – which seems really late. We're trying to figure out when the PR will go out and time posting materials to the web to that. I'll let you know what I hear.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 5:16 PM
To: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>

Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ACE ACTION: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

For more information see:
https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/proposal-affordable-clean-energy-ace-rule

So 8:30? Tnx Isabel! See what? What's the url?

On Jun 18, 2019, at 5:09 PM, DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov> wrote:

Clint has signed off on the following response to both questions, for release TOMORROW as soon as ACE is announced:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 3:23 PM
To: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ACE ACTION: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

Bill sign off?

On Jun 18, 2019, at 3:09 PM, DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov> wrote:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) I think. For the second question, here's what we propose:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 12:53 PM
To: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: ACE ACTION: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

From: "Abboud, Michael" <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Date: June 18, 2019 at 12:51:26 PM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>, Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

Can you ask them whether they want to Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) ?

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 10:50 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

I can take the second to OAR.

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Eilperin, Juliet" <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Date: June 18, 2019 at 10:48:24 AM EDT
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>, "Schiermeyer, Corry" <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>, "Abboud, Michael" <abboud.michael@epa.gov>, "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

Dear All,
I wanted to fact check two different things, in the context of tomorrow's announcement. First, Administrator Wheeler told me and Brady last Monday, "When we finalize ACE in the next couple of weeks it's going to reduce CO2 emissions from the electric power sector 34 percent from 2005 levels."

The question is, what year will this 34 percent reduction be achieved? Looking at EPA's own analysis, it looks like the proposed rule would get a 33% reduction in 2035 using the EPA's latest inventory [epa.gov] for power sector CO2 emissions of 2400 million metric tons (2645 short tons). But perhaps you are using a different method to get to 34 percent, and I don't know what year the Administrator was referring to (I assume he was talking about full implementation, as opposed to 2030).

Second, can you provide me with the statistics of how much US greenhouse gas emissions increased in 2018, compared to 2017? I've seen independent analyses of between 1.5 and 2.5 percent economy wide, with CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion increasing 2.7 percent in 2018. But I wanted to see if the EPA has a different figure.
Thanks,
Juliet

Juliet Eilperin
Senior National Affairs Correspondent
The Washington Post
(O) 202-334-7774
(C) Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
juliet.eilperin@washpost.com
@eilperin

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 11/6/2017 12:47:43 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
CC: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: ROBERT DAGUILLARD: Open Inquiries
Attachments: Untitled Attachment; ATT00001.htm; FOLLOWING UP: Question about the use of epidemiology and pesticide regulation; ATT00002.htm; Reuters question on Monsanto product NemaStrike; ATT00003.htm; Re: Robert has there been some misunderstanding about our question?; ATT00004.htm; RE: Press Inquiry about Toxics / TSCA; ATT00005.htm

CLOSED:

Pesticides

NY Times, Eric Lipton; use of epidemiological studies in dicamba registration – question in program – reporter would like to interview policy/subject matter expert – Hopes to publish story on Monday 11/6, so very likely due 11/3.

Toxic Chemicals

BNA, Sam Pearson/Pat Rizzuto; Personnel transfer from pesticides to Toxic Chemicals program for TSCA evaluation purposes – first sent of answers sent to reporter, follow-up questions in program – DDL 11/3

PROGRAM STILL WORKING ON THIS ONE:

Reuters, Thomas Polansek; Possible health risks (rashes) from Monsanto's NemaStrike; did EPA test product prior to registration – DDL ASAP

From: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Date: November 2, 2017 at 3:41:24 PM EDT
To: AO OPA Media Relations <AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov>
Subject: Robert Compressed Friday 3 November - Open Inquiries

Colleagues, relevant information follows – outreach from reporter attached.

Thanks in advance, R.

AIR-OTAQ-RFS

Inside EPA, Doug Obey; on RFS – question in program – likely due 11/2 COB.

Pesticides

NY Times, Eric Lipton; use of epidemiological studies in dicamba registration – question in program – reporter would like to interview policy/subject matter expert – Hopes to publish story on Monday 11/6, so very likely due 11/3.

Reuters, Thomas Polansek; Possible health risks (rashes) from Monsanto's NemaStrike; did EPA test product prior to registration – DDL ASAP

Toxic Chemicals

BNA, Sam Pearson/Pat Rizzuto; Personnel transfer from pesticides to Toxic Chemicals program for TSCA evaluation purposes – first sent of answers sent to reporter, follow-up questions in program – DDL 11/3

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) M)

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 3/28/2018 1:09:14 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: For Review: POLITICO (Annie Snider) re advisories for contaminants (Deadline: 3/28)

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Date: March 28, 2018 at 8:16:33 AM EDT
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: For Review: POLITICO (Annie Snider) re advisories for contaminants (Deadline: 3/28)

Background: POLITICO reporter has a follow-up question re advisories for contaminants (not just PFAS). Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Response approved by Dave Ross. Annie Snider, asnider@politico.com

Suggested Response: For attribution to an EPA spokesperson: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Annie Snider [mailto:asnider@politico.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 11:23 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PFAS/drinking water questions

Thanks, Robert. It looks like my reply yesterday may not have made it thru – apologies if I'm sending this twice. The question about health advisories was meant broadly, not just for PFAS. Has EPA decided not to issue health advisories for contaminants going forward?

From: Daguillard, Robert [mailto:Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 2:23 PM
To: Annie Snider <asnider@politico.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PFAS/drinking water questions

Annie, for attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

1. **What groups or individuals, in addition to the states, were invited to the PFAS summit?**

EPA invited federal partners, states, territories, tribes and representatives from national organizations. EPA will also provide the opportunity for the public to send written input to EPA. Details on how to submit input will be posted on www.epa.gov/pfas.

2. **ECOS' quote in EPA's press release touches on the need for a regulatory determination. Is a regulatory determination under consideration for PFAS, and if so, for which chemicals?**

EPA included PFOA and PFOS on the fourth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) published in 2016. Additionally, approximately 5,000 public water systems were monitoring drinking water for PFOA and PFOS as part of the third cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 3). EPA will consider occurrence data along with health effects information to determine whether or not to initiate the process to develop a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) under Regulatory Determination 4. EPA anticipates completing the next Regulatory Determinations in 2021.

3. **Has EPA decided not to issue health advisories? Several members of associations that OW officials have spoken to recently have told me they were told the agency has decided to stop issuing them – I am wondering if this is true.**

At this time, EPA is not issuing health advisories for any additional PFAS.

4. **How does the administrator square his commitment to drinking water, and specifically the ongoing work outlined in the press release for PFAS, with the president's budget's proposed cuts to research focusing on contaminants and drinking water?**

"Administrator Pruitt has made it a priority to ensure the nation's drinking water quality remains among the best in the world. EPA will work with the funding provided by Congress to ensure the core missions of the Agency are executed."

5. **What are the agency's next steps on lead? Will there be tangible actions coming out of the recent President's Task Force meeting? How does the administration view the challenges around calling for full lead line replacement under the Lead & Copper Rule?**

As a part of the Administrator's War on Lead, EPA continues to work on revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule. EPA recently completed the federalism consultation and will be reviewing comments in addition to the peer review as the Agency works to update the rule.

Cheers, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Annie Snider [mailto:asnider@politico.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <Molly.Block@mail.house.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PFAS/drinking water questions

Hi all, just wanted to circle back on this from Friday – can I touch base with one of you?

From: Annie Snider
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 4:39 PM
To: Jahan Wilcox (wilcox.jahan@epa.gov) <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; 'Block, Molly' <Molly.Block@mail.house.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: PFAS/drinking water questions

Hi all, sorry to ping you when we're almost to the weekend; I'm working on a story about this PFAS summit and more broadly the big challenges at the moment on drinking water. I've got a handful of questions, the crux of them are below, although it might be easier to talk them through if it'd be possible to get one of your water office folks on the phone on Monday. My deadline is mid-day Monday, but I could probably convince my editors to push it back if we could schedule an interview.

Let me know what you think and give me a ring on my cell if you want to discuss:

– What groups or individuals, in addition to the states, were invited to the PFAS summit?
– ECOS' quote in EPA's press release touches on the need for a regulatory determination. Is a regulatory determination under consideration for PFAS, and if so, for which chemicals?
– Has EPA decided not to issue health advisories? Several members of associations that OW officials have spoken to recently have told me they were told the agency has decided to stop issuing them – I am wondering if this is true.
– How does the administrator square his commitment to drinking water, and specifically the ongoing work outlined in the press release for PFAS, with the president's budget's proposed cuts to research focusing on contaminants and drinking water?
– What are the agency's next steps on lead? Will there be tangible actions coming out of the recent President's Task Force meeting? How does the administration view the challenges around calling for full lead line replacement under the Lead & Copper Rule?

Best,
Annie

Annie Snider
Reporter
POLITICO
asnider@politico.com
703-672-2819 - desk
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) cell
@AnnElizabeth18

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 6/18/2019 9:26:14 PM
To: DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: ACE ACTION: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

Tnx Isabel!

On Jun 18, 2019, at 5:25 PM, DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov> wrote:

https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/affordable-clean-energy-rule

I think 8:30 makes sense for sending. But we noticed on the invitation to the media briefing, it says there is an embargo on all information until 11:30 – which seems really late. We're trying to figure out when the PR will go out and time posting materials to the web to that. I'll let you know what I hear.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 5:16 PM
To: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ACE ACTION: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

For more information see:
https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/proposal-affordable-clean-energy-ace-rule

So 8:30? Tnx Isabel! See what? What's the url?

On Jun 18, 2019, at 5:09 PM, DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov> wrote:

Clint has signed off on the following response to both questions, for release TOMORROW as soon as ACE is announced:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 3:23 PM
To: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ACE ACTION: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

Bill sign off?

On Jun 18, 2019, at 3:09 PM, DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov> wrote:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) I think. For the second question, here's what we propose:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 12:53 PM
To: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: ACE ACTION: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

From: "Abboud, Michael" <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Date: June 18, 2019 at 12:51:26 PM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>, Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

Can you ask them whether they want Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) ?

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 10:50 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

I can take the second to OAR.

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Eilperin, Juliet" <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>
Date: June 18, 2019 at 10:48:24 AM EDT
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>, "Schiermeyer, Corry" <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>, "Abboud, Michael" <abboud.michael@epa.gov>, "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: checking a couple of facts regarding emissions from the US power sector, and US overall

Dear All,
I wanted to fact check two different things, in the context of tomorrow's announcement. First, Administrator Wheeler told me and Brady last Monday, "When we finalize ACE in the next couple of weeks it's going to reduce CO2 emissions from the electric power sector 34 percent from 2005 levels."

The question is, what year will this 34 percent reduction be achieved? Looking at EPA's own analysis, it looks like the proposed rule would get a 33% reduction in 2035 using the EPA's latest inventory [epa.gov] for power sector CO2 emissions of 2400 million metric tons (2645 short tons). But perhaps you are using a different method to get to 34 percent, and I don't know what year the Administrator was referring to (I assume he was talking about full implementation, as opposed to 2030).

Second, can you provide me with the statistics of how much US greenhouse gas emissions increased in 2018, compared to 2017? I've seen independent analyses of between 1.5 and 2.5 percent economy wide, with CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion increasing 2.7 percent in 2018. But I wanted to see if the EPA has a different figure.
Thanks,
Juliet

Juliet Eilperin
Senior National Affairs Correspondent
The Washington Post
(O) 202-334-7774
(C) Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
juliet.eilperin@washpost.com
@eilperin

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 2/8/2018 7:24:02 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia [lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: TRICIA: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Date: February 8, 2018 at 11:08:28 AM EST
To: "Lynn, Tricia" <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: TRICIA: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

OCFO defers to OLEM on question 1. Are you already checking with them?

From: Block, Molly
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 3:40 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Can we double check on question 1... I'm pretty sure Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

I can answer the second question. Thanks!

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 3:38 PM
To: Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>
Cc: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Hey Molly, will you handle directly, or do you need some OMR assistance here?

From: Lynne Peeples < Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) >
Date: February 7, 2018 at 2:44:28 PM EST
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: "Lynn, Tricia" <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Hello again, Enesta and Tricia. A follow-up on this Superfund story: I understand that Scott Pruitt announced 31 Superfund sites he wants prioritized for redevelopment -- part of a push to accelerate cleanups and make land available for community use. Related questions below. Possible to get answers by EOD on Friday?

1. Correct that Pruitt has increased the budget for remediation of at least some of these 31 sites beyond what was previously allocated? Where will funds come from for these projects?

2. Correct that President Donald Trump's proposed 2018 budget still seeks to cut the program by 30 percent? If passed, will this cut impact Pruitt's plans?

Thanks again,

Lynne

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 12:05 PM, Lynne Peeples <Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)> wrote:

Great. Thanks again, Enesta.

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 12:02 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Lynne,

"EPA places a high priority on land revitalization as an integral part of its Superfund cleanup mission. This land would otherwise be unused. Instead, Superfund cleanups have allowed hundreds of communities to reclaim formerly contaminated Superfund sites for protective and productive uses. Communities have successfully reused Superfund sites for many industrial, commercial, ecological and recreational purposes. Many Superfund sites have been redeveloped in innovative ways, including alternative energy and mixed-use developments that bring together jobs and amenities. EPA has not noticed that any one type of reuse has proven problematic." **– Enesta Jones, EPA spokesperson**

From: Lynne Peeples [mailto Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 2:49 PM

To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Yes, that would be the chunk that I'd pull a quote from. Thank you. Possible to also attribute the point that EPA has not noticed any one type of reuse has proven problematic?

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 11:27 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Lynne, here's what I suggest for attributable language. I can move these forward for approval. OK?

EPA places a high priority on land revitalization as an integral part of its Superfund cleanup mission. This land would otherwise be unused. Instead, Superfund cleanups have allowed hundreds of communities to reclaim formerly contaminated Superfund sites for protective and productive uses. Communities have successfully reused Superfund sites for many industrial, commercial, ecological and recreational purposes. Many Superfund sites have been

redeveloped in innovative ways, including alternative energy and mixed-use developments that bring together jobs and amenities.

From: Lynne Peeples [mailto: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 2:13 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Thank you, Enesta. Yes, I do still need attribution. I'll be filing the story next week, but anytime before next Friday should still be fine. I'm not sure when Ensia will run the story, but probably within a week or two after that. I can let you know! Appreciate it, and have a great weekend.

Lynne

On Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 3:12 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Lynne, Tricia is out today and tomorrow. Do you still need attribution? What's the latest you can wait? When is the story slated to run?

Thanks,

Enesta

From: Lynne Peeples [mailto: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Hi Tricia. Just checking back in. Have a name I could attribute this to yet? Thank you!

Lynne

On Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 2:47 PM, Lynne Peeples <Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) wrote:

That'd be great. Thanks again, Tricia!

On Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 2:47 PM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks for checking, Lynne. I'm not a spokesperson for EPA, so please don't use my name. I'll be back in the morning and do what I can to find you a name.

Thanks!

From: Lynne Peeples [mailto Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 5:33 PM

To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Very helpful. Thank you, Tricia. My editor would like us to be able to attribute to a person. Ok to use your name, as an EPA spokesperson?

Lynne

On Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 12:15 PM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Lynne—

For attribution to "an EPA spokesperson:"

1. I understand that, to date (12/21/17), 395 sites have now been remediated and removed from the Superfund list. Is this correct? Any ballpark for how many more sites might be remediated and removed from the list going forward -- in say, one year or 10 years?

That is correct. As of Jan. 18, 395 sites have been deleted from the Superfund National Priorities List. We display the up-to-date number of NPL sites, including deleted sites, at https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-national-priorities-list-npl.

The number of sites to be deleted in the coming years will be the number of sites where no further response is appropriate and EPA determines that criteria has been met to warrant a delisting decision.

2. Why is reuse of the sites important? What kind of follow-up, if any, does the EPA do after a site is removed from the Superfund list? Does the agency -- or others -- monitor the reuse?

EPA places a high priority on land revitalization as an integral part of its Superfund cleanup mission. This land would otherwise be unused. Instead, Superfund cleanups have allowed hundreds of communities to reclaim formerly contaminated Superfund sites for protective and productive uses.

This redevelopment brings major economic benefits. Information EPA has collected at 487 of the 888 sites in reuse indicate these sites supported approximately 6,600 businesses in 2017. These businesses' ongoing operations generate annual sales of $43.6 billion and employ more than 156,000 people who earned a combined income of $11.2 billion.

Regarding what EPA does after a site is deleted from the NPL, EPA conducts follow-up reviews — even after NPL deletion — every five years when hazardous substances remain on site above levels that permit unrestricted use and unlimited exposure.

3. Of the repurposing uses so far, could you share examples of what has worked the best? Any particularly innovative approaches that future projects could consider?

Communities have successfully reused Superfund sites for many industrial, commercial, ecological and recreational purposes. Many Superfund sites have been redeveloped in innovative ways, including alternative energy facilities (https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment-initiative/alternative-energy-superfund-sites) and mixed-use developments that bring together jobs and amenities.

The Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) provides success stories resulting from fruitful partnerships. These can be accessed on the SRI website: https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment-initiative/depth-case-studies-superfund-reuse. There are 30 in-depth case studies available. Two projects are highlighted below to give a sense of the redevelopment stories unfolding nationwide:

- The Sullivan's Ledge Solar Project is one of numerous renewable energy facilities located on current and former contaminated lands. Built on an old landfill affected by soil and groundwater contamination, the facility generates pollution-free energy and has restored a vacant area to beneficial use. The 1.75-megawatt facility includes over 5,000 block-mounted fixed-tilt solar panels. Project financier SunEdison, Inc., leases the site from the city and then sells the solar net metering credits back to the city at a reduced rate under a 20-year power purchase agreement.
- In the early 1980s, decades of disinvestment had left the Tacoma, Washington, waterfront abandoned and blighted. Industrial activities contaminated soil, groundwater and sediments across more than 10 square miles of Commencement Bay and Tacoma. The City of Tacoma, the Washington State Department of Ecology, EPA and other stakeholders collaborated to engage the public, clean up the area, address liability issues, establish public-private partnerships, secure funding, and revitalize the waterway. Today, the cleanup of the Thea Foss Waterway is complete. A public esplanade extends along the shore, punctuated by public parks, apartment buildings, restaurants and diverse businesses. The Museum of Glass is home to a contemporary collection of artists from around the world, with the Chihuly Bridge of Glass connecting the museum to downtown Tacoma. New, state-of-the-art marinas and water-based businesses have established the Thea Foss Waterway as a major boating destination in the Puget Sound region.

4. What uses so far have proved problematic? Any lessons we can take away to inform future repurposing projects?

EPA has not noticed that any one type of reuse has proven problematic.

Best,

Tricia

_____

Tricia Lynn

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. EPA

Office: 202.564.2615

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **On Behalf Of** Lynne Peeples
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 8:20 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Thanks again, Tricia. Questions below. Yes, I would need answers by 1/26. A call would still be ideal, if at all possible. Appreciate it!

1. I understand that, to date (12/21/17), 395 sites have now been remediated and removed from the Superfund list. Is this correct? Any ballpark for how many more sites might be remediated and removed from the list going forward -- in say, one year or 10 years?

2. Why is reuse of the sites important? What kind of follow-up, if any, does the EPA do after a site is removed from the Superfund list? Does the agency -- or others -- monitor the reuse?

3. Of the repurposing uses so far, could you share examples of what has worked the best? Any particularly innovative approaches that future projects could consider?

4. What uses so far have proved problematic? Any lessons we can take away to inform future repurposing projects?

On Wed, Jan 17, 2018 at 10:29 AM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Lynne—

Thanks for your email. In order to proceed, I'll need a complete list of your questions (though we can go back with follow-up if necessary). I also want to confirm that 1/26 is your deadline.

I'm happy to ask about a call, but please be aware that they're not always available. If not, we can generally respond in writing.

Thanks again. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

--Tricia

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **On Behalf Of** Lynne Peeples
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 12:41 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Reporting on repurposing former Superfund sites

Good afternoon,

Just wanted to follow up on my request. Thanks so much again.

Lynne

On Fri, Jan 12, 2018 at 1:29 PM, Lynne Peeples <lpeeples@post.harvard.edu> wrote:

Hi Tricia,

I'm reporting a story for Ensia on the repurposing of former Superfund sites -- examples of what lands are being used for now, lessons learned so far as to what works well and what doesn't, etc. Would it be possible to connect me with someone at the EPA who could speak to this? The sooner the better, of course, but anytime in the next two weeks would be fine.

Thanks so much, in advance, for your time and help.

Best,

Lynne

...

LYNNE PEEPLES | Science, Health and Environment Reporter

w: 646-233-3217 | c: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) | www.lynnepeeples.com

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Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 6/14/2019 12:45:35 PM
To: Carter-Jenkins, Shakeba [Carter-Jenkins.Shakeba@epa.gov]
CC: Noga, Vaughn [Noga.Vaughn@EPA.GOV]; Cooper, Marian [Cooper.Marian@epa.gov]; Martin, JohnT [martin.johnt@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: ACTION: looking for attribution for quotes in a FedTech article

Perf — much appreciated! Have a great weekend, all. Robert returns to the office on Monday.

On Jun 14, 2019, at 8:44 AM, Carter-Jenkins, Shakeba <Carter-Jenkins.Shakeba@epa.gov> wrote:

Yes. David reviewed and updated quote earlier.

Thanks,

Shakeba Carter-Jenkins

Special Assistant
Office of Mission Support (OMS)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office: 202.564.6385
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"I've learned you can tell a lot about a person by the way (s)he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights." Maya Angelou

---

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 8:36 AM
To: Carter-Jenkins, Shakeba <Carter-Jenkins.Shakeba@epa.gov>
Cc: Noga, Vaughn <Noga.Vaughn@EPA.GOV>; Cooper, Marian <Cooper.Marian@epa.gov>; Martin, JohnT <martin.johnt@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ACTION: looking for attribution for quotes in a FedTech article

Appreciate, Shakeba. Everything else is accurate and ok?

On Jun 14, 2019, at 8:28 AM, Carter-Jenkins, Shakeba <Carter-Jenkins.Shakeba@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Enesta,

Please attribute the quote to:

David Updike, Deputy Director
Office of Information Technology Operations
Office of Mission Support

Shakeba Carter-Jenkins

Special Assistant
Office of Mission Support (OMS)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office: 202.564.6385
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"I've learned you can tell a lot about a person by the way (s)he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights." Maya Angelou

---

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 7:42 PM
To: Carter-Jenkins, Shakeba <Carter-Jenkins.Shakeba@epa.gov>; Cooper, Marian <Cooper.Marian@epa.gov>; Noga, Vaughn <Noga.Vaughn@EPA.GOV>; Martin, JohnT <martin.johnt@epa.gov>
Cc: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: ACTION: looking for attribution for quotes in a FedTech article

Hi Everybody,

Please take a look and let me know if everything looks ok. Tnx.

I am Jacquelyn Bengfort's editor at FedTech magazine, and she's written an article for me on the EPA's use of storage area networks. She's quoted spokesperson Michael Abboud extensively, but my boss has asked if there's any way we could get an actual IT official on the record. If anyone's willing to just put their name on Michael's quotes, that's fine, especially since Michael provided exactly what we needed. Here's the segment of the article in which he's quoted:

***
In 2013, the EPA moved its entire workforce — at the time, more than 18,000 employees and contractors — to the cloud for email and collaboration. The agency has continued to move additional functions and data to the cloud.

"The EPA is fully engaged in an agency-wide campaign to migrate end user data to OneDrive and shared file storage," says Michael Abboud, an EPA spokesperson. "The cloud platform minimizes storage cost and complexity while maximizing accessibility, availability, integrity, security, records management and discovery capabilities."

SANs still remain an important part of the IT mix at the EPA, however. While the agency is working to limit SAN growth, it still needs this sort of data storage for certain applications. Abboud shares one example: "EPA's National Computing Center in Research Triangle Park, N.C., recently extended its SAN infrastructure and software to ensure 'hot' data is on the fastest physical tier."

The EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) likewise continues to use SANs to meet information security requirements and support specialized workloads for scientific data at its 13 facilities.

These SANs need to support isolated and interconnected networks, says Abboud.

"Faced with the challenge of refreshing SAN storage for several of these locations, EPA's ORD disk subsystems managed using virtual SAN software," explains Abboud. "This solution provided an integrated, cost-efficient, high-performance SAN solution for distributed research laboratories.

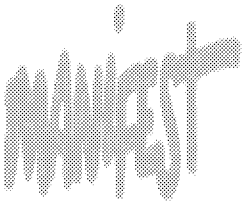
"EPA's private and hybrid cloud platforms will continue to have significant storage area network investments," he adds.

***

Please let us know as soon as possible if there's any IT official to whom we can attribute this material, and also let us know if there's anything in the content that might need to be changed.

thank you!
betsy
--

Elizabeth Neus
Senior Editor
202-721-1484
D.C. Studio



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Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 6/13/2019 11:42:11 PM
To: Carter-Jenkins, Shakeba [Carter-Jenkins.Shakeba@epa.gov]; Cooper, Marian [Cooper.Marian@epa.gov]; Noga, Vaughn [Noga.Vaughn@EPA.GOV]; Martin, JohnT [martin.johnt@epa.gov]
CC: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: ACTION: looking for attribution for quotes in a FedTech article

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betsy
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Elizabeth Neus
Senior Editor
202-721-1484
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See more here.

Message

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Sent: 9/15/2017 3:35:52 PM
To: StClair, Christie [StClair.Christie@epa.gov]
CC: Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]; AO OPA Media Relations [AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - EJ SCREEN

It's for tracking. It's not meant to throw anyone under the bus, or to criticize anyone publicly.

You can ignore and delete emails you don't wish to receive.

On Sep 15, 2017, at 11:33 AM, StClair, Christie <StClair.Christie@epa.gov> wrote:

To be more clear. If and when one of us makes a mistake, I think the kind and appropriate response is to connect with them directly.

From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 11:31 AM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>; Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: AO OPA Media Relations <AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - EJ SCREEN

I don't need to be included on emails like this. Thanks.

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: AO OPA Media Relations <AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - EJ SCREEN

Robert, not sure what happened here. I pinged 3, got the ok and then sent it to the reporter. EJ is my new beat so I was filing in for Tricia.

You only cover Tricia on OCFO.

NABD...

On Sep 15, 2017, at 11:15 AM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Zoe, on behalf of Tricia Lynn, who is out today, and for attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

The addition of the prison layer, like all of the enhancements to EJSCREEN, was done as the result of interaction and feedback from EJSCREEN users. We use all the data in EJSCREEN to consider potential impacts to overburdened and vulnerable populations in EPA's work and interactions with communities. The addition of the prison layer will help to consider these specific populations and places during such considerations. Consideration about specific uses of the prison data and layers in EJSCREEN is ongoing.

Regards, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Zoe Loftus-Farren [mailto:zloftus@earthisland.org]
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 5:52 PM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - EJ SCREEN

Hi Tricia,

Below are a few questions. My deadline has been extended to tomorrow (tuesday) evening. I can make myself available anytime tomorrow.

Thank you,

Zoe

(1) what prompted the EPA to add a prison layer to the EJScreen tool?

(2) How will the EPA utilize this layer?

(3) Will this layer help the EPA to address environmental issues that impact the health of prisoners? And/or to address pollution related to operation of prisons, including air and water pollution, than may impact nearby communities and habitat?

(4) Does the EPA have any plans to expand its work around prisons and the environment?

(5) Is there anything else you'd like to add?

On Fri, Sep 8, 2017 at 1:30 PM, Zoe Loftus-Farren
-9119

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 9/15/2017 3:32:04 PM
To: StClair, Christie [StClair.Christie@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - EJ SCREEN

Ignore and delete.

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From: Zoe Loftus-Farren [mailto:zloftus@earthisland.org]
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From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 6/6/2019 6:09:13 PM
To: Birgfeld, Erin [Birgfeld.Erin@epa.gov]; Millett, John [Millett.John@epa.gov]; Mylan, Christopher [Mylan.Christopher@epa.gov]
CC: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: ACTION: Green Car Reports re fuel & carbon dioxide

FYI: He wrote:

https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1123378_epa-lifts-smog-related-ban-allows-more-ethanol-in-summer-gasoline

So I think that we are fine with not responding at this point.

On Jun 5, 2019, at 7:22 AM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Everybody, hope all is well. I'm back to handle all open queries, including this one. Do we have a response for this one?

The common argument against more ethanol in fuel tanks is that it contributes to smog. Does the EPA have any comprehensive number for how much the crops used for fuel reduce carbon dioxide?

On May 31, 2019, at 9:47 PM, Birgfeld, Erin <Birgfeld.Erin@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Enesta. Have a great weekend!

Sent from my iPhone

On May 31, 2019, at 6:58 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

> FYI.
>
> **From:** "Murdie, Ashley" <murdie.ashley@epa.gov>
> **Date:** May 31, 2019 at 6:57:22 PM EDT
> **To:** "bengt@internetbrands.com" <bengt@internetbrands.com>
> **Cc:** Press <Press@epa.gov>
> **Subject: FW: Media request: ethanol/E15 announcement**
>
> Hi Bengt,
>
> Responses to your questions are below. For attribution to U.S. EPA, please.
>
> For your last question, I'm copying our headquarters' Office of Public Affairs.
>
> Kind regards,
>
> **Ashley Murdie** | Public Affairs Specialist
> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 7
> Office: 913-551-7785 EPA Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Bengt Halvorson <bengt.halvorson@internetbrands.com>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 3:23 PM
To: Murdie, Ashley <murdie.ashley@epa.gov>
Subject: Media request: ethanol/E15 announcement

Hi Ashley,

Three questions about today's announcement, please:

- How soon can we expect to see the higher level of ethanol in pumps?

Retail stations will be permitted to sell E15 at the same RVP as E10 starting June 1, excluding in Federal reformulated gasoline areas and areas where existing state and local rules limit the RVP of gasoline. EPA is not pre-empting state and local rules on the matter.

- To what regions of the country does this apply?

The 1-psi waiver applies for E15 in the same way that the 1-psi waiver applies to E10 today. This is not nationwide, however, as the 1-psi waiver does not apply in Federal reformulated gasoline (RFG) areas and other state and local areas where their rules limit it. In such areas E15 can already use the same gasoline blendstocks as E10, so no 1-psi waiver is needed.

- The common argument against more ethanol in fuel tanks is that it contributes to smog. Does the EPA have any comprehensive number for how much the crops used for fuel reduce carbon dioxide?

For an answer to this question, I'm copying the EPA Headquarters Office of Public Affairs.

Thanks!

--
Bengt Halvorson
Editor, Green Car Reports
bengt@internetbrands.com
503-381-5662

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 7/12/2019 6:19:55 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]

George,
If it's determined that a call is the preferred approach, please provide the following so I can get OPA IO approval to proceed. Then Ken can staff the call when he returns Monday.

+Names and titles of the interviewees
+Is this on background (reporter cannot use the interviewee/s' names in the article) or for attribution?
+Main messages to be conveyed (doesn't have to be long, just a quick summary.)

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 1/17/2018 10:34:00 PM
To: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: For Review (Anna Casey) re follow-up on chlorpyrifos label (Deadline: 1/16)

Suggested Response:

From: "Block, Molly" <block.molly@epa.gov>
Date: January 11, 2018 at 4:44:20 PM EST
To: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>, Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Question re: chlorpyrifos label

Thanks! **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 4:43 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Question re: chlorpyrifos label

Working with the program unless 3rd floor wants to reuse its earlier statement?

From: Anna Casey [mailto:annacasey@investigatemidwest.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 4:39 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Question re: chlorpyrifos label

Thank you for the your timely response.

I have just two follow up questions.

Regarding the buffer zone - an EPA document titled "Revised Human Health Risk Assessment" from November 3, 2016 stated the following:

Non-Occupational Spray Drift Exposure and Risk Assessment

A spray drift (from treatment of agricultural fields) assessment was conducted for this assessment. Adult dermal and children's (1 < 2 year old) dermal and incidental oral risk estimates from indirect exposure to chlorpyrifos from spray drift result in risk estimates of concern at the field edge. All scenarios require buffer distances of > 300 feet to be below the level of concern.

I'm assuming that since the recommendations in the risk assessment were not adopted, the buffer on the label remained the same. Could you provide any more information about how the E.P.A arrived at the 10 - 100 foot buffer?

And finally, did the E.P.A reference any specific studies that contradicted the conclusions made in the proposal about chlorpyrifos?

Sincerely,

Anna

On Wed, Jan 10, 2018 at 4:45 PM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Anna, for attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

"EPA is confident that pesticide application buffer zones are protective of human health and the environment, especially with regard to sensitive areas." – EPA spokesperson.

Background: The minimum buffer is 10 feet, but there are larger buffers for some aerial and airblast applications.

Chlorpyrifos has been used as a pesticide since 1965, and is proven to be an effective control of foliage- and soil-borne insect pests for a variety of crops including corn, soybeans, fruit and nut trees, and non-agricultural uses including golf courses, and roach and ant bait stations. Congress has mandated that registration review be completed by the statutory deadline of October 1, 2022. The public record lays out serious scientific concerns and substantive process gaps in the proposal submitted in the petition to ban the pesticide. Reliable data, overwhelming in both quantity and quality, contradicts the reliance on – and misapplication of – studies to establish the end points and conclusions used to rationalize the proposal

Robert Daguillard
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Washington D.C.
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)
202-564-6618 (O)

On Jan 4, 2018, at 2:40 PM, Anna Casey <annacasey@investigatemidwest.org> wrote:

Hi Mr. Daguillard,

Thank you for the prompt response. We're hoping to publish the story early next week.

As I mentioned, I'm seeking more information on the chlorpyrifos label.

The story that I'm working on is related to buffer zone regulations around schools. In Illinois, where we're based, we do not have any additional restrictions beyond what is on the EPA-approved label. It's my understanding that the buffer on the chlorpyrifos label is 10 feet. Some are concerned that the label does not go far enough to protect sensitive areas (like schools) that are near agricultural fields. I would like to include a statement from the EPA regarding the chemical's safety, and the efficacy of the label.

Feel free to give me a call at your earliest convenience, or respond by email. I'm happy to answer additional questions by phone (my cell is the best way to reach me).

Thanks again,

Anna

On Thu, Jan 4, 2018 at 12:49 PM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Casey,

Thanks for reaching out. Also, are you on deadline? Happy to discuss.

Regards, R.

Robert Daguillard

Office of Media Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Anna Casey [mailto:annacasey@investigatemidwest.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 1:12 PM
To: Friedman, Dana <Friedman.Dana@epa.gov>
Subject: Question re: chlorpyrifos label

Hi Ms. Friedman,

I saw that you were listed as the contact for the page on chlorpyrifos: https://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=CHEMICALSEARCH:3:::NO:1,3,31,7,12,25:P3_XCHEMICAL_ID:1822

Do you know where I can find the most recent EPA-approved label? I was also wondering about the buffer zone restriction. One of the product labels said that the buffer zone around "sensitive areas" was 10 feet. Is that correct?

Thank you,

Anna

--

Engagement Reporter

www.investigatemidwest.org

O: (217) 239-6617

C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/18/2017 12:12:26 AM
To: Flesher, John [jflesher@ap.org]
CC: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: PITCH: Billion Dollars To Help Improve Water Quality Across the Country

Hey John,

WIFIA is the FIRST federal credit program (that will benefit 20 millions Americans in rural, urban and environmental justice communities) for water infrastructure at EPA and this is the inaugural round of projects that have been selected to submit an application. As a federal credit program, it provides long-term, low-cost loans to regionally and nationally significant projects.

The money is borrowed from the Department of Treasury. For each project, EPA uses it WIFIA appropriation to set aside a reserve in case of default. This is similar to how a bank reserves for capital adequacy.

While the program was established approximately 3 years ago, EPA received its first appropriation to make WIFIA loans in December 10, 2016 ($17 million) and an additional appropriation ($8 million) on May 5, 2017.

This year's projects will also leverage more than a billion dollars in private capital and other funding sources including EPA's State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans, to help finance a total of $5.1 billion in water infrastructure investments. The selected projects demonstrate the broad range of project types that the WIFIA program can finance including wastewater, drinking water, stormwater, and water recycling projects.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Jul 17, 2017, at 8:06 PM, Flesher, John <jflesher@ap.org> wrote:

I talked to my editor. He wanted more info that would help us determine whether this rises to the level of a national AP story -- who's getting the money, but particularly whether this differs from run-of-the-mill grants/loans that EPA awards, and if so, how. What program does the funding come from, and does it represent an increase? (Or a decrease, for that matter?) What's unique or unusual about it? We typically don't run national stories about routine grants or loans, even those that involve a good bit of money, unless there's some particular news hook. We might run state-level stories, however.

Any details you could offer that might shed light would be appreciated.

Thanks,

John

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 7:00 PM
To: Flesher, John
Subject: Re: PITCH: Billion Dollars To Help Improve Water Quality Across the Country

Hi John, any final word? Anything you need from me to pitch it?
On Jul 17, 2017, at 5:54 PM, Flesher, John <jflesher@ap.org> wrote:

Thanks. I'll be back with you ASAP.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 5:49 PM
To: Flesher, John
Subject: Re: PITCH: Billion Dollars To Help Improve Water Quality Across the Country

John,

Close hold: We have selected entities in 9 states -- and borrowers will receive loans ranging from $22 to $625 million. Rural, urban and environmental justice communities will benefit.

On Jul 17, 2017, at 5:46 PM, Flesher, John <jflesher@ap.org> wrote:

I'm sorry, he's been on a project deadline for some time. We're supposed to talk yet today. (He's on the West Coast, so there's a time lag.) Is there any additional information you could provide that I could share with him when we talk?

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 5:44 PM
To: Flesher, John
Subject: Re: PITCH: Billion Dollars To Help Improve Water Quality Across the Country

Hi John,

Any response from your editor?

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Jul 17, 2017, at 2:17 PM, Flesher, John <jflesher@ap.org> wrote:

Hello, Enesta –

Thanks for contacting me. Let me check with editors. Will be back shortly.

John

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 1:40 PM
To: Flesher, John
Cc: Jones, Enesta; Lynn, Tricia
Subject: PITCH: Billion Dollars To Help Improve Water Quality Across the Country

Hi John,

Hope you are well.

I know you cover all things water so I am reaching out to pitch you a story about water infrastructure that will resonate with your readers. There is an EPA effort underway -- specifically a federal loan and guarantee program -- that will help rural communities and municipalities financially across the country provide significantly cleaner water for 22 million Americans.

On Wednesday, July 19, EPA is announcing this effort via national and local press releases.

We would like to give you an opportunity to write about this story, which could publish when the embargo lifts at 6 a.m. EST on July 19. **At this point, it would be an embargoed exclusive.**

If you are interested, please let me know at your soonest so I can work in giving you everything that you need in a timely fashion.

I'm available by email and cell.

Thank you for your serious consideration,
Enesta

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

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Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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Message

From: Jones, Enesta [Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/28/2017 8:37:49 PM
To: Graham, Amy [graham.amy@epa.gov]
CC: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: From CBS News re Wilmington, NC and GenX

Will do. Thanks.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

On Jun 28, 2017, at 4:36 PM, Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov> wrote:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Jones, Enesta
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 4:33 PM
To: Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: AMY: From CBS News re Wilmington, NC and GenX

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Janisch, Jennifer" <JanischJ@cbsnews.com>
Date: June 28, 2017 at 4:30:35 PM EDT
To: "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: From CBS News re Wilmington, NC and GenX

Thank you Ernesta, but respectfully, I don't think your response addresses my questions. Can you please be more specific? Thank you.

From: Jones, Enesta [mailto:Jones.Enesta@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 4:28 PM
To: Janisch, Jennifer <JanischJ@cbsnews.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: From CBS News re Wilmington, NC and GenX

Jennifer – For attribution to an EPA spokesperson: "The agency is working closely with the states and public water systems to determine the appropriate next steps to ensure public health protection."

From: Janisch, Jennifer [mailto:JanischJ@cbsnews.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 4:07 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: From CBS News re Wilmington, NC and GenX

Ernesta, is the EPA not going to comment on my below questions?

From: Janisch, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: From CBS News re Wilmington, NC and GenX

Hi Enesta,

Can you please reply to my below questions? Many thanks.

From: Janisch, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 4:33 PM
To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: From CBS News re Wilmington, NC and GenX

Thank you Enesta.

Will this investigation also examine the discharge of GenX as a byproduct of the production of vinyl ether into the Cape Fear River, as referenced by Chemours representatives last week?

As you might know, it is the company's position that they are not required to recapture that chemical if it is a byproduct.

Is this true? If so, why does EPA regulate the discharge of the chemical when manufactured, but does not regulate the discharge of the chemical when it is a byproduct?

What accounts for this difference in regulatory standards?

Jennifer Janisch
CBS News
212-975-5752

On Jun 20, 2017, at 4:27 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Jennifer,

Please attribute our statement below to an agency spokesperson:

EPA is committed to protecting public health and supporting states and public water systems as the appropriate steps to address the presence of GenX in drinking water are determined.
EPA has initiated an investigation into Chemours's compliance with a 2009 order issued under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for the production of GenX. This investigation will allow EPA to determine whether Chemours is in compliance with requirements of the order to control releases to the environment at the Fayetteville, N.C., facility.
EPA is also reviewing the additional toxicity data submitted by the company, as required under the consent order, and updating the risk assessment using the additional toxicity data specific to GenX. At the request of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), EPA has agreed to perform independent laboratory analysis for GenX in some of the water samples being collected by NCDEQ at 13 locations in the Cape Fear River over the next three weeks.

Background

- Typically, EPA investigates potential TSCA noncompliance through a review of production and environmental controls records required by any rule or order and, as needed, an on-site inspection. EPA may also use information requests to inform our investigation.
- When EPA issued the consent order, the risk assessment for GenX was informed by available toxicity data for GenX and analogous substances such as PFOA (also known as C8). The consent order required the company to conduct additional toxicity testing on GenX.
- EPA has received the data from Chemours and is using it to update its risk assessment.
- Chemours agreed to bear all costs for the water collection and testing. The samples are being sent to a private laboratory in Colorado, and the EPA Office of Research and Development laboratory in Research Triangle Park, NC for independent verification.

NCDEQ believes the completed results will be back from the laboratory in Colorado within four weeks from when the samples are received. EPA is working to determine a timeline for its analysis.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA undertakes extensive evaluations of contaminants and uses the best available peer reviewed science to identify and regulate contaminants that present meaningful opportunities for health risk reduction.

The agency is working closely with the states and public water systems to determine the appropriate next steps to ensure public health protection.

Enesta Jones
U.S. EPA
Office of Media Relations
Office: 202.564.7873
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"The root of all joy is gratefulness."

-----Original Message-----
From: Janisch, Jennifer [mailto:JanischJ@cbsnews.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 4:25 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: From CBS News re Wilmington, NC and GenX

Good afternoon,

I understand EPA just released a statement about this issue and is launching an investigation. Can you send me the statement please? Thank you.

Jennifer Janisch
CBS News
212-975-5752

Appointment

From: Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/13/2018 4:44:02 PM
To: Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]

Subject: Superfund Task Force: Administrator's Special Emphasis List
Attachments: revised FY18 ARC Comms Strategy_4 13 18_.docx
Location: HQ and the Regions

Start: 4/16/2018 4:00:00 AM
End: 4/17/2018 4:00:00 AM
Show Time As: Free

Message

From: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/7/2018 10:58:34 AM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
CC: Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: E&E News inquiry

Agree we can Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) thx ng

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 6, 2018, at 9:14 PM, Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: Maxine Joselow <mjoselow@eenews.net>
Date: July 6, 2018 at 7:54:46 PM EDT
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: E&E News inquiry

Hello,

I'm a reporter for E&E News. I recently came across this old tweet from Andrew Wheeler, the new EPA acting administrator, and was hoping to speak with someone in EPA's press office about it: https://twitter.com/AndrewRWheeler/status/1464018689

The tweet shares a blog post from the American Thinker. In particular, I was hoping you could clarify whether Mr. Wheeler believes the claims made in the post about climate science. I would be happy to discuss this off the record or on background before discussing on the record for attribution from an EPA spokesperson. My deadline is Monday at noon EST. I can be reached on my office line on Monday morning at 202-737-4369 or on my cell this weekend at Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Thanks for your consideration and looking forward to hearing back.

Sincerely,
Maxine
--

Maxine Joselow

E&E News reporter

202-737-4369

@maxinejoselow

E&E NEWS

122 C Street NW 7th Floor Washington, DC 20001

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Energywire, Climatewire, Greenwire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

Message

From: Sean Reilly [sreilly@eenews.net]
Sent: 7/2/2018 3:31:50 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn

OK. I had also sent some questions yesterday directly to Mr. Glenn, since the matter in question predates his tenure at EPA. I haven't heard back from him; do you know whether he intends to reply or will your response address those questions?

From: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2018 11:22 AM
To: Sean Reilly <sreilly@eenews.net>
Subject: RE: Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn

Working on it now, so hopefully very soon.

From: Sean Reilly [mailto:sreilly@eenews.net]
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 11:18 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn

Ok; what's your approximate ETA?

From: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2018 11:12 AM
To: Sean Reilly <sreilly@eenews.net>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn

Sean: We're working on this for you right now. We may slip past 11:30am.

From: Sean Reilly [mailto:sreilly@eenews.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 1, 2018 7:49 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn

Hi folks:

I'm working on a story for tomorrow on newly released court records which indicate that Mr. Glenn, then in the private sector, provided extensive services to a 2014-2015 advocacy campaign run by a partner in the Balch & Bingham law firm who, along with two other participants, is now on trial in Birmingham, Ala. on federal criminal charges related to that campaign. I have no indication that Mr. Glenn has been charged, but am attempting to determine whether he has been notified that he could be called as a witness in the trial and/or has been notified that he is the target of an investigation.

In the meantime, two questions:

1) Has Mr. Glenn informed the relevant EPA officials of his work for Balch & Bingham in a matter that is now the subject of federal criminal proceedings? If so, who are those officials?
2) Given Mr. Pruitt's emphasis on the rule of law, does he retain full confidence in Mr. Glenn's capacity to fully and faithfully discharge his duties as Region 4 administrator? If so, why? If not, why not, and (apart from the recusals that Mr. Glenn has already agreed to), have Mr. Pruitt or other EPA officials taken any steps to provide additional oversight of Mr. Glenn and/or restrict in some way his activities as Region 4 administrator?

My deadline is 11:30 tomorrow morning. I need on-the-record, for-attribution responses if we're going to use them.

Thanks very much,
Sean

Sean Reilly
Reporter
E&E News
202-446-0433 (Desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (Cell)
sreilly@eenews.net
Twitter: @SeanatGreenwire

E&E NEWS
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EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM

Message

From: Lovell, Will (William) [lovell.william@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/24/2018 7:56:54 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Dominguez, Alexander [dominguez.alexander@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: 18x46_ParisClimate2018-1.pdf

First page is good. One grammatical point: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Second page:

- Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) We could change the first sentence to say, Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
- Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
- Grammar: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 1:13 PM
To: Lovell, Will (William) <lovell.william@epa.gov>; Dominguez, Alexander <dominguez.alexander@epa.gov>
Subject: 18x46_ParisClimate2018-1.pdf
Importance: High

Gentlemen: This is a very close hold project. Can you both please take a look at the facts laid out here and let me know if we can say this.

Thank you,

John

Message

From: Jim Lakely [JLakely@heartland.org]
Sent: 4/24/2018 7:12:29 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Heartland Institute Applauds End of 'Secret Science' at EPA

Thanks, John. I had it teed up to go right after the event with Administrator Pruitt today. Our guy in the room, Aaron Stover, took that picture for the release and got one with your boss, too.

Speaking of Mr. Pruitt, we would love to feature him as a keynote speaker at our America First Energy Conference 2018 in New Orleans on August 7. I can share with you my proposed schedule if you'd like a better idea of how our awesome schedule is coming together, and where Administrator Pruitt would be featured (closing dinner).

Best,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
o: 312-377-4000
c: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Konkus, John [mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 1:43 PM
To: Jim Lakely
Subject: FW: Heartland Institute Applauds End of 'Secret Science' at EPA

Great stuff!

From: Joseph Bast [mailto:JBast@heartland.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 2:40 PM
Subject: Heartland Institute Applauds End of 'Secret Science' at EPA

From: Jim Lakely <jlakely@heartland.org> on behalf of Jim Lakely <jlakely@heartland.org>
Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 1:32 PM
To: Jim Lakely <JLakely@heartland.org>
Subject: Heartland Institute Applauds End of 'Secret Science' at EPA

THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE
FREEDOM RISING

Heartland Institute Applauds End of 'Secret Science' at EPA

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt today announced the end of "secret science" at the agency. The new rule, subject to a 30-day comment period, will require the underlying data of scientific studies used to make federal environment and energy policy be open to public inspection and possible criticism.

The following statements from environment and energy experts at The Heartland Institute – a free-market think tank – may be used for attribution. (*NOTE: Picture at left taken by Heartland Institute staffer who was invited to the announcement today at EPA headquarters in Washington, DC.*)

For more comments – **or to book a guest for your program via Heartland's professional TV studio** – please contact Director of Communications Jim Lakely at media@heartland.org and 312/377-4000 or (cell) 312/731-9364.

"Another week at the EPA, another victory for transparency by Scott Pruitt. For decades, the EPA has improperly claimed massive power to regulate nearly every aspect of our economy and lives. It is long overdue that the EPA should make such data and collection methods available for public review and analysis."

Tim Huelskamp, Ph.D.
President
The Heartland Institute
thuelskamp@heartland.org
312/377-4000

Dr. Huelskamp represented Kansas' 1st District in the House of Representatives from 2011 to 2017.

"EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's announcement marks the beginning of the end of one of the biggest scandals in the history of public health research and of the Environmental Protection Agency. Badly flawed research on the human health effects of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) conducted during the 1980s and 1990s was used to justify regulations forcing thousands of corporations and hundreds of coal-powered electricity generation plants to close. Subsequent research shows ambient levels of PM2.5 have little or no adverse effects on human health, yet the regulations remain in place, like zombies, killing jobs and endangering public health and well-being by unnecessarily raising the cost of energy and causing unemployment. The Obama administration exploited this corrupt science to wage its war on fossil fuels, a war now thankfully being brought to an end by President Trump.

"Demanding the end of reliance on secret science may be the most consequential decision made by EPA since the election of Donald Trump. This day vindicates the efforts of some real heroes in the public health debate – Dr. Robert Phalen, Dr. James Enstrom, Dr. John Dunn, M.D., and Steve Milloy. It is a day for celebration by everyone who supports sound science and environmental protection."

Joseph Bast
Director and Senior Fellow
The Heartland Institute

jbast@heartland.org
312/377-4000

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Jay Lehr
Science Director
The Heartland Institute
jlehr@heartland.org
312/377-4000

"This is one small step for regulatory reform, one giant leap for scientific integrity and political transparency.

"Transparency and reproducibility are part of the very foundation of scientific progress. EPA should never rely on non-public scientific data when crafting rules, guidance documents, or when undertaking other agency actions. This same approach should be true for every administrative agency. When writing rules, regulators should only be allowed to consider scientific studies whose researchers make their data available for public scrutiny and whose findings can be replicated."

H. Sterling Burnett
Senior Fellow, Environment & Energy Policy
The Heartland Institute
Managing Editor, *Environment & Climate News*
hburnett@heartland.org
214/909-2368

"The end of 'secret science' at EPA is very big news and you know it's an important step by the volume and hysteria of Administrator Pruitt's critics. The critics of this move understand that the Endangerment Finding and other over-reaching regulations are based on black box 'secret science' that cannot stand up to prudent review.

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Bette Grande
Research Fellow, Energy Policy
The Heartland Institute
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Mr. Milloy is the author of Scare Pollution: Why and How to Fix the EPA *(2016).*

The Heartland Institute is a 34-year-old national nonprofit organization headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Its mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems. For more information, visit our website or call 312/377-4000.

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Message

From: Dewey, Amy [Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/24/2018 6:47:22 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Heartland Institute Applauds End of 'Secret Science' at EPA

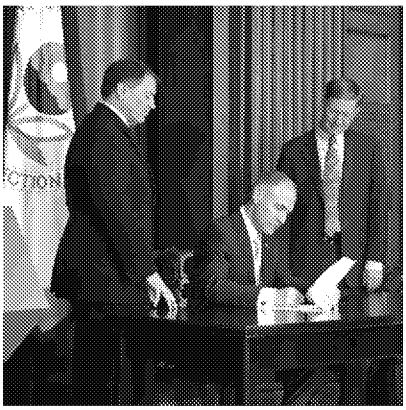
Yes amazing! Who needs mainstream press! Amy

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 2:43 PM
To: Gordon, Stephen <gordon.stephen@epa.gov>; Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Heartland Institute Applauds End of 'Secret Science' at EPA

Great stuff. Scroll all the way down and see all the quotes they put in here.

THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE
FREEDOM RISING

Heartland Institute Applauds End of 'Secret Science' at EPA



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The Heartland Institute, 3939 North Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, United States
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Message

From: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/23/2018 9:39:41 PM
To: Colip, Matthew [colip.matthew@epa.gov]; Duteau, Helen [Duteau.Helen@EPA.GOV]; Lowery, Brigid [Lowery.Brigid@epa.gov]
CC: Chancellor, Erin [chancellor.erin@epa.gov]; Fonseca, Silvina [Fonseca.Silvina@epa.gov]; Darwin, Veronica [darwin.veronica@epa.gov]; Falvo, Nicholas [falvo.nicholas@epa.gov]; Cook, Steven [cook.steven@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Manges, Ellen [Manges.Ellen@epa.gov]; Mears, Mary [Mears.Mary@epa.gov]; Kluesner, Dave [kluesner.dave@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: American Cyanamid Superfund Site; clips, photos, news releases
Attachments: 1. NBC interview.jpg; 2. RA site tour 2.jpg; 3. RA site tour with Debbie Mans.jpg; 4. RA at podium.JPG; 5. Pete podium and audience.jpg; 6. Pete podium.jpg; 7. ACSS circa 1960.jpg; 8. ACSS circa 2017.jpg; 9. ACSS Imp 2.JPG

OLEM - -can we get this featured on the banner slideshow on the SFTF website asap? And anywhere else on the page where it makes sense?

Thanks much

ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **(mobile)**

From: Kluesner, Dave
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 5:36 PM
To: Colip, Matthew <colip.matthew@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Duteau, Helen <Duteau.Helen@EPA.GOV>; Darwin, Veronica <darwin.veronica@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: May, Jennifer <May.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Rodriguez, Elias <Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov>
Subject: American Cyanamid Superfund Site; clips, photos, news releases

News releases, news articles and photos from today's media event at the American Cyanamid Superfund site in Bridgewater, NJ announcing the EPA cleanup proposal (an Administrator Emphasis List site). Note: It's early in the day and we do expect more print and broadcast coverage, including from News12 NJ and NBC4, which were both present at the event.

News releases:

EPA news release: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-cleanup-proposal-american-cyanamid-superfund-site-bridgewater-township-nj

Congressman Lance news release: https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/lance-epa-proposes-cleanup-american-cyanamid-superfund-site-bridgewater/

News articles:
[with video] https://www.mycentraljersey.com/story/news/local/land-environment/2018/05/23/american-cyanamid-bridgewater-toxic-cleanup-epa/637971002/

https://patch.com/new-jersey/bridgewater/epa-finalizes-cleanup-chemical-waste-bridgewater

Photos:

1. NBC interview: NBC4 Brian Thompson interviews R2 RA Pete Lopez during the American Cyanamid Superfund press event [L to R: Elias Rodriguez (R2); Brian Thompson (NBC4); Walter Mugdan (R2 Acting Deputy RA); Chris Lyon (R2 Chief of Staff); Pete Lopez (R2 RA); Mark Austin (R2 project manager); Steve Kopec (R2 Special Assistant)]
2. RA site tour 2: RA Lopez tours impoundments 1 and 2 at the American Cyanamid Superfund site [L to R: Russ Downey (Pfizer); Mark Austin (R2 project manager); Pete Lopez (R2 RA); Debbie Mans (NJDEP Deputy Commissioner)]
3. RA site tour with Debbie Mans: Pfizer gives an overview of the work being done at impoundments 1 and 2 at the American Cyanamid Superfund site [L to R: Debbie Mans (NJDEP Deputy Commissioner); Pete Lopez (R2 RA); Russ Downey (Pfizer)]

4, 5, and 6. RA Lopez speaks to the audience of community members, media, EPA, NJDEP and Pfizer staff at a press conference. The American Cyanamid Superfund site served as the back-drop for the event. [pictured: Pete Lopez (R2 RA)]

7. Rendered image of the American Cyanamid Company, Bridgewater, NJ, circa 1960 (Source: American Cyanamid).
8. 2018 Aerial view of the American Cyanamid Superfund Site (Source: Google Earth).
9. Impoundment 2 located in the southeastern corner of the American Cyanamid Superfund Site (Source: Pfizer).

David W. Kluesner

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Deputy Director, Public Affairs
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10007
212.637.3653 (Office)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (Cell)

Appointment

From: Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/13/2018 4:52:08 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]

Subject: Superfund Task Force: Administrator's Special Emphasis List
Attachments: revised FY18 ARC Comms Strategy_4 13 18_.docx
Location: HQ and the Regions

Start: 4/16/2018 4:00:00 AM
End: 4/17/2018 4:00:00 AM
Show Time As: Tentative

Message

From: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/1/2017 8:42:53 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
CC: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Regional press strategy report

Will do – they will be thrilled thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **(mobile)**

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 4:42 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Subject: Regional press strategy report

Nancy: Would you please share this accomplishment with the PADs so they know the grant releases have been a great success! The 20 local grant press releases we sent in the month of July yielded 51 positive local pro-environment news hits in 19 states! See the document attached for links to each clip by state.

Thank you!

John Konkus
Environmental Protection Agency
Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Kandil, Shereen [Kandil.Shereen@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/21/2017 7:59:34 PM
To: Graham, Amy [graham.amy@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Administrator TPs

Ok, thank you.

Shereen Kandil
Communications Director * Public Participation Specialist * MENA Program Manager
U.S. EPA, Office of International and Tribal Affairs
202-564-6433 (office)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) mobile)

http://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/public-participation-guide
http://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation
http://www.epa.gov/tribal

From: Graham, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 3:58 PM
To: Kandil, Shereen <Kandil.Shereen@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Administrator TPs

We don't have any prepared remarks. Feel free to direct them to the press release that are on our website.

From: Kandil, Shereen
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 3:49 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>
Subject: Administrator TPs
Importance: High

Hi everyone,

I was wondering if we had the Administrator's TPs (or any speech he's made) about back-to-basics, federalism, etc. U.S. Embassy-Rome asked for this in order to better explain EPA's new vision.

Is this something we have? Can it be shared with the Embassy? Can the Embassy share publicly or would it be close-hold?

Thanks so much!
Shereen

Shereen Kandil
Communications Director * Public Participation Specialist * MENA Program Manager
U.S. EPA, Office of International and Tribal Affairs

202-564-6433 (office)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (mobile)

http://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/public-participation-guide
http://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation
http://www.epa.gov/tribal

Message

From: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/16/2017 6:49:59 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
CC: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]
Subject: JOHN BUDGET: Reuters reporter re: superfund clean up

Importance: High

OUTLET: Reuters
Reporter: Ben Klayman
Editor, U.S. General News - Central and West

Question: I have been tasked with doing a story on the proposed budget cuts for the Superfund program as outlined in the budget (copied below). I was hoping to speak with someone about whether the feeling is the program can operate efficiently with less money and/or will more responsibility for these clean-ups be shifted to the states? I am hoping to speak with someone as soon as possible.

EPA Answer:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) m/txt

From: benjamin.klayman@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:benjamin.klayman@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:20 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: from Reuters reporter

OK thanks, would welcome any comments in the interest of fairness and balance. If you have suggestions for others to reach out to, I welcome that to

From: Daguillard, Robert [mailto:Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Klayman, Ben (Reuters News); Press
Subject: RE: from Reuters reporter

Hullo Benjamin,

For attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

We'll get back to you if we have anything to share.

Thanks, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: benjamin.klayman@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:benjamin.klayman@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: from Reuters reporter

Hi all

I have been tasked with doing a story on the proposed budget cuts for the Superfund program as outlined in the budget (copied below). I was hoping to speak with someone about whether the feeling is the program can operate efficiently with less money and/or will more responsibility for these clean-ups be shifted to the states? I am hoping to speak with someone as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Ben

Reins in Superfund administrative costs and emphasizes efficiency efforts by funding the Hazardous Substance Superfund Account at $762 million, $330 million below the 2017 annualized CR level. The agency would prioritize the use of existing settlement funds to clean up hazardous waste sites and look for ways to remove some of the barriers that have delayed the program's ability to return sites to the community

Ben Klayman
Editor, U.S. General News - Central and West

Reuters News

Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

benjamin.klayman@thomsonreuters.com

Message

From: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/27/2017 10:22:59 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
CC: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]
Subject: JOHN HEADS UP Fwd: National Journal question -- fuel economy

John,

My apologies for this one. The response went out to the reporter. That we are reviewing the letters. The approved response from last week.

I realized too late that when Robert (one of the OMR press officers) told me on the phone that "John had approved" he meant John Millett from OAR.

We always get sign off from the program. In this case, John Millett.

My apologies. I wanted to make sure to flag this for you as soon as I realized it!

Julia P. Valentine
Office of Media Relations
202.564.2663
Sent from USEPA iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Date: February 27, 2017 at 4:54:42 PM EST
To: Jason Plautz <jplautz@nationaljournal.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: National Journal question -- fuel economy

John, for attribution to Julia Valentine or to "an EPA spokesperson:"

EPA is reviewing the letter.

Thanks, R.

From: Jason Plautz [mailto:jplautz@nationaljournal.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: National Journal question -- fuel economy

Thanks Robert,

I really need something today -- 6 is the absolute latest, but obviously earlier is better. Sorry if that's tight -- I sent this to Christie last week but never heard back (in the transition, I didn't know who was on what topic these days).

-Jason

On Mon, Feb 27, 2017 at 3:28 PM, Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Jason,

A quick word to let you know I'm on this. Can't promise we'll meet your deadline, though. What's the very latest we can get a response to you? Would tomorrow work?

Thanks.

Robert Daguillard

Office of Media Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Jason Plautz [mailto:jplautz@nationaljournal.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:39 PM
To: Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
Subject: National Journal question -- fuel economy

Hi Julia,

Hope all is well. I'm working on something about CAFE and GHG standards and automakers' request. Is EPA planning to go through a rulemaking to look at that decision again, or is there room to work alongside NHTSA as it does its 2021-2025 rulemaking?

Thanks, feel free to call at 847.826.2157. Deadline is 5:30.

--

Jason Plautz | Energy & Environment Correspondent | National Journal

p: (202) 266.7245 | c: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

jplautz@nationaljournal.com | @jason_plautz

600 New Hampshire Ave. N.W.

Washington, DC 20037

--

Jason Plautz | Energy & Environment Correspondent | National Journal

p: (202) 266.7245 | c: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

jplautz@nationaljournal.com | @jason_plautz

600 New Hampshire Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

Message

From: Wilkinson, Joe [jwilkinson@AECI.org]
Sent: 4/13/2017 3:46:57 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Question

On attire, that's perfect. We've told co-op people to wear a co-op shirt and khakis. We generally don't like suit and tie around a power plant - looks completely out of place. So slacks and a button down shirt is perfect. Our executives will match that.

I'm hoping to have the bio info for Steve and Barry to you by end of day. The only other speakers will be Senator Blunt and possible one or two Congressmen who appear.

I'll send the talking points to Stephen and our communications people, but will keep them close.

And the weather forecast for next Thursday now shows a 20% chance of rain - so maybe we can do this without the tent. We have a contingency in plan so we can make the call early Thursday.

Thanks!
Joe

Sent from Surface

From: John Konkus
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Joe Wilkinson

The attire question is a good one. Would slacks and a button down blue shirt with no tie be appropriate?

Very excited about the entrance!

Also can you send the name, bio, photo for the plant manager welcome and a bio and photo for Barry Hart, Executive VP and CEO of Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (AMEC)? Anyone else we should have bios for?

Finally, attached are some close hold talking points you all can use to do some of your pre-event communications as we discussed yesterday. Can you share these with Stephen?

Thank you Joe!

From: Wilkinson, Joe [mailto:jwilkinson@AECI.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Question

John,

Any idea how the Administrator will dress for the event? We're trying to decide what to tell our Executives who will be in attendance.

Also, we've come up with a welcome into the site that I think you'll really like. It will be a very appropriate entrance into the plant.

Joe

Sent from Surface

Message

From: McGonagle, Kevin [mcgonagle.kevin@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/12/2017 9:04:36 PM
To: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]; Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
CC: So, Katherine [so.katherine@epa.gov]
Subject: UPDATE: Administrator Event Press List
Attachments: Admin. Media Event - Pa Mine.xlsx

Below is the link for the RSVP press list for the administrator's event in PA tomorrow. The list is attached as an excel spreadsheet as well.

Ex. 6 Internal URL (PP)

Thank you,

Kevin McGonagle
Office of Media Relations Intern
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Telephone: (202)-564-4524
mcgonagle.kevin@epa.gov

Message

From: Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/16/2017 9:11:19 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]
CC: Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Subject: DRAFR RELEASE PLEASE KEEP CLOSE HOLD
Attachments: Scott Pruitt confirmation V.2.16.docx

As requested—it's a draft.

Cathy

Message

From: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/1/2017 10:38:12 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
CC: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: WH Comms Report for 2/1
Attachments: COMMS REPORT TEMPLATE v2.docx

Hi John,

Please let us know if you need anything on this.

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **(mobile)**

Message

From: Graham, Amy [graham.amy@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/18/2017 9:02:41 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW- Press Release for East Chicago v2.docx

Keep close hold for the moment.

On Apr 18, 2017, at 4:01 PM, Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:

I'll need to share with my social media and web team so they can start building this out...OK?

From: Graham, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 5:01 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Freire, JP <Freire.JP@epa.gov>
Subject: FOR REVIEW- Press Release for East Chicago v2.docx

All - here is the draft release for tomorrow. This includes Liz's edits in yellow. Let me know if there are any edits before we share with others.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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-
-
-

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Message

From: Dewey, Amy [Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/31/2017 12:49:29 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Heartland Institute Experts React to Reports President Trump Will Pull U.S. Out of Paris Climate Treaty

Hi, I am sending this again! Amy

The following press release is scheduled to go out to 11,643 Environment and Energy contacts.

Sincerely,
Billy

THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE
HEARTLAND.ORG

Heartland Institute Experts React to Reports President Trump Will Pull U.S. Out of Paris Climate Treaty

President Donald Trump tweeted last week from the G7 summit that he will make a decision this week on whether to leave or stay in the Paris Climate Treaty. Reports in the past few days say he has told "confidants" he will withdraw from the agreement, negotiated by President Barack Obama at the Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris in December 2015.

The Heartland Institute has long urged President Trump to withdraw. A special webpage outlining Heartland's work on the subject – including footage from its "counter conference" at COP-21 – can be found here.

The following statements from environment and energy policy experts at The Heartland Institute – a free-market think tank – may be used for attribution. For more comments, refer to the contact information below. To book a Heartland guest on your program, please contact Media Specialist Billy Aouste at media@heartland.org and 312/377-4000 or (cell) 847/445-7554.

"President Trump would make exactly the right call by deciding to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Treaty. Staying in would make it impossible to implement his America First Energy Plan. Staying in would result in U.S. taxpayers and consumers paying hundreds of billions of dollars in higher taxes and higher energy costs solely for the benefit of crony capitalists in the 'renewable' energy industry and Third World dictators. Staying in would not benefit the global environment one whit, but instead, by impoverishing millions of people, would have exactly the opposite effect.

"In the next few days, Donald Trump can show he has what it takes to become one of America's greatest presidents. Let's hope he swings hard and aims for the upper deck, and that the men and women around him, both in the White House and in Congress, have the courage and intelligence to support his decision."

Joseph Bast
President
The Heartland Institute
jbast@heartland.org
312/377-4000

"Donald Trump was elected president to return the United States to a path where our fossil fuel resources are unleashed to power our future and drive our prosperity. The vehicle is the fossil-fuels-based America First Energy Plan, now U.S. policy under the Trump administration. President Trump recognizes that the anti-fossil-fuel Paris Accord set by President Obama is a disastrous plan for working men and women and the country itself – and he pledged to discard it in the presidential campaign.

"Paris was the product of President Obama mimicking the Al Gore approach to energy and carbon. Obama abused the formidable power of the presidency to drive an agenda to eliminate fossil fuel use in the name of a phantom vision based on everything but sound science and common sense. The Obama approach was to make energy in the U.S. scarce and expensive, resulting in real suffering for working men and women.

"President Trump has understood this from the start, and it appears he will make the absolutely correct and necessary decision to withdraw from Paris. That move will generate great praise for rejecting Paris and what it stands for. Under President Trump's leadership, America and American energy will be great again, and the American people will be the beneficiaries."

Fred Palmer
Senior Fellow, Energy Policy
The Heartland Institute
fpalmer@heartland.org
312/377-4000

"President Trump appears poised to take an important, concrete step to putting America First by withdrawing the United States from the Paris Climate Accord and enacting energy policy that reflects his desire to foster economic growth.

"Dismantling the Clean Power Plan, a key component of the United States' commitment under the Paris Accord, is an important step to ensuring low energy prices in the United States and making American manufacturing competitive in the global marketplace."

Isaac Orr
Research Fellow, Energy and Environment Policy
The Heartland Institute
iorr@heartland.org
312/377-4000

"*Adieu* Paris! If in fact President Trump pulls the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement, it will be another big win for taxpayers, consumers, and energy producers in flyover country. producers in flyover country. Angela Merkel and what is left of the E.U. are not happy (itself a victory), but fake science and globalism would take a big hit with this move.

"The president's strong statements at the G7 conference, followed by this increasingly likely decision, show that the U.S. is not going to be the sugar daddy for this climate scam. The Paris Climate Agreement and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change will collapse without the U.S. willing to pick up the tab. "Building on the fresh leadership at EPA and the departments of Interior and Energy, getting out of the Paris Agreement will show that we are moving in the right direction. In a word, *gagnant*."

Bette Grande
Research Fellow, Energy Policy
The Heartland Institute
governmentrelations@heartland.org
312/377-4000

Ms. Grande represented the 41st District in the North Dakota Legislature from 1996 to 2014.

"Proponents of the Paris treaty acknowledge that it won't have a noticeable effect on global temperatures even if the signees adhere to its conditions, which is in itself an exceedingly unlikely scenario. They have thus resorted to appeals to self-interest, claiming nations will experience huge windfalls from investments in green energy. The evidence shows, however, that government-mandated or -subsidized investments in green tech make energy vastly more expensive and cost many more jobs than they allegedly create.

"The great French economist Frédéric Bastiat pointed out the foolishness of breaking windows in order to employ people to fix them: It ignores the diversion of resources from other, better uses. The Paris agreement is window-breaking on a global scale."

S.T. Karnick
Director of Publications
The Heartland Institute
skarnick@heartland.org
312/377-4000

"I hope the U.S. withdraws from the Paris Agreement on climate change. Then countries like Canada, which follow America on this file, will be more likely to get out as well."

Tom Harris
Executive Director, International Climate Science Coalition
Ottawa, Canada
Policy Advisor, Energy and Environment
The Heartland Institute
tom.harris@climatescienceinternational.net
312/377-4000

The Heartland Institute is a 33-year-old national nonprofit organization headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Its mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems. For more information, visit our Web site or call 312/377-4000.

Appointment

From: Subramanian, Hema [Subramanian.Hema@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/2/2019 3:17:26 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]; Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Kramer, Jessica L. [kramer.jessical@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]; Han, Kaythi [Han.Kaythi@epa.gov]; WJC North 1433 [WJC_North_1433@epa.gov]
CC: Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Sisco, Debby [Sisco.Debby@epa.gov]; Siedschlag, Gregory [Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov]; Chiu, Enid [Chiu.Enid@epa.gov]; Risley, David [Risley.David@epa.gov]; Daguillard, Robert [Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]; McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]; Mills, William T. [mills.williamt@epa.gov]

Subject: Sulfloxaflor rollout
Attachments: RMD_0702_Comms Roll-out Strategy - Sulfoxaflor 2019.docx
Location: WJC-N 1433 / Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Start: 7/2/2019 3:30:00 PM
End: 7/2/2019 4:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/30/2017 8:05:13 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
CC: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: brownfields .. all regions
Attachments: Document1 (006) (004).docx

Sorry .. region 10 had fallen off as well thanks ng

Message

From: Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/7/2017 1:47:50 AM
To: Nestande, Francesca [Francesca.Nestande@FOXNEWS.COM]
CC: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: CLOSE HOLD -- Points for Mr. Hannity

Will do!

Sent from my iPhone
Cathy Milbourn
Office of Media Relations
202-564-7849
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Mar 6, 2017, at 8:42 PM, Nestande, Francesca <Francesca.Nestande@FOXNEWS.COM> wrote:

> No worries it happens- keep us posted on future opportunities!
>
> **From:** Milbourn, Cathy [mailto:Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
> **Sent:** Monday, March 06, 2017 8:36 PM
> **To:** Nestande, Francesca <Francesca.Nestande@FOXNEWS.COM>
> **Cc:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: CLOSE HOLD -- Points for Mr. Hannity
>
> Hi Francesca,
>
> My apologies. We will have to reschedule the taping for Mr. Hannity's program tomorrow.
>
> I will keep you posted. Again, I am very sorry we need to postpone.
>
> Cathy
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> Cathy Milbourn
> Office of Media Relations
> 202-564-7849
> Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
>
> On Mar 6, 2017, at 12:49 PM, Nestande, Francesca <Francesca.Nestande@FOXNEWS.COM> wrote:
>
>> Thanks!
>>
>> **From:** Milbourn, Cathy [mailto:Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
>> **Sent:** Monday, March 06, 2017 12:31 PM
>> **To:** Nestande, Francesca <Francesca.Nestande@FOXNEWS.COM>
>> **Cc:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
>> **Subject:** CLOSE HOLD -- Points for Mr. Hannity
>>
>> Hi Francesca,

Please keep these close hold – tomorrow is the Administrator's two week anniversary, and we wanted you all to see what has been accomplished over those past few weeks. Mr. Hannity can use these top line points to guide the conversation tomorrow. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Cathy

Catherine C. Milbourn
Office of Media Relations
Office of the Administrator
U.S. EPA HQ
202-564-7849 (office)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (mobile)
Milbourn.cathy@epa.gov

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Message

From: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/4/2017 7:48:57 PM
To: Graham, Amy [graham.amy@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
CC: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: 2017-04-04 Ag Community Praises Recent EPA Action esb.docx
Attachments: 2017-04-04 Ag Community Praises Recent EPA Action esb.docx

Can one more person review this and provide any edits? Then we can send the final to JP for approval. I adjusted so that the format for attribution is consistent, but could use help double checking links. Thank you – Liz

Message

From: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/3/2017 7:47:38 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: suggest we reconvene at 4:00 -- just to make sure we are aligned going forward on CAFE -- will send scheduler ..thanks ng

agree

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **(mobile)**

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 2:47 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: suggest we reconvene at 4:00 -- just to make sure we are aligned going forward on CAFE -- will send scheduler ..thanks ng

Let's keep it to just this group you have here. Things are getting leaked and we need to keep these details close hold if possible. Thanks.

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 2:45 PM
To: Millett, John <Millett.John@epa.gov>; Richardson, RobinH <Richardson.RobinH@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Dewey, Amy <Dewey.Amy@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Subject: suggest we reconvene at 4:00 -- just to make sure we are aligned going forward on CAFE -- will send scheduler ..thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) **(mobile)**

Message

From: Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/4/2019 9:03:37 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
CC: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ross, David P [ross.davidp@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Schumer media event

Hi John,

With the active inquiry below. Here's the statement you and Dave discussed. Let us know if Ryan has any edits and/or if you decide to use the updated statement here.

Updated statement

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 3:39 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Schumer media event

It's still going through review here. Is it worth seeing if I can shake it loose?

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 3:34 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Schumer media event

Hi Andrea,
Unfortunately, it looks like we need to respond shortly, or may miss the opportunity to respond.

Mary Mears
U.S. EPA Region 2
Public Affairs Director
(212) 637-3673 (office)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (cell)

From: Brodsky, Robert <Robert.Brodsky@newsday.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 3:15 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Schumer media event

Any update on this? I am getting ready to post my story within the hour.

From: Brodsky, Robert
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 10:43 AM
To: Mears.Mary@epa.gov
Subject: Schumer media event

Good morning Mary

Senator Schumer will hold a press event this morning to pressure the Environmental Protection Agency to "reverse course on a likely imminent decision to not set drinking water standards for highly toxic chemicals already found on Long Island."
According to the advisory, Schumer will make the case and explain why Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler should reverse course and commit to setting a maximum contaminant level for PFOA and PFOS as soon as possible.
I am seeking a reaction and a status update on whether the EPA will in fact set levels for these containments and restrict them under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
I am at Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Robert Brodsky
Newsday

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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Message

From: Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/4/2019 9:00:02 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
CC: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Schumer media event

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Schumer media event

Hi Andrea,
I think our choice is that, **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**,

Mary Mears
U.S. EPA Region 2
Public Affairs Director
(212) 637-3673 (office)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (cell)

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 3:39 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Schumer media event

It's still going through review here. Is it worth seeing if I can shake it loose?

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 3:34 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Schumer media event

Hi Andrea,
Unfortunately, it looks like we need to respond shortly, or may miss the opportunity to respond.

Mary Mears
U.S. EPA Region 2
Public Affairs Director
(212) 637-3673 (office)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (cell)

From: Brodsky, Robert <Robert.Brodsky@newsday.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 3:15 PM

To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Schumer media event

Any update on this? I am getting ready to post my story within the hour.

From: Brodsky, Robert
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 10:43 AM
To: Mears.Mary@epa.gov
Subject: Schumer media event

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According to the advisory, Schumer will make the case and explain why Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler should reverse course and commit to setting a maximum contaminant level for PFOA and PFOS as soon as possible.
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I am at Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Robert Brodsky
Newsday

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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Message

From: Sauerhage, Maggie [Sauerhage.Maggie@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/4/2019 4:14:16 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: For approval: Quotes on drinking water research for book

Thanks!

Maggie Sauerhage
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office: (202) 564-0443
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 11:12 AM
To: Sauerhage, Maggie <Sauerhage.Maggie@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: For approval: Quotes on drinking water research for book

If David Dunlap approved, yes.

From: Sauerhage, Maggie
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 11:11 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: For approval: Quotes on drinking water research for book

For approval: Several months ago, ORD's Mike Schock spoke to a writer, Seth Siegel, on background. Seth is writing a book about America's drinking water, and one of the topics is lead. Now he would like to quote Mike and sent the below quotes over for attribution to Mike. Quotes have been approved by David and Jennifer. Okay to approve?

Section 1:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Section 2:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Message

From: McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/1/2019 3:56:44 PM
To: Zack Colman [zcolman@politico.com]
Subject: RE: NSR story

Here you go. Quotations for attribution to Mr. Wehrum, background information to help provide context in italics. Let me know if you need anything else. Jess

1. What has Bill Wehrum learned from his experience working on NSR in the Bush administration and how does that inform the approach he is taking now?
   RESPONSE: "NSR is a big, complicated program that applies broadly across emission sources. It can and should be clarified, simplified and improved. I believed that then, and I believe it now." *Background: Mr. Wehrum's interest in NSR reform pre-dates his service in government and began when he was a chemical engineer working to understand and apply the rule.*

2. Has the NSR program been effective at keeping pollution in check? Why or why not?
   RESPONSE: "The NSR program is effective but is just one of many tools provided by the Clean Air Act to achieve good air quality." *Background: statistics on air pollution reductions through 2018: https://gispub.epa.gov/air/trendsreport/2018/documentation/AirTrends_Flyer.pdf*

3. Why does the EPA want to change the NSR program?
   See response to question #1

4. How does the current approach to NSR reform at the power plant level – adding a one-hour emissions metric – offer better prospects in the court system than the Bush administration's attempts to define routine maintenance?
   RESPONSE: "I believe it's well within EPA's authority to define what constitutes an emissions increase." *Background: It's worth noting that this is still a proposed rule. It's also worth noting for the context of the story that efficiencies gained through upgrades that trigger NSR make power plants more competitive in the marketplace and actually displaces energy use from less efficient facilities, which is a net benefit to the environment.*

5. How often did Bill Wehrum work on NSR-related/enforcement issues while in private practice after leaving the Bush administration? Who were his clients on those matters?
   RESPONSE: "This was a relatively small part of my practice." *Background: list of former clients is publicly available*

From: Zack Colman <zcolman@politico.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 12:16 PM
To: McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: NSR story

Thank you, Jessica!

Zack Colman
POLITICO : energy & environment reporter
cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
twitter: @zcolman

From: McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 12:09 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@politico.com>
Subject: RE: NSR story

Hi Zack,

Mr. Wehrum is traveling today, but I will circle up with him about this first thing in the morning.

Jessica McFaul
Senior Advisor for Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Desk: 202-564-6429
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov

From: Zack Colman <zcolman@politico.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 11:50 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>
Subject: NSR story

Hi all,

Hope you're doing well. We're doing a story on New Source Review and Bill Wehrum's history with the program. It's a pretty straightforward arc about Wehrum's involvement from his days in the Bush administration until now.

It would be great to get on the phone again with Bill if possible to talk about the different approach the EPA has taken this time and why he feels it might be more durable than some of the efforts in the Bush years.

We are trying to get something out the door by early tomorrow, so working with an 11 a.m. Friday deadline.

A few questions:

1. What has Bill Wehrum learned from his experience working on NSR in the Bush administration and how does that inform the approach he is taking now?
2. Has the NSR program been effective at keeping pollution in check? Why or why not?
3. Why does the EPA want to change the NSR program?
4. How does the current approach to NSR reform at the power plant level – adding a one-hour emissions metric – offer better prospects in the court system than the Bush administration's attempts to define routine maintenance?
5. How often did Bill Wehrum work on NSR-related/enforcement issues while in private practice after leaving the Bush administration? Who were his clients on those matters?

Thanks!

-Zack

Zack Colman
POLITICO : energy & environment reporter

cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
twitter: @zcolman

Message

From: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/18/2019 10:12:21 PM
To: Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]; McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]
CC: DeLuca, Isabel [DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: timing of press release?

And let us know if you would like the 2nd floor to send .. as folks may still be at the event thanksng

From: Schiermeyer, Corry
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 6:11 PM
To: McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>
Cc: DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: timing of press release?

I say send and post at 11:30 if we have an embargo until 11:30. But the media will want the rule and fact sheet to work into their stories.

I know John was working through the timeline, so let's see what he suggests

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 18, 2019, at 6:06 PM, McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov> wrote:

> Looping Konkus and Corry to confirm, but my take is that since the event starts at 10:15, let's have it post then and send the release then also.
>
> Jessica McFaul
> Senior Advisor for Public Affairs
> Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
>
> On Jun 18, 2019, at 5:24 PM, DeLuca, Isabel <DeLuca.Isabel@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
> Do you have a target time to send out the press release? We noticed that the invitation to the media briefing says that the info is embargoed until 11:30. We are also wondering when to post materials to the web – we were thinking at 10:30 (during announcement), but should we wait until 11:30?
>
> Thanks,
> Isabel
>
> **Isabel DeLuca**
> Office of Air and Radiation, US EPA
> Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Governor's Press Office [Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: 2/1/2019 12:01:00 AM
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor Ron DeSantis to Make Major Announcement in Tallahassee
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
January 31, 2019

Contact: Governor's Press Office
(850) 717-9282
Media@eog.myflorida.com

Governor Ron DeSantis to Make Major Announcement in Tallahassee

Tallahassee, Fla. – Governor Ron DeSantis will make a major announcement at the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee on Friday, February 1st, 2019.

All credentialed media are welcome to attend.

For Planning Purposes Only: *Following the Governor's announcement, a senior policy and budget official will be made available to answer questions on background only. Remarks made during the background briefing are for informational purposes and not for attribution. Filming and photography will be prohibited during the background briefing.*

Event Details:

WHAT: Major Announcement
WHO: Governor Ron DeSantis
WHEN: Friday, February 1st, 2019 at 8:30 AM EST
Media Arrival Time: 8:00 AM EST
WHERE: Governor's Large Conference Room, Florida Capitol
400 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399
ON-SITE CONTACT: Dave Vasquez, Press Secretary, (727) 504-4676

###

Message

From: Kay DeBow [kdebow@nationalbcc.org]
Sent: 12/5/2018 9:13:34 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Gordon, Stephen [gordon.stephen@epa.gov]
CC: Harry Alford [halford@nationalbcc.org]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Ap

Just fyi.

<EKnickmeyer@ap.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2018 5:21 PM
To: info Nationalbcc <info@nationalbcc.org>
Subject: Thursday's event with EPA administrator

Hello,

I'm Ellen Knickmeyer, a reporter covering the EPA with the Associated Press here in DC. Was hoping to cover Thursday's event with EPA acting administrator Wheeler. Could you kindly share the time and place with me? Do you know what the topic of his speech will be?

Thank you and best

Ellen

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy Note8.

-------- Original message --------
From: "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Date: 12/5/18 11:13 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Gordon, Stephen" <gordon.stephen@epa.gov>
Cc: Harry Alford <halford@nationalbcc.org>, "Abboud, Michael" <abboud.michael@epa.gov>, Kay DeBow <kdebow@nationalbcc.org>
Subject: Re: Hi Mr. Alford, Reuters query

We will not be commenting and we would ask you do not comment before the event tomorrow. Thank you.

John Konkus
Environmental Protection Agency
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Public Affairs

On Dec 5, 2018, at 11:01 AM, Gordon, Stephen <gordon.stephen@epa.gov> wrote:

> John or Michael can answer your questions regarding media inquiries.

On Dec 5, 2018, at 10:44 AM, Harry Alford <halford@nationalbcc.org> wrote:

From: Gardner, Timothy (Reuters) <timothy.gardner@thomsonreuters.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 10:42 AM
To: Harry Alford <halford@nationalbcc.org>
Subject: Hi Mr. Alford, Reuters query

Greetings Mr. Alford,

I'm Tim Gardner, a journalist at Reuters.
Wonder if I could talk with you very briefly before the energy policy event tomorrow.
I am writing a short story to run tomorrow morning before the event, that will be updated with quotes and details from the event itself.
The initial story doesn't need anything for attribution but wanted to run some of the details by you for accuracy.
Many thanks, Tim

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Kay DeBow [kdebow@nationalbcc.org]
Sent: 12/5/2018 4:14:16 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Gordon, Stephen [gordon.stephen@epa.gov]
CC: Harry Alford [halford@nationalbcc.org]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Hi Mr. Alford, Reuters query

Great plan.

From: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 11:13:26 AM
To: Gordon, Stephen
Cc: Harry Alford; Abboud, Michael; Kay DeBow
Subject: Re: Hi Mr. Alford, Reuters query

We will not be commenting and we would ask you do not comment before the event tomorrow. Thank you.

John Konkus
Environmental Protection Agency
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Public Affairs

On Dec 5, 2018, at 11:01 AM, Gordon, Stephen <gordon.stephen@epa.gov> wrote:

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>
> ---
>
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> **To:** Harry Alford <halford@nationalbcc.org>
> **Subject:** Hi Mr. Alford, Reuters query
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>
> Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Kay DeBow [kdebow@nationalbcc.org]
Sent: 12/5/2018 4:11:42 PM
To: Gordon, Stephen [gordon.stephen@epa.gov]; Harry Alford [halford@nationalbcc.org]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Hi Mr. Alford, Reuters query

Good morning, I'm not sure which press we should speak to. There are those that are not happy that we are educating the Black community on energy issues. We definitely should not speak to Washington Post or Bloomberg. Please give us some guidance. Kay

---

From: Gordon, Stephen <gordon.stephen@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Harry Alford; Konkus, John; Abboud, Michael
Cc: Kay DeBow
Subject: Re: Hi Mr. Alford, Reuters query

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On Dec 5, 2018, at 10:44 AM, Harry Alford <halford@nationalbcc.org> wrote:

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Many thanks, Tim

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Scott-Forte, Londa [Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/1/2018 3:43:09 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: DRAFT Press Release NPRM 7.31.18.docx

Hi John,

I'll work on this now.

Thanks!
londa

LONDA SCOTT FORTE
Visual Information Specialist

U.S. EPA
Office of Multimedia
Office of Public Affairs
6318 William Jefferson Clinton Building North (WJC Bldg North)
Washington, DC 20460
202.564.1504 (office phone)

intranet.epa.gov/media

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 11:41:53 AM
To: Scott-Forte, Londa
Subject: DRAFT Press Release NPRM 7.31.18.docx

Londa: The attached draft release is a close hold please. Can you develop a co-brand DOT/EPA masthead for this to go out under?

Thank you and let me know.

Message

From: Dewey, Amy [Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/22/2018 8:12:29 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: stakeholder statements for CPP-082118
Attachments: stakeholder statements for CPP-082118.pdf

John,

Here are the stakeholder statements from our CPP rollout. Amy

US Chamber Global Chamber Energy Institute

ISSUE ALERT

EPA Proposes Affordable Clean Energy Rule

Today (August 21), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") proposed the Affordable Clean Energy ("ACE") rule for electric power plants. This proposal would replace the Clean Power Plan ("CPP") issued by the previous administration.

In response to the proposal, Karen Harbert, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber's Global Energy Institute, issued the following statement:

"The Chamber believes that the global climate is changing, and that human activities contribute to those changes. At the same time, the Chamber has long maintained that there is a better way to address carbon dioxide emissions than the Clean Power Plan regulation, which was halted by the Supreme Court in 2016. Today's announcement is an important step toward a more collaborative process that fits within EPA's statutory authority and will result in achievable progress through more practical, state-driven programs. This revised approach will help continue the trend of lower electric power sector emissions while preserving America's energy edge and respecting environmental law. We look forward to reviewing the proposal in detail and actively participating in the regulatory process."

The proposal aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions ("GHG") through four actions:

1. Defining the "best system of emission reduction" ("BSER") for existing power plants as on-site, heat-rate efficiency improvements;
2. Providing states with a list of "candidate technologies" that can be used to establish standards of performance and be incorporated into their state plans;
3. Updating the New Source Review ("NSR") permitting program to further encourage efficiency improvements at existing power plants; and
4. Aligning regulations under CAA section 111(d) to give states adequate time and flexibility to develop their state plans.

https://www.uschamber.com/global-energy-institute

Americans for Prosperity

Arlington, VA – Americans for Prosperity today expressed support for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed revision of the Clean Power Plan (CPP), called the Affordable Clean Energy "ACE" rule. The original Obama-era rule, if implemented, would have imposed a series of burdensome regulations that provided little environmental benefit to the detriment of the American economy. The Trump administration's proposed revision gives states the freedom to tailor modest regulations to their own energy generating systems.

Americans for Prosperity Chief Government Affairs Officer Brent Gardner issued the following statement:

"The Clean Power Plan was all pain for American consumers and virtually no gain for the environment. Market-driven solutions are the most efficient and effective method of reducing emissions. The EPA's revised Clean Power Plan will make energy more affordable to American consumers and is a welcome move from the Trump administration as part of their effort to reduce the massive regulatory footprint left by Obama's EPA.

"America has been leading the world in emissions reductions without any of the punishing policies that other countries imposed. That's a good thing that should be celebrated, not regulated."

https://americansforprosperity.org/afp-revised-clean-power-plan-a-welcome-departure-from-job-killing-energy-rule/

Congressional Western Caucus

EPA Acts to End Coal Country Nightmare

The ACE up President Trump's sleeve will rein in one of the most costly, burdensome and job-killing regulations issued by the Obama Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congressional Western Caucus Chairman **Paul Gosar (AZ-04),** Executive Vice Chairman **Scott Tipton (CO-03),** Chief Infrastructure and Forestry Officer **Bruce Westerman (AR-04),** Chairman Emeritus **Steve Pearce (NM-02)**, Chief Regulatory Officer **Andy Biggs (AZ-05),** House Chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee **Lamar Smith (TX-21),** Speaker **Paul Ryan (WI-01)**, and Western Caucus Members **Greg Gianforte (MT-At Large), Doug LaMalfa (CA-01), Kevin Cramer (ND-At Large), Ron Estes (KS-04), Ralph Abraham (LA-05), Debbie Lesko (AZ-08), Markwayne Mullin (OK-02),** and **Liz Cheney (WY-At Large)** released the following statements after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule to replace the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan:

"The Clean Power Plan picked winners and losers with a one-size-fits-all, national energy policy. The unconstitutional mandates in the CPP would have cost job creators and our economy nearly $300 billion dollars while also resulting in double digit electricity prices in at least 40 states. Today, the Trump Administration and Acting Administrator Wheeler proved that responsible energy production and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive by putting forward a proposed replacement rule that seeks to empower states, embrace new technologies and crowdsource from experts on the ground to ensure that the United States continues to be a global leader in energy production and carbon emission reductions," stated **Chairman Gosar**.

"The Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan, which was implemented without Congressional approval, threatened countless jobs across the nation and millions of Americans' access to affordable energy," said **Congressman Scott Tipton**. "Appropriately, the Administration is taking action to rewrite this flawed rule, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to advance policies that support all-of-the-above responsible energy development."

"The Obama Administration's war on affordable energy was not healthy for rural economies. In my home state of Arkansas, the administration's plans to kill electricity generation at the White Bluff Electric Station would result in higher rates for residents already on fixed incomes. I thank Administrator Wheeler and the Trump Administration for its efforts to roll back this overreach and look forward to working with the EPA on reasonable efforts to keep our environment clean while producing energy necessary to power homes and businesses," stated **Congressman Westerman**.

West Virginia Coal Association

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Coal Association is praising President Donald Trump for issuing a new domestic energy plan that will replace the Obama-era "clean power plan" that would have decimated the American coal industry.

"The good news just keeps on coming from the Trump Administration," WVCA President Bill Raney said. "And for this good news to come on a day when he will be visiting West Virginia makes it even more significant because our coalfields were ground zero for the Obama Administration's war on coal. It will be an honor to be in Charleston tonight with President Trump when he announces his plans to replace the Obama "Costly Power Plan" with a true domestic energy policy that will protect American jobs."

During Trump's rally at the Charleston Civic Center tonight, the president is expected to highlight the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's replacement of the Clean Power Plan (CPP), an Obama-era set of regulations that would have made it far more difficult, if not impossible, to use coal as a fuel source for electricity in the United States and put thousands of our coal miners out of work.

The EPA is replacing the CPP with a more reasonable set of regulations that still will aim to reduce carbon dioxide air emissions, relying on plant-by-plant evaluations to determine the best path forward for individual facilities to increase efficiency and lower emissions, rather than seizing control of the nation's entire electric grid from the power plant to the wall plug.

"The coal industry has proven time and again that we are the best environmentalists out there," Raney said. "U.S. coal plants have reduced toxic air emissions by more than 90 percent over the last few decades. We are committed to continuing to make improvements while

protecting America's domestic energy security and, most importantly, to keep our West Virginians working."

Competitive Enterprise Institute

The Environmental Protection Agency today released a proposed replacement for the Obama Administration's "Clean Power Plan," which was finalized in August of 2015. CEI opposed the Clean Power Plan, because it was economically destructive, unlawful, and would have raised energy prices for many Americans.

Director of CEI's Center for Energy and Environment Myron Ebell said:

"The EPA's proposed replacement rule is a huge improvement over the so-called Clean Power Plan, which is almost certainly illegal and would be incredibly costly to consumers if implemented. The new rule provides minimal regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants and will therefore result in only small increases in electric rates. It will also do no more harm to the coal industry, which still supplies 30% of America's electricity at the lowest costs.

"It remains to be seen whether the Supreme Court will find that the replacement rule satisfies the requirements of the 2009 endangerment finding. CEI's petition to re-open and reconsider the finding is still before the EPA. We think that granting the petition remains the best option if the court decides that the new rule doesn't do enough to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from coal and natural gas power plants. The 'Clean Power' Plan was a key part of the Obama administration's war on affordable energy and based on the finding that greenhouse gas emissions endanger public health and welfare. However, the best and most recent science undermines that claim and therefore reconsideration is warranted."

https://cei.org

NRECA Welcomes Clean Power Plan Replacement Proposal

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) today expressed support for the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to replace the Clean Power Plan with a more workable rule.

"The proposed rule appears to provide electric cooperatives with a more achievable plan that adheres to EPA's historic approach to using the Clean Air Act," said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson. "This is necessary to provide electric co-ops the certainty and flexibility they need to meet their consumer-members' local energy needs."

"It is imperative that EPA's rules recognize the investment that cooperative members have made in power plants and that there is a prudent path forward for 42 million consumers to benefit from those investments," Matheson said. "Electric cooperatives are built by, and belong to the communities that they serve. Because of this ownership structure, there are no shareholders to shoulder the weight of early power plant closures. The Clean Power Plan would have resulted in stranded assets and stranded debt, significantly increasing electricity costs for many consumers.

www.electric-coop/nreca-welcomes-clean-power-plan-replacement-proposal/

Kentucky Coal Association

Lexington - *The following statement may be attributed to Tyler White, President of the Kentucky Coal Association, regarding actions taken this week by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler's announcement on the proposed Affordable Clean Energy "ACE" rule, which sets greenhouse gas guidelines for states to set standards for performance for existing coal-fired power plants.*

The "ACE" rule will begin to return the EPA to its proper role under the Clean Air Act of actually regulating air emissions, instead of dictating to states how they should produce electricity. The Clean Air Act was not designed to allow EPA to determine how states should produce electricity. But the Clean Power Plan (CPP) gave EPA just such authority, in clear violation of the law.

The CPP was legally flawed from the beginning, and represented an unprecedented and unlawful power grab by the last Administration. We were confident the CPP ultimately would have been struck down as illegal by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court already recognized there were substantial legal questions raised by the rule and that it risked causing great harm to the economy, and the Court took the nearly unprecedented step of staying the rule.

Many states like Kentucky wisely ignored the CPP while it has been stayed by the Supreme Court. The new rule will empower states to reduce emissions and provide modern, reliable power at an affordable cost for all Americans. Here in Kentucky, we know that such affordable and reliable electricity that is fueling growth comes from coal.

For too long this country has been victim to policies that limit our growth by overregulation. Policies put into motion by the former Administration, like the Clean Power Plan, would have provided no meaningful impact on the planet's climate but would have had a devastating impact on the U.S. economy. We appreciate that this administration is not picking winners and losers in the energy business and is allowing coal and other fuels to compete on a level playing field.

American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

Washington, D.C.— Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule to replace the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan (CPP). America's Power (ACCCE) issued the following statement by Michelle Bloodworth, President and CEO:

"We are pleased that EPA has proposed a rule to replace the Clean Power Plan, especially one that allows the states to play a crucial role in determining which emission reduction measures make sense. In contrast to the illegal Clean Power Plan, EPA's proposal is based on a correct reading of the Clean Air Act," said Bloodworth. "The Clean Power Plan would have caused more fuel-secure coal-fired power plants to retire prematurely even though policy makers have become increasingly concerned that coal retirements are a threat to grid resilience and national security."

According to ACCCE analysis, almost 40 percent of the nation's coal fleet has retired or announced plans to retire. See www.americaspower.org. The coal fleet provides fuel security by maintaining an on-site supply of coal that can last an average of more than 70 days, according to EIA data.

National Mining Association

https://nma.org/2018/08/20/power-plan-replacement-rule-restores-federal-and-state-balance-mandated-by-law/

Power Plan Replacement Rule Restores Federal and State Balance Mandated by Law

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Hal Quinn, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Mining Association (NMA), issued the following statement in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed replacement rule.

"Through the replacement rule, the EPA has returned to a lawful framework for regulation of power plant emissions. The Clean Air Act created a system of shared authority by EPA and the states, and this proposal appropriately reflects that construct.

"The policy put forward by the previous administration was an illegal attempt to impose a political agenda on the country's power system, to create what it called 'a new energy economy.' That 'new energy economy' would have had dire consequences for everyday Americans who depend on affordable, reliable coal-powered electricity, forcing the premature retirement of many existing coal plants, and increasing the vulnerability of our grid to supply outages and price spikes — an unacceptable proposal given the negligible environmental benefits.

"The replacement rule respects the infrastructure and economic realities that are unique to each state, allowing for state-driven solutions, as intended by the Clean Air Act, rather than top down mandates. It also embraces American innovation, by encouraging plant upgrades.

"Advancing the nation's environmental protections does not have to come at the expense of American families, risking the reliability of our grid and sidestepping the law. The EPA and the Trump administration should be applauded for articulating a clear, legal proposal that considers the interests of all Americans."

Heartland Institute

https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/press-release-heartland-institute-experts-applaud-trumps-affordable-energy-plan

PRESS RELEASE: HEARTLAND INSTITUTE EXPERTS APPLAUD TRUMP'S AFFORDABLE ENERGY PLAN

AUGUST 22, 2018

By Tim Huelskamp, Ph.D., James M. Taylor, Jay Lehr, Frederick D. Palmer, H. Sterling Burnett, Peter Ferrara, Bette Grande, Steve Goreham, Craig Idso, Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, James H. Rust

"For Americans looking to see the definitive end of Obama's war on fossil fuels, this is an important victory" – with hopefully more ahead. - Tim Huelskamp, Ph.D.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced a new rule to regulate emissions from power plants, reversing the Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP). The CPP would have shut down most coal-fired power plants in the United States. The new rule allows states more flexibility to reduce emissions, rather than a universal rule dictated by the federal government.

More than half of the states sued to stop Obama's CPP, and the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay on the rule pending the result of those legal challenges in 2016. The Trump administration noted in its rule proposal that power plant pollutants have declined 73 percent under the Clean Air Act and U.S. carbon dioxide emissions continue to fall while overall global CO2 emissions have increased more than 20 percent since 2005.

On August 7, The Heartland Institute hosted the America First Energy Conference in New Orleans.

The following statements from energy experts at The Heartland Institute – a free-market think tank – may be used for attribution. For more comments, refer to the contact information below. To book a Heartland guest on your program – **including a live TV remote from Heartland's studio, which can connect to any station or network in the world** – please contact Director of Communications Jim Lakely at media@heartland.org and 312/377-4000.

"This proposed rule was a long time coming, but worth the wait. For Americans looking to see the definitive end of Obama's war on fossil fuels, this is an important victory – with hopefully more ahead.

"Obama's Clean Power Plan was an unnecessary and ideological move to regulate human emissions of carbon dioxide, which are not driving climate change, and would have dramatically hiked energy prices for all Americans. Obama's war on our wallets is over, and every American can now look forward to lower electricity bills.

"President Trump knows that affordable energy is the lifeblood of a strong economy. We can achieve this through the continued use of fossil fuels with the addition of new technology that has helped make America's air cleaner than it has been in decades."

Tim Huelskamp, Ph.D.
President
The Heartland Institute
thuelskamp@heartland.org
312/377-4000

Dr. Huelskamp represented Kansas' 1st District in the House of Representatives from 2011 to 2017.

"The objective science shows any threat posed by global warming is speculative and remote. Accordingly, EPA should not restrict carbon dioxide. However, this plan is an improvement over the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan and is an improvement over probably anything else that another administration would have offered.

"With publication of the proposed Affordable Clean Energy rule, the Trump administration has yet again fulfilled an important campaign promise. The Obama Clean Power Plan is history. The Trump EPA hit a triple with this new rule. The administration will hit a home run if it takes the final step and revisits and repeals EPA's Endangerment Finding."

James Taylor
Senior Fellow for Environmental Policy
The Heartland Institute
jtaylor@heartland.org
312/377-4000

"Although there is no question that the changes being made to the Clean Power Plan are a step in the right direction for keeping with sensible science, it is not nearly enough. The new rule puts the states in charge of controlling power plant emissions. It focuses on making power plants more efficient regardless of emissions. The new rule also dramatically improves the ability to improve power plants without signaling a New Source Review, which in the past could cause the plant to be shut down. Overall, this is an excellent step in the right direction. The next step should be to repeal the Endangerment Finding."

Jay Lehr
Science Director
The Heartland Institute
jlehr@heartland.org
312/377-4000

"The rule still perpetuates too much Obama era mythology. States should not sacrifice economic growth to fuel energy at all. EPA should ebrace the Enlightenment and rescind the witch doctor 2009 Endangerment Finding altogether."

Peter Ferrara
Senior Fellow for Entitlement and Budget Policy
The Heartland Institute
pferrara@heartland.org
312/377-4000

Mr. Ferrara is the author of Power to the People: The New Road to Freedom and Prosperity for the Poor, Seniors, and Those Most in Need of the World's Best Health Care *(2015), and* The Obamacare Disaster *(2010).*

"Unlike the Clean Power Plan, this plan is legal and consistent with the Constitution. However, it is still unnecessary because carbon dioxide should not be regulated as a pollutant because it is not one.

"This rule was necessitated by the continued existence of the Endangerment Finding, which forces the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. This shows why the Endangerment Finding must go if the Trump administration wants to truly make American energy dominant and great again. Otherwise, all of Trump's progress on freeing up fossil fuels from the strangling hand of big government will be in vain."

H. Sterling Burnett, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow, Environment & Energy Policy
The Heartland Institute
Managing Editor, *Environment & Climate News*
hburnett@heartland.org
312/377-4000

"EPA's proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule is the first step in removal of the CO2 anchor around the neck of coal in the United States. Al Gore and the environmental community started the jihad against coal in the late 1980s with a closing crescendo by President Obama and his administration. The goal was to kill coal use in the United States for many reasons. It was and is political control and power that is the main driver of the anti CO2 agenda.

"Fortunately for us all, the arrival of President Trump and his strong team led by Andy Wheeler at EPA are at the helm and rolling back onerous regulations."

Fred Palmer
Senior Fellow, Energy Policy
The Heartland Institute
fpalmer@heartland.org
312/377-4000

"Great news from EPA today on replacing the Clean Power Plan.

"President Trump is correct that the Obama era clean air plan was detrimental to the economy, and based on fake science. The supposed benefits came at the expense of the consumer and the poor and elderly were the hardest hit.

"The howling and hyperbole from Big Green has started. "People will die" say the radical environmentalists. That is, if there is anyone left after net neutrality, the tax cuts, and changes to Obamacare. This is all simply hyperventilating without facts.

"The Clean Power Plan was unlawful overreach and has never gone into effect. It is time to remove it completely. The Trump administration continues to return power and authority to the states, and that is welcome news!"

Bette Grande
Research Fellow, Energy Policy
The Heartland Institute
governmentrelations@heartland.org
312/377-4000

Ms. Grande represented the 41st District in the North Dakota Legislature from 1996 to 2014.

"If ending the endangerment finding can be accomplished, the new membership of the U.S. Supreme Court may more narrowly define the Clean Air Act to not include greenhouse gases, which should only be regulated by Congress."

Steve Goreham
Executive Director, Climate Science Coalition of America
Policy Advisor, Environment and Energy
The Heartland Institute
gorehamsa@comcast.net
312-377-4000

"Although the new rule by the EPA reverses certain aspects of the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan and alleviates unnecessary regulations that have burdened American energy production, today's action is simply a window dressing that fails to address a more important need of repealing the so-called Endangerment Finding. As a signature accomplishment of the Washington D.C. Swamp during Obama's tenure, the Endangerment Finding represents the worst of government action, labelling atmospheric carbon dioxide—a substance that all humans and animals exhale with each and every breath—as a pollutant.

"The Endangerment Finding keeps in place the underlying ability of a future administration to return to applying stricter regulations against CO2. There is little solace in the EPA

administrator's action today, for it has kept the door open for a future war on American energy production when the political timing is ripe. The Endangerment Finding must go if the Trump administration is to keep its word on supporting energy independence and fully draining the swamp."

Craig D. Idso
Senior Fellow, Environment
The Heartland Institute
Co-editor, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change
cidso@co2science.org
312/377-4000

"The true purpose of the so-called Clean Power Plan was to destroy coal corporations. There was no credible scientific basis for Obama's war on coal. Modern coal-fired power stations, burning pelletized or pulverized coal at very high temperatures, emit few particulates and provide the cleanest, cheapest, most efficient and most reliable electricity in the world. Obama's regulations should be swept away altogether.

"It is also now demonstrable that global warming was not, is not, and will not be a problem. There will be too little of it to matter. The scientific rationale for regulating emissions of greenhouse gases was always poor and is now non-existent. The EPA, which has repeatedly grabbed power by impertinently proposing unnecessary regulations in this and other fields purely with the objective of increasing its own influence and wealth, should be firmly reined in. The days of environmental over-regulation are long gone. Let freedom ring!"

Lord Christopher Monckton
Chief Policy Advisor, Science and Public Policy Institute
Policy Advisor, The Heartland Institute
media@heartland.org
312/377-4000

"President Trump is keeping his promises to reduce economy-killing regulations the Obama administration put forth on the ill-advised premise carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels causes catastrophic global warming.

"The Obama administration Clean Power Plan was to show the rest of the world the United States is doing its part to reduce greenhouse gases. If the premise that carbon dioxide caused

global warming was true, this plan would have caused immeasurable reductions in global temperatures due to rapid expansion of coal-fired power plants in China and India.

"The Trump administration's letting states control power plant emissions will stop unnecessary increases in electricity rates for all Americans."

The Institute for Energy Research

"Affordable Clean Energy" Rule a
Good First Step

WASHINGTON — The Institute for Energy Research is pleased President Trump has acknowledged the disastrous impact Obama's Clean Power Plan (CPP) would have on American families, and has taken steps to rein in EPA power in better alignment with the Clean Air Act. While IER holds that a full repeal of the CPP is necessary to restore liberty to electricity markets and keep energy affordable for American households, the ACE rule is an improvement over the CPP. IER President Thomas J. Pyle issued the following statement:

"The Clean Power Plan (CPP) grew EPA power in unprecedented and harmful ways, marking a clear deviation from the agency's traditional role by grossly misapplying the Clean Air Act. The 'Affordable Clean Energy Rule' proposed by the Trump Administration corrects some of the CPP's worst flaws. By reining in the EPA, the 'Affordable Clean Energy' rule limits the negative economic impacts a back door federal renewable mandate would have on American families. However, we still maintain that only a full repeal of the Obama era regulation will fully protect ratepayers.

"The Clean Power Plan was never about clean power. The nation's electricity generation fleet is already very clean and getting cleaner — as shown by the nearly 70-percent reduction in criteria pollutants since 1970. The real purpose of the CPP was to shift the economy away from affordable and reliable electricity sources and towards wind and solar - a back door federal renewable mandate - consistent with the previous administration's climate ideology. We are pleased to see the Trump Administration following through on his campaign promise by tackling the CPP. President Trump has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Agreement and proposed a reform of the CAFE mandate, a third notch in his belt would be to fully rescind Obama's so-called Clean Power Plan. While today's rule falls short of that, it is certainly a good first step."

Message

From: Scott-Forte, Londa [Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/1/2018 4:01:29 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: DRAFT Press Release NPRM 7.31.18.docx
Attachments: EPA_DOT_newsrelease-2.jpg

Hi John,

Attached is the updated version of the banner.

Thanks!
londa

LONDA SCOTT FORTE
Visual Information Specialist

U.S. EPA
Office of Multimedia
Office of Public Affairs
6318 William Jefferson Clinton Building North (WJC Bldg North)
Washington, DC 20460
202.564.1504 (office phone)

intranet.epa.gov/media

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 11:57:17 AM
To: Scott-Forte, Londa
Subject: RE: DRAFT Press Release NPRM 7.31.18.docx

Can you put DOT first left to right?

From: Scott-Forte, Londa
Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 11:56 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: DRAFT Press Release NPRM 7.31.18.docx

Hi John,

Attached is a draft of the news release banner. Please let me know of any changes/corrections.

Thanks!
londa

LONDA SCOTT FORTE
Visual Information Specialist

U.S. EPA
Office of Multimedia
Office of Public Affairs
6318 William Jefferson Clinton Building North (WJC Bldg North)
Washington, DC 20460
202.564.1504 (office phone)

intranet.epa.gov/media

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 11:41:53 AM
To: Scott-Forte, Londa
Subject: DRAFT Press Release NPRM 7.31.18.docx

Londa: The attached draft release is a close hold please. Can you develop a co-brand DOT/EPA masthead for this to go out under?

Thank you and let me know.

Message

From: Scott-Forte, Londa [Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/1/2018 3:55:38 PM
To: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: DRAFT Press Release NPRM 7.31.18.docx
Attachments: EPA_DOT_newsrelease1.jpg

Hi John,

Attached is a draft of the news release banner. Please let me know of any changes/corrections.

Thanks!
londa

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Visual Information Specialist

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Thank you and let me know.

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 7/11/2018 8:09:51 PM
To: Eric Lipton [lipton@nytimes.com]
CC: Lisa Friedman [lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Subject: RE: Another point to clarify

While working for Murray Energy, he did not lobby EPA. He has not lobbied EPA at all in the last two years.

From: Eric Lipton [mailto:lipton@nytimes.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 4:06 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Subject: Another point to clarify

So is it accurate to say that Mr. Wheeler, at least in the past two years, did not lobby on an EPA related matter for Murray. That is what the recusal statement seems to say and what he implied today. If that is the case, we would like to be explicit.

Eric Lipton
The New York Times
Washington Bureau
202 862 0448 office
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) mobile
lipton@nytimes.com

On Wed, Jul 11, 2018 at 3:59 PM Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:

1. OK
2. Correct
3. Video of event here: https://youtu.be/R4GiDkhdbIU
4. Not for attribution: yes

From: Eric Lipton [mailto:lipton@nytimes.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 3:48 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Subject: Four small deadline questions

Hey John

1) I have separately confirmed this fact and wanted to tell you we are going to assert this, without getting into any more detail. Not attributing to you or anyone I spoke with at the HQ today. But given sensitivity of this wanted to tell you what we are going to say.

The administrator's security detail has been cutback significantly from the 24 hour a day coverage, with guards even tracking Mr. Pruitt when he was at Disney Land in California on vacation.

(Agency officials declined to provide any more detail on Mr. Wheeler's coverage, for security reasons.)

2) There were about 200 people in the room

3) Do you have a transcript to check quotes?

4) That door to the administrator's suite was locked before? Is that accurate? This is not for attribution. Just want to make sure it is fair to say that the door the administrator's suite has been unlocked. (Will note that anyone entering it still needs to pass a security desk)

Eric Lipton

The New York Times

Washington Bureau

202 862 0448 office

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) mobile

lipton@nytimes.com

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 7/11/2018 7:59:11 PM
To: Eric Lipton [lipton@nytimes.com]
CC: Lisa Friedman [lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Subject: RE: Four small deadline questions

1) OK
2) Correct
3) Video of event here: https://youtu.be/R4GiDkhdbIU
4) Not for attribution: yes

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Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 3:48 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Subject: Four small deadline questions

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Eric Lipton
The New York Times
Washington Bureau
202 862 0448 office
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) mobile
lipton@nytimes.com

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 7/6/2018 11:18:17 PM
To: Jim Lakely [JLakely@heartland.org]
Subject: Re: Heartland Institute President's Statement on Andrew Wheeler Taking Helm at EPA

Thank you sir!

On Jul 6, 2018, at 7:11 PM, Jim Lakely <JLakely@heartland.org> wrote:

Here you go. Also at link below.

https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/press-release-heartland-institute-presidents-statement-on-andrew-wheeler-taking-helm-at-epa

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
o: 312-377-4000
c: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Jim Lakely [mailto:jlakely@heartland.org]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2018 4:55 PM
To: Jim Lakely
Subject: Heartland Institute President's Statement on Andrew Wheeler Taking Helm at EPA

THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE
FREEDOM RISING

Heartland Institute President's Statement on Andrew Wheeler Taking Helm at EPA

Scott Pruitt resigned as Environmental Protection Agency Administrator on Thursday and today was his last day in the position. Andrew Wheeler, the current deputy administrator, takes over as "acting administrator" on Monday, July 9.

The following statement from Tim Huelskamp, Ph.D., president of The Heartland Institute, may be used for attribution. To book a Heartland guest on your program, please contact Director of Communications Jim Lakely at media@heartland.org and 312/377-4000 or (cell) Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

[**NOTE:** The Heartland Institute has a professional TV studio in its office available for a remote connection to any news station or network on short notice.]

"With his resume of commitment to the cause of common sense policymaking, Andrew Wheeler is an excellent choice to run the EPA, and we are excited to work with him.

"Just like the extremist Left had it out for Scott Pruitt before he was even sworn in, they have targeted Wheeler as well. However, we doubt these personal attacks will deter Wheeler from his noble goal to focus the EPA on its core mission of helping to keep America's air, land, and water clean of pollution. Wheeler has also pledged to bring more certainty to environmental permitting, encourage the practice of agency transparency and consistent and frequent public communication, and to quickly solve environmental problems.

"We wish Mr. Wheeler luck, because his success at the head of the EPA will be good news for all Americans who care about the environment, sound science, and economic growth, especially President Donald Trump."

Tim Huelskamp, Ph.D.
President & CEO
The Heartland Institute
thuelskamp@heartland.org
312/377-4000

Dr. Huelskamp represented Kansas' 1st District in the House of Representatives from 2011 to 2017.

The Heartland Institute is a 34-year-old national nonprofit organization headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Its mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems. For more information, visit our website or call 312/377-4000.

This email was sent to jlakely@heartland.org
The Heartland Institute, 3939 North Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, United States
Unsubscribe

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 5/23/2018 5:12:43 PM
To: Lovell, Will (William) [lovell.william@epa.gov]; Dominguez, Alexander [dominguez.alexander@epa.gov]
Subject: 18x46_ParisClimate2018-1.pdf
Attachments: 18x46_ParisClimate2018-1.pdf

Importance: High

Gentlemen: This is a very close hold project. Can you both please take a look at the facts laid out here and let me know if we can say this.

Thank you,

John

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 7/2/2018 3:22:19 PM
To: Sean Reilly [sreilly@eenews.net]
Subject: RE: Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn

Working on it now, so hopefully very soon.

From: Sean Reilly [mailto:sreilly@eenews.net]
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 11:18 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn

Ok; what's your approximate ETA?

From: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2018 11:12 AM
To: Sean Reilly <sreilly@eenews.net>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn

Sean: We're working on this for you right now. We may slip past 11:30am.

From: Sean Reilly [mailto:sreilly@eenews.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 1, 2018 7:49 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn

Hi folks:

I'm working on a story for tomorrow on newly released court records which indicate that Mr. Glenn, then in the private sector, provided extensive services to a 2014-2015 advocacy campaign run by a partner in the Balch & Bingham law firm who, along with two other participants, is now on trial in Birmingham, Ala. on federal criminal charges related to that campaign. I have no indication that Mr. Glenn has been charged, but am attempting to determine whether he has been notified that he could be called as a witness in the trial and/or has been notified that he is the target of an investigation.

In the meantime, two questions:

1) Has Mr. Glenn informed the relevant EPA officials of his work for Balch & Bingham in a matter that is now the subject of federal criminal proceedings? If so, who are those officials?
2) Given Mr. Pruitt's emphasis on the rule of law, does he retain full confidence in Mr. Glenn's capacity to fully and faithfully discharge his duties as Region 4 administrator? If so, why? If not, why not, and (apart from the recusals that Mr. Glenn has already agreed

to), have Mr. Pruitt or other EPA officials taken any steps to provide additional oversight of Mr. Glenn and/or restrict in some way his activities as Region 4 administrator?

My deadline is 11:30 tomorrow morning. I need on-the-record, for-attribution responses if we're going to use them.

Thanks very much,
Sean

Sean Reilly
Reporter
E&E News
202-446-0433 (Desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (Cell)
sreilly@eenews.net
Twitter: @SeanatGreenwire

E&E NEWS
122 C Street, NW, Suite 722, Washington, DC 20001
www.eenews.net • www.eenews.tv
EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 5/25/2018 3:59:59 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Questions on EPA relations with the Heartland Institute, on a 5 p.m. deadline

Did we Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) ?

On May 25, 2018, at 11:56 AM, Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:

I think you answered that question in your first response. But make sure Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

On May 25, 2018, at 11:47 AM, Knickmeyer, Ellen <EKnickmeyer@ap.org> wrote:

Hi, Lincoln –
A follow-up question on this – can you point to high-level EPA contacts and meetings with groups on the opposing side, that argue for cutting fossil fuel emissions to curb climate change? I see Administrator Pruitt reached out for a meeting with one group, the Moms Clean Air Force.

Best,
Ellen

From: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 4:24 PM
To: Knickmeyer, Ellen <EKnickmeyer@ap.org>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions on EPA relations with the Heartland Institute, on a 5 p.m. deadline

Hi Ellen,

Here is our statement:

"EPA's Office of Public Engagement and Office of Public Affairs establish and maintain close working relationships with a broad range of public and private-sector organizations. This is one example of the many stakeholder groups EPA engages with to ensure the public is informed, and it demonstrates the Agency's dedication to advancing President Trump's agenda of environmental stewardship and regulatory certainty." – Lincoln Ferguson, EPA Spokesman

On background: EPA working with think tanks is nothing new. The Obama EPA used think tanks to stand up their climate policy in the first place:https://www.uschamber.com/above-the-fold/friendly-think-tank-lends-epa-helping-hand-defend-carbon-regulations

---

From: Knickmeyer, Ellen [mailto:EKnickmeyer@ap.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 4:09 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions on EPA relations with the Heartland Institute, on a 5 p.m. deadline

Hi, there. Just checking in on this.

From: Knickmeyer, Ellen
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 11:45 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions on EPA relations with the Heartland Institute, on a 5 p.m. deadline

Hi, Jahan and all,

I'm writing today, with a 5 p.m. deadline, on some of the emails returned under a Freedom of Information Act request for communications between the EPA and the Heartland group.

In terms of the EPA side of things, the particular emails we'll be writing on are ones where John Konkus writes the Heartland Institute for help getting "echo" from conservative groups and climate-change skeptic groups regarding EPA actions, statements or policies;
Mr. Konkus and others consulting with Heartland on getting conservative groups into a scheduled June 2017 meeting of the EPA's scientific-integrity process, and Elizabeth Tate Bennet asking conservative groups about getting activists to the EPA's national public hearings on the CPP;
Mr. Konkus asking for Heartland help countering a Washington Post story, and sending talking points;
Mr. Konkus suggesting a particular headline for a Heartland article.

A few other emails show Liz Bowman reaching out to Heartland to talk about a WaPo article, and Elizabeth Tate Bennett forwarding an upcoming internal policy memo, internal invites for meetings to the Heartland institute.

Can you all help me out with these questions for the story?

1. Is it usual for EPA officials to work together on EPA's public messaging with outside interest groups, and to help selective interest groups influence EPA matters, as with the scientific-integrity meeting and the public hearings on the CPP?
2. Is it usual and appropriate for EPA officials to share internal EPA documents with an interest group?
3. What was the purpose of a scheduled June 2017 meeting of EPA scientific-integrity stakeholders? Did Mr. Konkus work with conservative and groups skeptical of climate change on their attending, and was that appropriate?
4. There was this email from February 2018, supposedly from the White House and Elizabeth Tate Bennett at the EPA, suggesting conservative groups send activists to the EPA's national listening sessions on the CPP. Did the White House and EPA work with conservative groups to have them represented at those public hearings on the CPP?
   (Feb. 20, 2018): Bast forwards a message "From the White House" but actually by Tate Bennett at EPA re: CPP listening sessions. "FYI—in case you have activists in these key regions this month and next month....." then Bennett's message begins: "The first CPP hearing starts tomorrow. Please direct any questions to Stephen Gordon, his cell is [redacted] will be on the ground at the hearings."]
5. Other emails show the Heartland Institute and Mr. Konkus exchanging lists of climate-change skeptics. How were those lists used? Were any of the people recommended by Heartland subsequently appointed to any EPA panels?

Please don't hesitate to point it out if you think my questions are misconstruing anything, or to make any comment beyond my questions.

All best,
Ellen

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.
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Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 5/24/2018 6:02:40 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
CC: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Questions on EPA relations with the Heartland Institute, on a 5 p.m. deadline

I think it's worth adding some information on background about Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 1:46 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions on EPA relations with the Heartland Institute, on a 5 p.m. deadline

FOR REVIEW:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 11:53 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Questions on EPA relations with the Heartland Institute, on a 5 p.m. deadline

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Knickmeyer, Ellen [mailto:EKnickmeyer@ap.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 11:45 AM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions on EPA relations with the Heartland Institute, on a 5 p.m. deadline

Hi, Jahan and all,

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Please don't hesitate to point it out if you think my questions are misconstruing anything, or to make any comment beyond my questions.

All best,
Ellen

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Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 7/6/2017 12:54:38 PM
To: Dewey, Amy [Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: GKM Media Responses

When Nicole gets in can you please send her up to my office. I have a good assignment for her! Thanks.

From: Dewey, Amy
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2017 8:44 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: GKM Media Responses

Thanks this is very helpful and no one so far has asked questions about this one!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 5, 2017, at 5:46 PM, Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:

> FYI
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Bowman, Liz
> **Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2017 5:32 PM
> **To:** Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Brown, Byron <brown.byron@epa.gov>; Fotouhi, David <fotouhi.david@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** GKM Media Responses
>
> Per Ryan's direction, if Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
> Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
> Nancy, if the region gets asked, please just tell them to forward inquiries to us and we can respond. Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)
>
> Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Liz Bowman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Office: 202-564-3293

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 3/22/2017 9:29:01 PM
To: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
CC: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: RESENDING RE: JOHN BUDGET: Two requests re: proposed 50 Programs Cut, 3/22/17

Good

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 5:28 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Subject: RESENDING RE: JOHN BUDGET: Two requests re: proposed 50 Programs Cut, 3/22/17
Importance: High

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Subject: JOHN BUDGET: Two requests re: proposed 50 Programs Cut, 3/22/17

More than 50 programs cut response we have been using

OUTLET: WHYY and State Impact PA

Susan Phillips

Question: Reporter would like toe find some good ways of illustrating the impact of proposed EPA budget cuts to the environment and the Chesapeake Bay. She is "looking to tell a story in a way that goes beyond just numbers."

OUTLET: Topeka Capital-Journal

Morgan Chilson

Question: I'm working on a story about potential cuts under the Trump budget proposal. I understand the Energy Star program may be cut. I'd like to narrow in on what Energy Star programs are utilized in Kansas, how such cuts would impact the state and also would like to see an annual expenditure of funds in Kansas through the past 10 years. I'd also love to interview someone about Energy Star, its focus as a program, its accomplishments and tie in any Kansas numbers possible.

EPA Answer:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 3/21/2017 9:10:18 PM
To: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
CC: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]; Lynn, Tricia [lynn.tricia@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: JOHN BUDGET: High Country News re: Budget Questions Re 50+ Programs Cut

OK

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 5:02 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: JOHN BUDGET: High Country News re: Budget Questions Re 50+ Programs Cut

Same response we used on previous question about "50+ programs."

OUTLET: High Country News
Reporter: Elizabeth Shogren

Question: Can you share with me the list of the 50+ EPA programs that are slotted for elimination at EPA under the president's budget?

Also, I've seen lots of mention of the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes restorations being slated for elimination, but sources tell me that the Puget Sound program is also on that list. I ask because I didn't see it specifically listed on the list from the White House.

EPA Answer:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Tricia Lynn
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
Office: 202.564.2615

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 3/17/2017 2:53:31 PM
To: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
CC: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: JOHN BUDGET: Mother Jones re: list of programs reportedly being cut

Approved.

From: Valentine, Julia
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:53 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Subject: JOHN BUDGET: Mother Jones re: list of programs reportedly being cut
Importance: High

Response we have used for other "50 programs" questions.

And if she pushes to have us confirm the project list she sent below, response is: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

OUTLET: Mother Jones
Reporter: Rebecca Leber

EPA Answer:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Julia P. Valentine
Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
202.564.2663 direct
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) m/txt

From: Rebecca Leber [mailto:rleber@motherjones.com]
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for comment on the White House budget

Could you please confirm whether these are the programs on the list of 50+ EPA programs cut in the budget? I want to use accurate, up to date information in my story of course:

Thank you for your response

Long Island Sound
Chicago Area Waterway System (Great Lakes region)

Puget Sound
San Franscisco Bay
Great Lakes restoration (EPA)
Endocrine disruptors (EPA)
Enviro education (EPA)
Chesapeake Bay (EPA)
Puget Sound (EPA)
US Mexico border (EPA)
Radon (EPA)
Gulf of Mexico (EPA)
Environmental justice (EPA)
Small minority business assistance (EPA)
Climate protection (EPA)
Research – air climate energy (EPA)
Sustainable and Healthy Communities (EPA)
Brownfields (EPA)
Safe & sustainable water resources (EPA)
Research – chem safety & sustainability (EPA)
Lead RRP (EPA)
Leaking underground storage tanks (EPA)
Right to Know (TRI) (EPA)
Tribal capacity building (EPA)
Marine Pollution (EPA)
Compliance monitoring (EPA)
Civil Enforcement (EPA)
Diesel emissions reduction act (state grants)
Multipurpose grants (state grants)
Targeted airsheds (state grants)
US-Mexico border targeted watershed (state grants)
Beach water quality testing (state grants)
Radon (state grants)
Brownfields (state grants)
Tribes – air quality management (state grants)
Pesticides implementation (state grants)
Toxic substances compliance (state grants)

Wetlands (state grants)
Underground injection (state grants)
Drinking water grants (state grants)
Nonpoint source pollution (state grants)
Air quality grants (state grants)
Water pollution control (state grants)
Lead (state grants)
Tribal general assistance program (state grants)

--
Rebecca Leber
Reporter | Mother Jones
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
@RebLeber

From: "Daguillard, Robert" <Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov>
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 11:27 AM
To: Rebecca Leber <rleber@motherjones.com>, Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for comment on the White House budget

Rebecca, for attribution to "an EPA spokesperson," please:

We'll get back to you if we have anything to share.

Thanks, R.

Robert Daguillard
Office of Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC
+1 (202) 564-6618 (O)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

From: Rebecca Leber [mailto:rleber@motherjones.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:26 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Request for comment on the White House budget

Hi, a question from Mother Jones, my deadline is 2pm est, thank you:

Mr. Pruitt said the other week, "I am communicating a message that the Brownfields Program, the Superfund program, water infrastructure … are essential to protect" and hoped to get a comment on the White House's budget cutting the superfund budget from $762 million to $330 million. Also, a reaction on where the budget comes down on protecting drinking water and state grants.

Appreciate it

--
Rebecca Leber
Reporter | Mother Jones
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
@RebLeber

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 3/16/2017 7:53:22 PM
To: Gary Ridley [GRIDLEY@mlive.com]
CC: Clark Hughes [CHUGHES3@mlive.com]
Subject: RE: EPA Administrator Pruitt

Thank you. I'll send the embargoed release tonight.

From: Gary Ridley [mailto:GRIDLEY@mlive.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:51 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Clark Hughes <CHUGHES3@mlive.com>
Subject: RE: EPA Administrator Pruitt

We can work under the embargo for the press release. Do you plan to send that tonight?

As far as the op-ed, I'm off on Fridays. However, I'll inform all the necessary parties. That should be sent to me and chughes3@mlive.com. Just a note: our inside pages are made relatively early. I will give the print people a heads up to look for it, but the earlier you can send it the more likely it will get in print.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks.

--
Gary Ridley
News Leader
The Flint Journal-MLive Media Group
810-280-9516
gridley@mlive.com

From: Konkus, John [mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:42 PM
To: Gary Ridley <GRIDLEY@mlive.com>
Subject: RE: EPA Administrator Pruitt

That would be great. I will send you the embargoed press release so you all can have a head start on the news. The op-ed I'll send tomorrow if that's okay?

The press release will go out to the general list tomorrow at 11am ET.

From: Gary Ridley [mailto:GRIDLEY@mlive.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA Administrator Pruitt

I can't make any guarantees about print, but I can inform our print lab of its existence and encourage them to print it (which they usually follow). I can, however, get it up on our website.

Also, is there anything on tomorrow's announcement we can get on the record that I can forward over to a reporter?

--
Gary Ridley
News Leader
The Flint Journal-MLive Media Group
810-280-9516
gridley@mlive.com

From: Konkus, John [mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:20 PM
To: Gary Ridley <GRIDLEY@mlive.com>
Subject: RE: EPA Administrator Pruitt

Thank you Mr. Ridley. Tomorrow the EPA will be releasing some news about funding for Flint water infrastructure.

EPA Administrator Pruitt has penned a short 450 word op-ed / column about the funding and Flint in general. We would like to ask if your paper would consider printing it in your Saturday or Sunday edition?

Thank you for your consideration.

John Konkus
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Public Affairs
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Gary Ridley [mailto:GRIDLEY@mlive.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:14 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA Administrator Pruitt

John,
We don't really have an editorial page editor. I handle the day-to-day of the newsroom. Is there something I can help you with?

--
Gary Ridley
News Leader
The Flint Journal-MLive Media Group
810-280-9516
gridley@mlive.com

From: Konkus, John [mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:59 PM
To: MLive FLnews <flnews@mlive.com>
Subject: EPA Administrator Pruitt
Importance: High

I am trying to reach the editorial page editor. Can you please send me their phone number and email address?

Thank you,

John Konkus
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Public Affairs
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/24/2017 5:35:40 PM
To: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
CC: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: JOHN BUDGET FW: Budget Questions Re Specific Programs

Good

On Mar 24, 2017, at 1:18 PM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

Six requests below for which we can use this response:

Great Lakes Restoration, Chesapeake Bay, other specific programs

EPA Answer: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

OUTLET: CNN
Reporter: Brian Vitagliano
Question: Proposed Budget: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative?

OUTLET: Annapolis Capitol
Reporter: Chase Cook
Question: Wanted to know the impact of the President's budget proposal (if enacted) would have on Chesapeake Bay progress and funding.

OUTLET: Washington Post
Reporter: Denise Lu
Question: I'm working on a story with my colleague Tim Meko about how proposed EPA budget cuts would affect initiatives such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. We're wondering if you would have time to chat sometime today or tomorrow?

OUTLET: Vermont Public Radio
Reporter: Pete Hirschfeld
Question: I'm putting together a story on the impact of the EPA budget proposal on pollution-reduction efforts in Lake Champlain and other Vermont waterways, as well as other significant bodies of water in New England. If you're willing/able to talk about what the administration's proposal would mean, if it goes through as currently constituted, I'd be grateful.

OUTLET: CBC Radio (Victoria, BC)
Reporter: Nicole Crescenzi
Question: I was hoping to please speak with someone today about the recently announced budget cuts to the Puget Sound, as any effects will cross borders.

OUTLET: Cleveland Plain Dealer
Reporter: Steve Koff
Question: I'm writing about the president's budget and how it eliminates funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

When Scott Pruitt was confirmed as EPA administrator, he told Sen. Rob Portman that he was committed to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and its funding. Portman included that commitment in a statement explaining why he was voting to confirm Pruitt.

What exactly is the Administrator Pruitt's position on funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative? Did he request full funding or did his request match the White House's?

If he requested full funding, was he overruled, and by whom?

If he did not request full funding, did he mislead Sen. Portman?

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 4/17/2017 4:04:08 PM
To: Graham, Amy [graham.amy@epa.gov]
Subject: Missouri Plan Outline DRAFT.docx
Attachments: Missouri Plan Outline DRAFT.docx

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 4/17/2017 2:52:07 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
Subject: Missouri Briefing
Attachments: Missouri Plan Outline DRAFT.docx

John Konkus
Environmental Protection Agency
Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Mobile: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/22/2017 6:20:29 PM
To: Valentine, Julia [Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: JOHN: Washington Post request to a question about the auto industry asking for a reversal on locking in the 2022-25 carbon standards

Totally innocuous you can use your name.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 22, 2017, at 1:19 PM, Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov> wrote:

> John please see below.
>
> The only option would be for me to respond and cc you and tell her to use your name instead.
>
> That said, this is a totally innocuous statement.
>
> **From:** Eilperin, Juliet [mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:09 PM
> **To:** Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: a question about the auto industry asking for a reversal on locking in the 2022-25 carbon standards
>
> Thanks, Julia. Can I just refer to you by name, as in "agency spokeswoman Julia Valentine"?
>
> **From:** Valentine, Julia [mailto:Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:07 PM
> **To:** Eilperin, Juliet
> **Subject:** RE: a question about the auto industry asking for a reversal on locking in the 2022-25 carbon standards
>
> Hi Juliet,
>
> For attribution to the agency or an agency spokesperson.
>
> We are reviewing the letters.
>
> Thanks and sorry I don't have more for you right now.
>
> Julia P. Valentine
> Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.
> U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations
> 202.564.2663 direct
> Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) m/txt
>
> **From:** Eilperin, Juliet [mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:42 AM
> **To:** Valentine, Julia <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>

Subject: a question about the auto industry asking for a reversal on locking in the 2022-25 carbon standards

Dear Julia,
Is the EPA releasing a statement in response to the Auto Alliance's request that Administrator Pruitt reverse the administration's decision to lock in the 2022-2025 auto emissions standards?
Thanks, and I'm just at my office.
Juliet

Juliet Eilperin
Senior National Affairs Correspondent
Washington Post
Juliet.eilperin@washpost.com
(O) 202-334-7774
(C) Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
@eilperin

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 4/13/2017 3:35:10 PM
To: Wilkinson, Joe [jwilkinson@AECI.org]
Subject: RE: Question
Attachments: pre event messaging.docx

The attire question is a good one. Would slacks and a button down blue shirt with no tie be appropriate?

Very excited about the entrance!

Also can you send the name, bio, photo for the plant manager welcome and a bio and photo for Barry Hart, Executive VP and CEO of Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (AMEC)? Anyone else we should have bios for?

Finally, attached are some close hold talking points you all can use to do some of your pre-event communications as we discussed yesterday. Can you share these with Stephen?

Thank you Joe!

From: Wilkinson, Joe [mailto:jwilkinson@AECI.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Question

John,

Any idea how the Administrator will dress for the event? We're trying to decide what to tell our Executives who will be in attendance.

Also, we've come up with a welcome into the site that I think you'll really like. It will be a very appropriate entrance into the plant.

Joe

Sent from Surface

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 4/11/2017 7:09:24 PM
To: Dewey, Amy [Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]
Subject: Missouri Plan.docx
Attachments: Missouri Plan.docx

Please print. Thank you!

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 12/19/2018 9:29:04 PM
To: Kruesi, Kimberlee [KKruesi@ap.org]
Subject: RE: Media event tomorrow

The correction is up now. Thank you very much.

-----Original Message-----
From: Kruesi, Kimberlee <KKruesi@ap.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Media event tomorrow

I know, I bugged my news editor about this and it should be corrected soon. I didn't put this off so I'm not sure why it's not corrected yet.

Kimberlee Kruesi
The Associated Press
Nashville, Tennessee
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (cell)
@kkruesi (Twitter)

*NOTE: All emails are presumed to be on the record unless and until a mutually accepted negotiation of ground rules has successfully concluded. Any unilateral declation by recipient of this email that a conversation is on background or off the record will not be honored.

-----Original Message-----
From: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 2:43 PM
To: Kruesi, Kimberlee <KKruesi@ap.org>
Subject: RE: Media event tomorrow

Following up on this Kim:
https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.apnews.com%2F9044c79fdd6f4179b43ccc0283209509&data=02%7C01%7CKKruesi%40ap.org%7C0089ccf7440a4d4bc71708d665f287cf%7Ce442e1abfd6b4ba3abf3b020eb50df37%7C1%7C0%7C636808489678462591&sdata=kOcEeX8sOOjdUEuTkuUd7MQX3GNYtm1NsTu7OCUDX1s%3D&reserved=0

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----
From: Kruesi, Kimberlee <KKruesi@ap.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 9:14 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Media event tomorrow

Hi John, yes, we will fix once I get into the office. I apologize about that.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 19, 2018, at 5:04 AM, Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> Kimberlee: This quote from your article is misattributed, it is not from Acting Administrator Wheeler as you have indicated: "The EPA has done its job, now all of us in this room have to help to get this over the finish line," he said.
>
> I believe it was said by Zippy Duvall who said that.
>
> Can you please fix the article to reflect who actually said that?
>
> Thank you,
>
> John Konkus
> Environmental Protection Agency
> Deputy Associate Administrator
> Office of Public Affairs
>

>> On Dec 17, 2018, at 6:37 PM, Kruesi, Kimberlee <KKruesi@ap.org> wrote:
>>
>> Hello,
>>
>> Kim Kruesi here with AP in Nashville. I'll be attending the media event in Lebanon tomorrow. Thanks.
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>> The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.
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Sent: 12/19/2018 8:51:35 PM
To: Kruesi, Kimberlee [KKruesi@ap.org]
Subject: RE: Media event tomorrow

Ok. Thanks for following up.

-----Original Message-----
From: Kruesi, Kimberlee <KKruesi@ap.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Media event tomorrow

I know, I bugged my news editor about this and it should be corrected soon. I didn't put this off so I'm not sure why it's not corrected yet.

Kimberlee Kruesi
The Associated Press
Nashville, Tennessee
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (cell)
@KKruesi (Twitter)

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-----Original Message-----
From: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 2:43 PM
To: Kruesi, Kimberlee <KKruesi@ap.org>
Subject: RE: Media event tomorrow

Following up on this Kim:
https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.apnews.com%2F9044c79fdd6f4179b43ccc0283209509&data=02%7C01%7CKKruesi%40ap.org%7C0089ccf7440a4d4bc71708d665f287cf%7Ce442e1abfd6b4ba3abf3b020eb50df37%7C1%7C0%7C636808489678462591&sdata=kOcEeX8sOOjdUEuTkuUd7MQX3GNYtm1NsTu7OCUDX1s%3D&reserved=0

Thank you.

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From: Kruesi, Kimberlee <KKruesi@ap.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 9:14 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Media event tomorrow

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Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 12/19/2018 8:42:44 PM
To: Kruesi, Kimberlee [KKruesi@ap.org]
Subject: RE: Media event tomorrow

Following up on this Kim: https://www.apnews.com/9044c79fdd6f4179b43ccc0283209509

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----
From: Kruesi, Kimberlee <KKruesi@ap.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 9:14 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Media event tomorrow

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Sent: 12/19/2018 2:22:36 PM
To: Kruesi, Kimberlee [KKruesi@ap.org]
Subject: Re: Media event tomorrow

Thank you.

John Konkus
Environmental Protection Agency
Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Public Affairs

> On Dec 19, 2018, at 9:13 AM, Kruesi, Kimberlee <KKruesi@ap.org> wrote:
>
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>>
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Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 8/1/2018 3:41:53 PM
To: Scott-Forte, Londa [Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov]
Subject: DRAFT Press Release NPRM 7.31.18.docx
Attachments: Press Release NPRM 7.31.18.docx

Londa: The attached draft release is a close hold please. Can you develop a co-brand DOT/EPA masthead for this to go out under?

Thank you and let me know.

Message

From: Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]
Sent: 9/19/2018 2:48:57 PM
To: Sauerhage, Maggie [Sauerhage.Maggie@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Sierra magazine inquiry - Florence and hazardous waste

Yes.

From: Sauerhage, Maggie
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 10:48 AM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Sierra magazine inquiry - Florence and hazardous waste

Ok to use your name for attribution?

Maggie Sauerhage
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Matt Smith < Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) >
> **Date:** September 19, 2018 at 10:37:05 AM EDT
> **To:** Sauerhage.Maggie@epa.gov
> **Subject: Re: Sierra magazine inquiry - Florence and hazardous waste**
>
> Hi, Maggie, thanks -- great. Question on attribution: It'd help if I can quote someone by name. Would that be you?
>
> On Wed, Sep 19, 2018 at 10:33 AM Sauerhage, Maggie <Sauerhage.Maggie@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> > Good morning Matt,
> >
> > "EPA field teams are scheduled for deployment today to begin conducting post-storm assessments. The exact timing for assessments in North Carolina is yet to be determined. The sites in North Carolina will begin when flood waters recede and the conditions are safe for our teams." **– EPA spokesperson**
> >
> > For the latest update on EPA's response, please see our press release: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-hurricane-florence-update-tuesday-september-18-2018
> >
> > Thanks,
> >
> > Maggie
> >
> > Maggie Sauerhage
> > U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
> >
> > On Sep 19, 2018, at 9:34 AM, Matt Smith < Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) > wrote:

Later this morning, around 11:30. Is that doable?

On Wed, Sep 19, 2018 at 9:29 AM Sauerhage, Maggie <Sauerhage.Maggie@epa.gov> wrote:

Good morning Matt,

Thank you for your inquiry. What's your deadline?

Thanks,

Maggie

Maggie Sauerhage

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office: (202) 564-0443

Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Matt Smith Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Date: September 18, 2018 at 2:07:46 PM EDT
To: marraccini.davina@epa.gov
Subject: Sierra magazine inquiry - Florence and hazardous waste

Hi, Davina -- I'm writing a story for Sierra magazine online about the environmental hazards associated with the flooding we've seen from Hurricane Florence. I was wondering whether EPA has any reports of Superfund sites flooding, or whether any discharges of other hazardous materials have been reported. Does EPA have people checking on those sites?

I realize there are still a lot of unknowns out there, but whatever help you could offer would be greatly appreciated. Please shoot me back a line or give me a call at Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) when you get a chance.

Thanks,

- Matt Smith

Contributing writer, Sierra

Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 6/23/2016 5:21:06 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: STARTING SOON: White House to Host Press Call to Announce Winner of Smart City Challenge

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
June 23, 2016

White House to Host Press Call to Announce Winner of Smart City Challenge

WASHINGTON, DC - On Thursday, June 23, 2016 the White House will hold an on-the-record press call to announce the winning city of the Smart City Challenge. The winner, out of 78 cities that accepted the challenge, will receive up to $40 million from the Department of Transportation to prototype the future of transportation as part of the Obama Administration's efforts to accelerate game-changing technologies from self-driving cars to smart traffic lights to vehicle-to-vehicle communications.

WHO: Jeff Zients, Director of the National Economic Council
Secretary Anthony Foxx, Department of Transportation
Mayor Andrew Ginther, Columbus, Ohio
Barbara Bennett, President and Chief Operating Officer of Vulcan, Inc.

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

WHEN: Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 1:30PM ET

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 288-8961 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

###

Unsubscribe

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW · Washington DC 20500 · 202-456-1111

Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 10/17/2016 10:02:49 AM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: REMINDER: 9:30AM TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Highlight Progress in Education Under the Obama Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
October 16, 2016

9:30AM TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Highlight Progress in Education Under the Obama Administration

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Monday, October 17, the White House will host an on-the-record press call to preview the President's visit to Benjamin Banneker Academic High School and highlight the progress the Obama Administration has made over the last eight years to improve education across the country.

This call will be on-the-record and without embargo.

WHO: Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council
Secretary John King, U.S. Department of Education
June Atkinson, State Superintendent, North Carolina
Richard Ognibene, Chemistry and Physics Teacher at Fairport High School (NY) and 2015 inductee into the National Teachers Hall of Fame

WHEN: Today, Monday, October 17 at 9:30 AM EDT

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1093 and ask for the "White House Call."

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Message

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Sent: 12/29/2016 11:21:34 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: Press Call on the Administration Response to Russian Malicious Cyber Activity and Harassment

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 29, 2016

PRESS CALL
ON THE ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE
TO RUSSIAN MALICIOUS CYBER ACTIVITY AND HARASSMENT

Via Conference Call

2:42 P.M EST

MR. STROH: Thank you very much and, everyone, thanks for joining our call this afternoon. This will be a background press conference call on the administration response to Russian malicious cyber activity and harassment. I will introduce the senior administration officials that we have here on the call, but as a reminder, they'll be referred to on background as senior administration officials. And secondly, we'll embargo the content of this call until the call concludes, so please no tweeting or filing while the call is ongoing.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thanks, everybody. I'll just make some brief comments and then turn it over to my other colleagues.

So today's actions were all approved by President Obama as a package of steps that is in response to very disturbing Russian threats to U.S. national security. And we're responding here to a pattern of Russian behavior that has been evident over some time.

First of all, as you are all aware, in October, we took the very unique step of publicly attributing efforts to interfere in the U.S. election to Russia. And as you know, we've continued to refine and develop our assessment of those Russian efforts and, as President Obama has directed, there will be a report issued summarizing what we know with respect to those efforts. And we can talk about that later in the Q&A.

In addition, as my State colleague can speak to, we've seen other Russian actions that aim to directly interfere with the conduct of U.S. foreign policy, particularly a pattern of harassment of our diplomats inside of Russia. So the range of actions announced today are in response to those Russian provocations and actions. They include a set of sanctions that my colleague from Treasury can speak to, include some important efforts that we're taking with respect to cybersecurity and

attribution, and include some actions against some of the Russian personnel and facilities here in the United States. And, again, each of my colleagues will speak to the unique actions taken.

I would just add this is not the sum total of everything that we are doing in response to Russia's actions, including its malicious cyber activities and its interference in our election. As President Obama and others have said, some of those actions will be public and some of them will not. And today, we are announcing a series of the public measures that we're taking, but that should not be mistaken for the sum total of our response.

I'd also note that this should come as no surprise to the Russian government, given that we have warned publicly and privately, including directly from President Obama to President Putin, that there would be a response for these Russian actions. So, again, we've been very clear about our intent here.

The only other thing I'd say by way of an introduction is that this really serves two purposes. One, there has to be a cost and a consequence for what Russia has done. It is an extraordinary step for them to interfere in the democratic process here in the United States of America, and there needs to be a price for that. They need to be held accountable for that. And we believe that this should be of concern to all Americans, as the President said in his statement and to members of Congress from both parties, because this was an attack on our democratic system, and we're responding in kind.

Secondly, we also believe that these steps are important because Russia is not going to stop. We have every indication that they will continue to interfere in democratic elections in other countries, including some of our European allies. There's no reason to believe that they will not try to interfere in future American elections, be they state and local elections, midterm elections, or future presidential elections. And so we also need to publicize what we know about who is responsible, demonstrate that there's a cost, try to reveal what we know about how Russia operates in this space. And, again, more of that information will be in the report that the President has directed be prepared, but some of that is embedded in the response that we're taking today.

With that, I'll turn it over to my colleague to talk through the sanctions in particular.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thank you. The number of significant actions that the President took and that Treasury has taken today -- first, I wanted to note that the President has amended the Cyber Executive Order, and that's an executive order that he issued originally in April of last year, which was meant to target malicious cyber activity by state or non-state actors anywhere in the world who were tampering with the infrastructure, who were disrupting the ability of networks of computers -- for example, through DDoS attacks -- or who were

misappropriating funds -- basically cyber -- or cyber theft of intellectual property for commercial gain.

The single prong that the President has added today makes clear that we will -- future administrations will have the authority to go after those who are tampering with or misappropriating through cyber means with the purpose or effect of interfering with election processes. And that's basically the progress the President is -- on with the actions today.

Under this new authority, the President has sanctioned nine entities and individuals. First and foremost, two Russian intelligence services -- the GRU and the FSB -- four individual officers of the GRU who are the senior-most ranking leaders of the GRU, as well as three companies -- Russian companies that have provided material support to the GRU's cyber operation. Those companies are the Special Technology Center St. Petersburg, Zorsecurity, and the Autonomous Noncommercial Organization, which is often known by its acronym, ANO PO KSI -- all of which have provided cyber services and training to the GRU.

In addition to the actions taken by the President under the -- executive order, Treasury is targeting two Russian individuals, Evgeniy Bogachev and Aleksey Belan, under the preexisting cyber EO. In both cases, they're notorious cyber criminals who have been responsible for major (inaudible) and havoc in the international financial system, including against American companies.

Bogachev and the cyber criminals associated have been responsible for the theft of over $100 million -- U.S. financial institutions, as well as Fortune 500 (audio drop) universities and government agencies. And Belan has been responsible for compromising at least three major e-commerce companies and misappropriating the data, including private identifying data, from those companies.

As all of these actions make clear, we will not tolerate the abuse of our systems, including our election systems, by foreign actors. And these authorities are standing authorities that can be drawn upon in the future, as well.

I'll now turn it over to my colleague.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thank you. I wanted to talk with you all about the Joint Analysis Report that we issued today along with the FBI. As you know, on October 7th of this year, DHS and the DNI issued a joint statement that attributed the compromise of emails from U.S. persons and institutions, including a U.S. political organization, and the subsequent disclosure of those emails to the Russian government.

So today, with this Joint Analysis Report, we are expanding on that statement and providing details on the tools and the infrastructure used by the Russian military and civilian intelligence services to compromise and exploit networks and endpoints associated with the recent election,

and -- to include state-owned voter registration databases, as well as a range U.S. government political and private sector entities.

And a key objective in the release of this information today, of course, is to -- particularly the technical124 information is to better help network defenders in the United States and abroad to identify, detect and disrupt Russia's global campaign of malicious cyber activities.

The establishment of the attributions back to the Russian intelligence service is based on a U.S. government assessment that incorporates the technical information that's included in this JAR, the Joint Analysis Report, as well as the intelligence information and collection. Russia's civilian and military intelligence services have been engaged in aggressive and sophisticated cyber-enabled operations targeting the U.S. government and its citizens for a number of years. We are referring to this set of malicious cyber activity as GRIZZLY STEPPE -- and that's S-T-E-P-P-E -- and that becomes relevant for things like finding this JAR on the -- on our website. You can find it at US-CERT -- that's C-E-R-T -- .gov/grizzlysteppe. So again, that's G-R-I-Z-Z-L-Y-S-T-E-P-P-E, all one word.

These operations that we're describing in the JAR included spear-phishing campaigns, which have targeted government organizations, political infrastructure entities, think tanks, universities, political organizations, and corporations. Theft of information from these organizations and, specifically, recently, the public release of that information in operation of targeting other countries, including U.S. allies and partners -- Russian intelligence services have undertaken damaging or disruptive cyberattacks, including on critical infrastructure, in some cases, masquerading as a third parties or hiding behind false online personas which are designed to cause the victim to misattribute the source of the attack.

The JAR itself provides technical indicators that are related to many of these operations. Importantly, it lays out in an extended section of the JAR recommended mitigations, and, equally important, information on how to report incidents or detection of malicious indicators or activities to the U.S. government.

The JAR does recognize that some really excellent work has been done already by security companies and the private sector networks' owners or operators themselves. And some of this information is -- they have provided previously. But we are also providing new indicators of compromised malicious infrastructure identified during our own course of investigations and incident response, along with the Bureau. Again, we're focused on providing network defenders with the tools they need to identify and detect and disrupt Russian malicious activity targeting our country's networks.

So again, in the JAR itself, we have provided some descriptions of approaches that Russian intelligence services used, as well as some of the technical indicators, including Internet protocol addresses, the set of

numbers that basically serves as an address for each computer in their use to transmit data to and between computers. These IT addresses are -- reflect infrastructure that the Russian intelligence services are using, and oftentimes it's other people's networks without the owner's knowledge. And they do that, obviously, to hide their malicious activity, but that means that these addresses also host, oftentimes, legitimate websites and other Internet services. And so we are providing this information for network defenders, network administrators to be able to use to try to detect and put on their watch list so that they can be alert to potential malicious activity.

We've also released -- it's not included in the JAR, but separately we've released two malware samples that Russian intelligence services use to broadly conduct their malicious activities, and we've given those to antivirus vendors so that they can be used to help, again, both private sector and government folks defend their networks.

We've provided a subseries of questions that companies need to be asking themselves, as well as a list of steps that they can take, some basic cyber hygiene practices that are really important and can actually stop 85 percent of the malicious activity that we see. We're going to continue our NCCIC, our National Cybersecurity Communications Integration Center, to look at the research and analysis, and we will continue to issue subsequent updates to the JAR if and when additional information becomes available.

And so we really urge that folks out there continue to check the US-CERT website and, again, both implement these recommended mitigations, but also provide information to the government to help fill in the bigger picture. What we're asking the companies to do is to take this technical information, go back through their logs and see if they see indications of this malicious activity in the past. Because knowledge of these historical incidents -- even if the bad actors are no longer active in your system -- it's important for the government to know about it and understand it. It helps to fill in the bigger picture, provides greater insight into the scope and scale of Russian activity, and helps all the network defenders.

DHS has added these indicators to the automated information sharing that we have implemented this year, which provides them to companies that sign up at machine speed. And so we encourage companies to continue to sign up to receive those indicators.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thanks, I'm here at State. You all saw the statement that we put out earlier today with the other interagency statements on the President's decisions. We implemented two of his decisions. We declared persona non grata 35 Russian officials operating in the U.S. who were acting in a manner inconsistent with their diplomatic and consular duties. And we also have denied Russian personnel access to two Russian-owned compounds in the United States. And this is part of the comprehensive response to their interference in our elections and a pattern of harassment. I have some details on the harassment, as well,

but maybe I'll stop there. I've got details on the harassment for later in the conversation.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Great. Any of you guys want to say -- before we open to questions?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I would just add that the actions inconsistent with their responsibilities and duties that my colleague referred to were intelligence activities. And the two facilities which the Russians are now denied access to were used for intelligence collection activities, as well.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And I would just add that from our view, the purpose of the indicator release is really twofold. One is to put the weight of the U.S. government behind the attribution of a lot of this activity to the Russian government and their intelligence services so that network defenders should prioritize fixing those issues and identifying that, because that is sponsored by a government that is carrying out malicious aggressive activity against us. And two, to cause them some operational friction and inhibit their ability, at least for a little while, to carry out their activities and to cause them some problems.

Q Hi, thanks very much. Can you comment broadly on how difficult it would be or easy it might be for President-elect Trump to undo some of the things that you've been announcing today? And specifically how difficult or easy would it be for him to allow some of the officials back into the country who are being asked to leave?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'll start and see if any of my colleagues want to weigh in.

First of all, we're taking these actions consistent with our assessment of what Russia has done. To be very clear here, they have been interfering in both the American democratic process and in the conduct of American diplomacy. And so this should be of concern to all Americans -- again, to members of both parties, members of Congress from both parties. This has been a sustained effort to both harass our diplomatic personnel and interfere in our democratic process. And as I said, we have no reason to believe that Russia's activities will cease.

They have been engaged in malicious cyber activity for some time now. They have interfered in democratic elections not just here in the United States, but other countries. So one reason why I think that it is necessary to sustain these actions is because there's every reason to believe that Russia will interfere in future U.S. elections and future elections around the world.

That said, to your question, these are executive actions. So if a future President decided that he wanted to allow in a large tranche of Russian intelligence agents, presumably a future President could invite that action. We think it would be inadvisable. As my colleague just

said, these diplomatic compounds were being used for intelligence purposes. That is a direct challenge to U.S. national security, and I don't think it would make much sense to reopen Russian intelligence compounds.

Secondly, the officials who have been PNGed are Russian intelligence agents. So I don't think it would make much sense to invite back in Russian intelligence agents. The officials who were sanctioned were participating in malicious cyberattacks on U.S. critical infrastructure and interfering in our democratic process. So, again, hypothetically you could reverse those sanctions, but it wouldn't make a lot of sense.

I don't know if any of my colleagues have anything they want to add to that.

Q You've made reference at several points to attacks on critical infrastructure in the U.S., and I was wondering does that include the campaign against U.S. companies in 2014, U.S. energy companies? And does it also include other things that you could identify?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Certainly, so I think in broad terms we know that the Russian government has targeted critical infrastructure around the world, and it is part of their normal operating procedures. And if you look at the list of malware and other kinds of activity that are listed in the JAR as being tied to the Russian intelligence services, you would see some of those that are aimed at critical infrastructure, such as BlackEnergy and Havex. So that's the kind of activity that we're talking about.

Q Thank you for doing the call. First of all, I was wondering if you could talk about the chronology of the way you're doing this. Russia has been saying for weeks now if you guys really have evidence that we were behind this, prove it, show us what you have. And so why are you doing the announcement of these retaliatory actions before you're releasing this report that the President has promised that ostensibly would back up the accusations that you've made?

And then for State, you guys are saying that the actions to kick out the diplomats and shutter these compounds are related to harassment, which is kind of a separate issue, but you're rolling it out as part of this big package. So is it fair to say that the decision to move forward with those penalties now is part of your attempt to be tougher on Russia over the cyber actions? Thanks.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, let me just start on that. On your second question, I think for the -- we've been looking at the issue of how to respond to the harassment of our diplomats for some time, but the fact is it's hard for us to separate that from the context of a foreign power also interfering in our democratic election.

So it's fair to say that President Obama's direction was that we should look at these actions as interconnected, and that the same hostile

posture and the same flagrant violation of basic norms of international behavior that guided their harassment of our diplomatic personnel are also seen in the interference in our election. So again, that's why we looked at this as a package. And, frankly, if you look at the actions taken with respect to the diplomatic personnel and facilities, they were also related to an intelligence purpose. So just as it was a Russian intelligence effort that was tied to the interference in our election, we see a nexus to Russian intelligence and the actions taken by the State Department today in addition to the response of the harassment of our diplomats. And my State colleague can speak to the harassment of diplomats.

On your first question, look, we don't -- we actually, as you know, publicly put out the assessment that Russia was interfering in our election in early October. So we have been public with that assessment for some time now. Frankly, if you look at who is designated and what entities are designated and what's in the JAR, you begin to get a sense of our assessment of how Russia approached those issues. And what we'll be doing in the report that the President asked for is look comprehensively at the information that we have and the analysis that flows from that information.

This is not in question, though. There's no debate in the U.S. administration about the fact -- and it is a fact -- that Russia interfered in our democratic election. We've established that clearly to our satisfaction. I would never expect Russia to come out with their hands up and acknowledge what they did. They don't do that. They didn't do that -- they still deny that they are intervening in eastern Ukraine. And, frankly, I'd say to journalists, let's look at what they say and what they do. This is a country that has intervened in a sovereign country and denied that they did it, even though everybody could see that they were doing it, with respect to Ukraine; that has bombed civilians in Syria while denying that they were doing it.

So we don't see this as a he said, she said situation, we see this as, there are facts and then there are things that Russia says.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I would also add, and maybe my colleague can speak to this more directly, but the process of putting together sanctions packages is extremely onerous and requires evidence that can stand up in court. So this is a very intense, elaborate process with a lot of input from agencies across the board.

We don't need to tell the Russian government what it's been doing. It knows what it's doing. We owe it to the American people to explain what the Russian government is doing, and the President's instruction for the U.S. government to do a report on what happened is exactly directed at explaining to the American people what happened. But we don't need to make the case to the Russians, for all the reasons that my colleague has laid out.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: State, you may want to talk about the harassments.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, the pattern of harassment over several years is really disturbing, and we felt -- and were pleased with the President's decision to do something about it.

They have -- you saw the YouTube video of the June 6th incident where our diplomat was assaulted by a Russian police officer. Embassy officials have been harassed and detained on their routine diplomatic travels around the country. Russian state-owned television has put some of our diplomats at risk by putting personal details about them on TV. They've blocked our ability to make our consulate general in St. Petersburg safe, in terms of the perimeter of security and new construction. They've closed 28 American Corners around the country and the American Center, which is making it impossible for us to do our job in terms of culture, education, and people-to-people ties.

So a whole series of pattern of actions over a number over years is what triggered this part of the decision.

Q Hi, thanks for doing this. Just to be clear here, the Russians that are being expelled from here and denied access to these -- you called them recreational compounds -- are you saying, one, these very intelligence officers are involved, or is that something they -- out of Moscow? And two, are you talking about a compound within the embassy compound or someplace else, say in Washington?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can speak to that, but I believe my colleague would be best positioned to do so.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The compounds are not part -- are not contiguous with the embassy. One is in Maryland and one is in New York. They are compounds that the Russian government owns and that they use for multiple purposes -- as described by my colleague, intelligence, but also recreational, as well. And under the Foreign Missions Act, we have the authority to restrict their access to these properties based on their pattern of behavior.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And just to be absolutely clear, there are 35 Russian diplomats -- actually intelligence officers -- who were PNGed by State. The denial of access to the two compounds is all Russian personnel. The Russian missions in Washington, in New York -- all Russian personnel will be denied access to those two compounds beginning at noon tomorrow, or December 30th. And those who were PNGed have 72 hours from the moment of having been informed to leave. So they should be gone, by my calculation, that would be Sunday -- by noon on Sunday. And for the Russian speakers among you, I will wish you s novym godom.

Q Thanks very much. First of all, President-elect Trump said on Wednesday that we ought to "get on with our lives" when asked about sanctioning Russia. So there have been reports that some of the other actions, the not-public actions that were to be taken against Russia was going to be left to the next administration. Is that the case? Or are

there other non-public actions that are already being taken? And is your decision -- will your decision in any way change based on the signals coming from the President-elect that he does not believe that this is a matter that should be pursued, the election matter itself?

And would you describe the harassment against our diplomats in Moscow as unusual, or -- are you focused on the normal pattern of behavior, or is this unusual between us and the Russians in terms of what you've seen, as you just described?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So on your first question, as you've heard us say many times, our approach is that there's one President at a time, and that President Obama is going to execute the duties of his office until January 20th. And he is acting in what he believes to be the best interest of the United States.

I'd say a couple of things. One is, there are any number of actions that we're taking -- some we announce, some we don't -- that will be in process as the next administration takes office. So again, there may be things that commence while we're in office in addition to what we're saying today. When the new administration takes office, it's entirely their judgment as to whether or not they continue down the course that we have set in a number of different areas.

I guess what I'd suggest is that the Russian actions have been sustained over an extended period of time, and by any definition are against the national interests of the United States, not the interests of President Obama. The harassment of our diplomats -- which is not in line, frankly, with the way things have been in the past; it's been escalating steadily for some time -- is a direct threat to the ability of the United States of America to conduct diplomacy. And I would think that that would be of concern to future administrations.

The interference in our election is a pattern that we see in other Western democracies, including some of our closest allies. And I think future administrations would find it concerning if there are efforts to undermine the democracies of our closest allies in the world.

What we've seen in general with their malicious cyber activity has targeted our critical infrastructure beyond even our election process. So I would think that the malicious cyber-targeting of American critical infrastructure would be of concern to future administrations. I'd note, from our own consultations, that this is an issue of great concern to American business, and so I would expect that future administrations would be concerned about the threat to the American economy from malicious Russian cyber activity.

So again, as I said earlier, some of the actions we're taking have to do with Russian intelligence efforts, which, again, are aimed at harming the national security of the United States. I would think that future administrations would be concerned about those efforts. If they aren't, then they should explain why, and they'll have the opportunity to explain

why. But I think clearly we're taking these actions because of what has been a pattern of behavior over an extended period of time that we've seen replicated in other countries, and we believe it's the right approach to take.

I don't know if my colleagues want to comment on the kind of historical perspective of harassment.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, my understanding -- and I'll leave it to my colleague -- but my understanding is the State Department assesses that the pattern of Russian harassment of our diplomatic mission in Russia is unprecedented for the post-Cold War era, that this really was a change in behavior in the last two or so years.

But I'll turn it over to my colleague for the authoritative comment.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Just to agree with you and my colleague, nothing to add from here. Exactly right.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I just want to emphasize that, of course, the Joint Analytic Report contains information also that does go beyond just the election's malicious cyber activity, and again, to highlight activity aimed at critical infrastructure but also other non-governmental organizations, really a broad campaign. And the list of actors and actor sets, and of malware, et cetera, including BlackEnergy and Havex, is an indication of how broad this campaign is and how serious it is.

Q Thanks very much. Can you explain to us why these activities come -- why these actions come at the time that they do? There was obviously a debate about taking each of the steps that you've announced today prior to the election. There was -- there's obviously been concern about retaliation by the -- and escalation by the Russians. Can you say whether or not you believe in retrospect that you wish you had acted earlier? And can you also on just one factual issue tell us whether or not the facilities that you've closed in New York and Maryland you believe were just generally intelligence facilities, or whether they were used as part of the DNC and other hacking activity here?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Your second question obviously kind of gets pretty precise on intelligence equities, so I don't think we can speak to that.

On the timing question, look, I'd say there are a range of factors here. Number one, each one of these steps takes a different amount of time to prepare. As you know -- and my colleague can speak if he wants to -- sanctions packages are time consuming, as you're establishing both the basis for the action and then refining the target list. The JAR itself is a complex procedure, as we are putting together the information that we can share publicly that provides the best possible guidance about what we know. And then obviously, the response to the harassment is something we've been focused on for some time.

So a number of points. First of all, with respect to how this fit around the election, I think our first priority was to publicly disclose the information. So before we were going to take an action, the most important thing was to make public what we knew, and we did that on October 7th. And that was a fairly unique, if not unprecedented, step to come out with a common view of the U.S. intelligence community that a foreign power, Russia, was interfering in our election. So point one is getting out that information.

We also wanted to give a warning directly to the Russians accompanying that public message and also in private, which he did at numerous times, about the fact that we knew what they were doing, and that we would be preparing a response. And we therefore wanted to have them absorb that message and have that effect -- see how that affected their behavior.

We also, frankly, in the run-up to the election were very focused on securing the election itself. And we have no indication at all that the efforts included tampering with the vote. And so in terms of a priority for a lot of our cybersecurity efforts, we wanted to make sure that our election was secure. And the warning to Russia combined with our efforts to secure the voting process I think was a priority.

Let's also bear in mind that even as we have made this disclosure and were preparing these steps, material had been hacked and was being released. So it's not as if that genie could be put back into the bottle. We were putting this together and preparing a response in the context in which this information had been shared with other parities and was being publicly released and widely reported on by our news media. So what we wanted to do then is methodically work through these different elements: What could we do on sanctions? How are we going to deal with Russia's diplomatic presence here in the United States? What are we doing with the JAR? And how are we preparing other elements? And that takes some amount of time to put together. And we also wanted to, again, do some of this as a package.

So I think the President has been very deliberate: Let's gather the information; when we had enough confidence to put it out, we released it publicly. We issued a warning. We worked to secure our election. We worked to develop these responses. When the responses were complete, we aligned them so that we would be doing this as a package. And that I think explains the nature of the timeline.

I don't know if anybody wants to speak to individual components of that process in terms of how they were put together.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think I can just add that from the very start of when, even going back some time, we have been engaging diplomatically with the Russians and raising our concerns about their activity -- even if not all of that became public -- whenever we learn about or detect intrusions into companies or organizations, we do

notifications to those companies, and we go and we tell them. DHS began ramping up its coordination, as my colleague was talking about, in order to make sure that we doing everything possible to secure the electoral infrastructure. We started that back in the summer.

All this has been building for some period of time. So it's not like all of these actions sort of popped in kind of right now out of the blue, they are really part of a long-term effort that we've been building over time to push back on this kind of Russian behavior, and they're setting the stage for the fact that we will have to continue to deter and push back on this kind of behavior going into the future.

MR. STROH: All right. Thank you very much for participating in today's call and, as of now, the call is concluded and the embargo is lifted. Thanks, everyone. Have a nice day.

END 3:27 P.M. EST

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From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 10/16/2016 8:08:58 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: 9:30AM TOMORROW: White House to Host Press Call to Highlight Progress in Education Under the Obama Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
October 16, 2016

9:30AM TOMORROW: White House to Host Press Call to Highlight Progress in Education Under the Obama Administration

WASHINGTON, DC – On Monday, October 17, the White House will host an on-the-record press call to preview the President's visit to Benjamin Banneker Academic High School and highlight the progress the Obama Administration has made over the last eight years to improve education across the country.

This call will be on-the-record and without embargo.

WHO: Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council
Secretary John King, U.S. Department of Education
June Atkinson, State Superintendent, North Carolina
Richard Ognibene, Chemistry and Physics Teacher at Fairport High School (NY) and 2015 inductee into the National Teachers Hall of Fame

WHEN: Tomorrow, Monday, October 17 at 9:30 AM EDT

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1093 and ask for the "White House Call."

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Sent: 5/12/2016 9:55:37 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: President Obama Announces More Key Administration Posts

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2016

President Obama Announces More Key Administration Posts

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate the following individual to a key Administration post:

- **Christopher E. O'Connor** – Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs

President Obama also announced his intent to appoint the following individuals to key Administration posts:

- **Tamara L. Lundgren** – Member, Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations
- **Inge G. Thulin** – Member, Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations
- **Naseem Kourosh** – Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- **Barbara Satin** – Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- **Manjit Singh** – Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- **Jack Martin Brandt** – Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- **Dan Habib** – Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- **Michelle C. Reynolds** – Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- **Ricardo Thornton, Sr.** – Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- **Rev. Thomas J. Reese, S.J.** – Member, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
- **John Ruskay** – Member, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom

President Obama said, "These fine public servants bring a depth of experience and tremendous dedication to their important roles. I look forward to working with them."

President Obama announced his intent to nominate the following individual to a key Administration post:

Christopher E. O'Connor, Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs
Christopher E. O'Connor is Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Previously, he served as Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs from 2010 to 2015. Mr. O'Connor served in various roles in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1979 to 2009, including Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar from 2006 to 2009 and Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps from 2004 to 2006. He served with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing as Assistant Wing Commander from 2003 to 2004 and as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations from 2002 to 2003 in Okinawa, Japan. Mr. O'Connor received a B.A. from the University of Rochester and an M.A. from The George Washington University.

President Obama announced his intent to appoint the following individuals to key Administration posts:

Tamara L. Lundgren, Appointee for Member, Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations
Tamara L. Lundgren is the President and Chief Executive Officer at Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., a position she has held since 2008. She first joined Schnitzer Steel Industries Inc. as Chief Strategy Officer in 2005. Ms. Lundgren was a Managing Director at JPMorgan Chase in London and New York from 2001 to 2004 and a Managing Director at Deutsche Bank AG in New York and London from 1996 to 2001. She was a partner at Hogan & Hartson LLP in Washington, D.C from 1995 to 1996. Since 2015, Ms. Lundgren has served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Ryder System, Inc., Parsons Corporation, and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Portland Branch. Ms. Lundgren received a B.A. from Wellesley College and a J.D. from the Northwestern University School of Law.

Inge G. Thulin, Appointee for Member, Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations
Inge G. Thulin is Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of 3M Company, positions he has held since 2012. He held a number of executive and managerial roles at 3M since 1979, including Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer from 2011 to 2012, Executive Vice President of International Operations from 2003 to 2011, and Vice President of the Company's Europe and Middle East areas from 2002 to 2003. Mr. Thulin is a member on various boards, including Chevron Corporation, World Childhood Foundation, The Business Council, Business Roundtable, and the Council on Foreign Relations. He previously served as a member on the Board of Directors of the Toro Company. Mr. Thulin received a B.A. and M.B.A. from University of Gothenburg.

Naseem Kourosh, Appointee for Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
Naseem Kourosh is the Human Rights Officer at the U.S. Bahá'í Office of Public Affairs, a position she has held since 2011. In this position, Ms. Kourosh defends the rights of persecuted Bahá'í communities, works to advance international religious freedom, and engages with colleagues and partners in discourse and advocacy around human rights issues. Before joining the U.S. Bahá'í Office of Public Affairs, she practiced commercial litigation at law firms in New York City, clerked at the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, and worked with several human rights

organizations. Ms. Kourosh received a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from the New York University School of Law.

Barbara Satin, Appointee for Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
Barbara Satin is the Assistant Faith Work Director for the National LGBTQ Task Force. She is an active member of the United Church of Christ and served on the denomination's Executive Council as its first openly transgender member. Ms. Satin recently worked on the development of Spirit on Lake, a LGBTQ senior housing project in Minneapolis. She served on the Board of Directors for OutFront Minnesota from 2001 to 2008 and has served as Chair of GLBT Generations since 1999. She has also served on the Board of Directors of PFund Foundation, a regional LGBTQ community foundation advancing social justice in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin, since 2013.

Manjit Singh, Appointee for Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
Manjit Singh is the President of Agilious, a software technology consulting firm she founded in 2013. He is also co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, a national Sikh American media, policy, and education organization. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Guru Gobind Singh Foundation and also as a Member-at-Large on the Board of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington. Mr. Singh received an M.S. from the State University of New York at Albany and a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Bombay, India.

Jack Martin Brandt, Appointee for Chair, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Jack Brandt is the Disability Policy Specialist for the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University, a position he has held since 2010. Mr. Brandt was a Disability Rights Advocate at the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy from 2008 to 2010, and a Disability Policy Consultant for the State of Virginia from 2006 to 2008. He was a Governor's Fellow at Virginia's Office of Community Integration for People with Disabilities in 2006. Mr. Brandt has served on the Virginia Community Integration Advisory Commission since 2011 and on the Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council from 2006 to 2012. He received the Colorado Award from the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services in 2013, the Participatory Action Research Award from The Arc of the U.S. in 2012, and the Jackie Crews Award for Excellence in Leadership from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities in 2006. He was first appointed as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities in 2010. Mr. Brandt received a B.A. from James Madison University and an M.S. from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dan Habib, Appointee for Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Dan Habib is a Filmmaker and Project Director of the Inclusive Communities Project at the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability, where he has worked since 2008. Mr. Habib has held a few positions at *Concord Monitor* from 1998 to 2008, including Photography Editor, freelance photographer, and Staff Photographer. Mr. Habib created a nationally broadcasted film about his son, *Including Samuel*. He received the Humanitarian Service Award from the University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science, and the Arts in 2015 and the Justice for All Grassroots

Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities in 2013. He was first appointed as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities in 2014. Mr. Habib received a B.A. from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Michelle C. Reynolds, Appointee for Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Dr. Michelle C. Reynolds is a Research Associate with the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) Institute for Human Development, Missouri's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, a position she has held since 1997. At UMKC, Dr. Reynolds serves as the Director of the Individual Advocacy and Family Support and Missouri Family-to-Family Disability Resource Center. She holds various leadership positions with the National Community of Practice for Supporting Families of Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and Missouri's Family-to-Family Health Information Center. She was first appointed as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities in 2014. Dr. Reynolds received a B.A. and M.A. from Rockhurst University and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Ricardo Thornton, Sr., Appointee for Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Ricardo Thornton, Sr. has worked at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library in Washington, D.C. since 1978. Mr. Thornton is a member of Project ACTION!, a coalition of adults with disabilities. He is a member of the D.C. Developmental Disabilities Council, serves on the Special Olympics Board of Directors, and an actor with the theatre group Players Unlimited. Mr. Thornton and his wife Donna were the subjects of *Profoundly Normal*, a made-for-TV movie. In 1997, he was selected by *The Washingtonian* as a Washingtonian of the Year. He was first appointed as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities in 2014.

Rev. Thomas J. Reese, S.J., Appointee for Member, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
Rev. Thomas J. Reese, S.J. is a Senior Analyst for the National Catholic Reporter, where he has worked since 2005. Rev. Reese was Editor-in-Chief of *America* magazine from 1998 to 2005 and an associate editor from 1978 to 1985. Additionally, Rev. Reese was a Senior Fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center from 2006 to 2013 and from 1988 to 1998. Rev. Reese entered the Jesuits in 1962 and was ordained in 1974. He was first appointed to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in 2014. Rev. Reese received a B.A. and M.A. from St. Louis University, an M.Div. from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. John Ruskay, Appointee for Member, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
Dr. John Ruskay is a partner at JRB Consulting Services, a position he has held since 2014. Dr. Ruskay is currently the Executive Vice President-Emeritus of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, where he previously served as Executive Vice President & CEO from 1999 to 2014. He began his tenure at the UJA Federation working in a variety of roles in 1993 including Chief Operating Officer, Group Vice President for Program Services, and Executive Director for Education and Community Services. From 1985 to 1993, Dr. Ruskay served as the Vice Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. From 1980 to 1985, he was the Education Director of the 92nd Street Y. Dr. Ruskay received a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 6/23/2016 3:41:19 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: White House to Host Press Call to Announce Winner of Smart City Challenge

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
June 23, 2016

White House to Host Press Call to Announce Winner of Smart City Challenge

WASHINGTON, DC - On Thursday, June 23, 2016 the White House will hold an on-the-record press call to announce the winning city of the Smart City Challenge. The winner, out of 78 cities that accepted the challenge, will receive up to $40 million from the Department of Transportation to prototype the future of transportation as part of the Obama Administration's efforts to accelerate game-changing technologies from self-driving cars to smart traffic lights to vehicle-to-vehicle communications.

WHO: Jeff Zients, Director of the National Economic Council
Secretary Anthony Foxx, Department of Transportation
Mayor Andrew Ginther, Columbus, Ohio
Barbara Bennett, President and Chief Operating Officer of Vulcan, Inc.

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

WHEN: Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 1:30PM ET

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 288-8961 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/20/2016 3:18:48 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: Press Call on the Upcoming Trip to Vietnam and Japan

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate
Release

May 19, 2016

ON-THE-RECORD CONFERENCE CALL
BY BEN RHODES, DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS;
AMBASSADOR MIKE FROMAN, THE U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE;
WALLY ADEYEMO, THE DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS;
AND DAN KRITENBRINK, THE SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS
AT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
ON THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO VIETNAM AND JAPAN

Via Telephone

4:22 P.M. EDT

MR. STROH: Thank you very much. And, everyone, thanks for joining us this afternoon on a press conference call to preview the President's trip to Vietnam and Japan. Today we have with us Ambassador Mike Froman, the U.S. Trade Representative; Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications; Wally Adeyemo, the Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics; and Dan Kritenbrink, the Senior Director for Asian Affairs at the National Security Council. As a reminder, this call is on the record, but we will embargo the call until the conclusion of the call.

And with that, I'll turn it over to Ben Rhodes.

MR. RHODES: Great. Thanks, everybody, for joining the call. I'll just start by giving an overview of the President's schedule and some of the key objectives of the trip. I'll hand it over to Wally to speak to the G7, the process in which he's U.S. sherpa and lead, and then to Ambassador Froman to speak to some of the trade issues particularly related to TPP, given that we are traveling to two TPP countries.

First of all, let me just say at the outset that this trip I think continues to demonstrate and elevate the President's focus on the Asia Pacific region. The Asia rebalance has been a central objective of the

President's broader foreign policy and economic policy, rooted in our belief that this largest-emerging market in the world is critical to our future prosperity and also central to a whole host of critical U.S. national security interests as well.

And this trip, in particular, highlights both the emerging U.S. partnership with Vietnam that has already grown by leaps and bounds since the normalization process began, but is poised to be elevated to a new level -- the U.S.-Japan alliance, which is, of course, the cornerstone of our approach to stability and security in Asia, together with our other treaty alliances, and, of course, the G7, which is one of the principal forums in which we address international issues.

I think what's notable about the trip, and you will see in the schedule, is it speaks to the breadth of our engagement with these countries in that we are addressing security and strategic issues; we are addressing significant economic and commercial issues, including the fact that both of these countries are a part of TPP; and growing people-to-people exchanges.

Obviously, there is also a significant amount of history between the United States and Vietnam, and the United States and Japan that we can speak to in the Q&A. But I do think that the quality of our relationships with both Vietnam and Japan just demonstrate how far we have come, from a difficult past, in forging constructive relationships that benefit the peoples of the United States and Vietnam, as well as the peoples of the United States and Japan.

So we will be leaving here on Saturday afternoon and arriving in Vietnam on Sunday night. And so our official program in Vietnam will begin at Hanoi on Monday, May 23rd. The President will begin with an official arrival ceremony, and then he will be having a bilateral meeting with the President of Vietnam. Following that bilateral meeting, the two leaders will be having a press conference -- a joint press conference together.

After that, we anticipate the President will have the opportunity to interact with the new head of the National Assembly in Vietnam. He will then be hosted at a state luncheon in Vietnam, and he will then have a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Vietnam. Following that, he will have a bilateral meeting with the General Secretary of the Community Party of Vietnam.

So this series of bilateral meetings I think demonstrates the breadth of our engagement with the Vietnamese. We'd expect to have a very robust agenda that will include a range of issues, including the cooperation that we pursued to complete the TPP negotiations; our significant efforts to promote greater commercial ties that benefit growth and job creation in both of our countries; the discussion that we've had on regional security issues, both bilaterally and through ASEAN, which addresses many issues to include cooperation on areas like maritime security and disaster response; and our commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes in the region;

and our emerging and growing people-to-people ties and cooperation in areas like education and entrepreneurship.

So we'll have a broad agenda with the Vietnamese. But I think what we want to demonstrate with this visit is a significant upgrade in the relationship between the United States and Vietnam as partners on many issues, even as we have areas of difference that will continue to be the case.

On Tuesday, May 24th, the President will have a meeting with members of Vietnamese civil society as he does in countries around the world. He always like to take the opportunity to meet with both governmental representatives, but also representatives of civil society. That will also give him an opportunity to reaffirm his commitment to human rights and inclusive governance in Vietnam, as we do in countries around the world. So he'll have an opportunity to hear the views and concerns of civil society and share his own thoughts in return.

Following that, the President will give a speech to the Vietnamese people as, again, he's done in many countries. This is an opportunity I think for the President to step back and reflect upon the enormous progress that has been made over the last two decades in advancing the U.S.-Vietnamese bilateral relations.

It will very much focus on the bilateral relationship, on our areas of cooperation, on the future vision that he has for the U.S.-Vietnamese relationship. And, of course, there will be areas of difference, but we address those differences respectfully. And, frankly, having a new and broader relationship I think affords us greater opportunity to have respectful dialogue -- again, both about areas of common interest and about areas of continued differences.

Following that speech, he will be leaving Hanoi and traveling to Ho Chi Minh City. When he arrives in Ho Chi Minh City, we will be visiting the Jade Pagoda to be able to pay tribute to and admire the cultural traditions of Vietnam. Following the visit to the Pagoda, he will have an event that is focused on both our commercial ties and on entrepreneurship. He'll be able to meet with some young Vietnamese entrepreneurs who are doing important work, and then he'll be able to participate in a discussion that lifts up the benefits of TPP to both of our countries, and the ability of TPP to promote growth and job creation and also high standards on issues like labor and the environment. And I'll leave it to Mike to discuss that in greater depth. That will conclude his day in Ho Chi Minh City.

Then on Wednesday, May 25th, the President will host a town hall with members of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative. As you may know, we launched YSEALI a number of years ago. It has grown by leaps and bounds to include engagements with thousands of young people across the 10 ASEAN countries, including significant participation from young Vietnamese.

So as he has done in other countries -- in Myanmar, in Malaysia, and in others -- he'll have the opportunity to speak and take questions from young Vietnamese. So, again, I think this visit is unusually long -- we're spending three days in Vietnam, going to two cities, addressing the strategic, security, economic, and people-to-people relationship that we're building, and we intend for this to be a truly impactful visit in the history of U.S.-Vietnamese relations.

After that, we will fly from Vietnam to Japan for the G7 Summit. I will leave it to my colleague, Wally, to talk through the sessions and agenda for the G7 Summit. I will say that, of course, there are some outstanding scheduling issues. What we would anticipate is that the President will have a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Abe of Japan. When we have a time set for that, we will, of course, let you know. And then in addition to that bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Abe, he will be participating throughout the day on Thursday in the G7 Summit.

Then he will begin his final day on Friday with the remaining sessions of the G7 Summit. Following the G7 Summit, he will leave and he will fly to Hiroshima. I think he'll have an opportunity -- given that we will be flying into Iwakuni Base -- to also thank some of the U.S. and Japanese servicemembers who work together and represent our alliance in action today. But then he will proceed to Hiroshima.

Obviously this is an incredibly important visit for the Japanese people and the American people. We've discussed this, we're happy to take your questions about it. But of course he'll be -- we still haven't finalized every element of the program, but we anticipate that he'll of course be able to visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial to lay a wreath and engage in a brief tour of the memorial grounds, after which he will be able to deliver a statement reflecting upon what his impressions are. He will be accompanied by Prime Minister Abe of Japan.

I'd just say briefly at the outset that you've heard us say that, first, this will be an opportunity for him to reflect on the extraordinary human toll of war and the loss of innocents in World War II -- the loss of innocents, of course, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but also in many countries around the world. I think the President wants to pay recognition to the human toll of war, and obviously this is a particularly powerful site for him to do so.

Second, he will of course be reaffirming his commitment to pursuing the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons. We have said that, as the one nation to have used nuclear weapons, the United States has a unique and moral responsibility to work on behalf of the goal of a world without nuclear weapons. And we hope to instill in the world a greater sense of urgency around that agenda around the President's visit.

And lastly, he'll have an opportunity I think to speak to the fact that from the tragedy of war, the U.S. and Japan have been able to build an extraordinary alliance that benefits both of our people. And his message in that regard will be forward-looking; that as we reflect on and

confront directly and engage in dialogue about our history, we are focused on the future we're trying to seek -- a future of greater peace and cooperation, of nonproliferation going forward.

I'll stop there because that's the conclusion of the President's trip. Again, there will be some other potential scheduling engagements that are added. But I'll turn it over to Wally to walk through the G7 agenda.

MR. ADEYEMO: Thanks, Ben. The G7 this year will offer several tangible opportunities to make progress on a host of issues that the leaders of the G7 have been addressing for the President's two terms in office, starting with the global economy.

While the United States has been relatively a pillar of strength within the G7 economies, growth has been overall moderate and uneven. The global economic discussion will give the leaders an opportunity to talk about what they can do collectively as leaders of seven of the largest developed economies to boost global demand, especially in the environment of low interest rate, and a need for increased investment.

In addition to a conversation about the overall global economy, there will be a conversation about the trade agenda. The G7 nations are all engaged in various regional trade agreements. The United States -- and I'll allow Ambassador Froman to speak to these -- but it's engaged in trade agreements with Japan, Canada, in TPP, and with the European Union in T-TIP. In addition to that, other countries -- for example, Canada and the European Union -- are also in discussions about a regional trade agreement, as are the Japanese and the Europeans.

So there will be a discussion about those trade agreements, but in addition to that, there will be a conversation about what we can do to make sure that we are using our trade and trade enforcement tools and our trade agreements to maximize the benefits to our workers and our firms, and to level the playing field. There will also be a discussion about over-capacity in this session, and what we can do to address over-capacity in several areas with an emphasis on steel and how we can use our collective action to best ensure that over-capacity is addressed.

In addition to that, our leaders will have a conversation about foreign policy and the foreign policy challenges that they face that will largely reflect the conversations that occurred amongst our foreign ministers when they met in Hiroshima. They will also have the opportunity to take note of the climate change agenda that was set in Paris in 2015, and to talk about what we can do to ambitiously implement that agenda consistent with our goal of reducing the temperature by 1.5 and 2 degrees.

We will also have an opportunity to hear from a number of Asian countries. As Japan is the only Asian member of the G7, they have chosen to invite a number of Asian countries to talk about issues that are particular to Asia, but issues that also are relevant to the rest of the world. For example, infrastructure, the development agenda, the inclusion

of women in the economy and society, and health care. These are issues that are not only important to our economies, but also socially important to us. And it will give us a chance to have a holistic conversation about what the G7 can do to advance the prosperity and the security of our people.

AMBASSADOR FROMAN: Great. Thank you, Ben and Wally. Let me talk a little bit about Vietnam and touch on the trade issues regarding the visit to Japan.

With Vietnam -- 90 million people, rapidly growing middle class -- a middle class that is expected to double between 2014 and 2020. And one thing we know is that as middle class consumers emerge, they want more of everything that the United States is well-positioned to make and to export. But we face significant barriers to those exports.

So in Vietnam, for example, U.S. auto exports face a 70 percent tariff, 74 percent tariff on motorcycles, 32 percent tariff on auto parts. Made-in-America machinery like construction equipment are hit with tariffs as high as 59 percent; beef, 34 percent; poultry, 40 percent. So we face these barriers getting our products into Vietnam, and those tariffs need to be eliminated or greatly reduced through the TPP implementation.

The reason why that's important is that our market is already very open. So we have average applied tariffs of 1.4 percent compared to the tariffs that I just described for you. We don't use non-tariff regulations as a barrier to trade. And TPP gives us an opportunity to level the playing field for our workers and ranchers and farmers and firms so that they can get more of their products into this fast-growing market.

Beyond the tariffs, though, and the non-tariff barriers is a set of rules the TPP represents. So, for intellectual property -- issues like counterfeits or trade secrets. The rules around the digital economy, making sure the Internet stays open and free and there's a free flow of data across borders. Obligations to prevent governments from replacing tariffs with non-tariff barriers. Rules assuring that state-owned enterprises, of which there are many in Vietnam, have to compete on a level playing field against our private firms, and our private firms now have recourse if they don't.

Issues around, very importantly, labor and the environment. Vietnam has agreed to allow independent unions that can control their own finances, elect their own leaders, conduct strikes, affiliate as they wish, get assistance from outside labor organizations. They've agreed to the five basic ILO labor principles -- the right to associate, the right to collective bargain, prohibitions on child labor and forced labor, prohibitions on employment discrimination. They've agreed the acceptable conditions of work -- having a minimum wage, hours regulations, safe workplace conditions. And all those obligations under TPP are fully enforceable, meaning that their access to our market is tied to their compliance with these provisions.

Same thing on the environmental side. Vietnam is a market for much of the illegally traded wildlife around the world, and they've agreed to take on obligations to combat illegal wildlife trade as well.

So there's a great opportunity here. This is the next phase in our economic relationship with Vietnam that, as Ben said, has been growing since normalization of relations 20 or so years ago.

Japan, as Wally mentioned, of course, is another TPP partner. They're working their way through ratification of TPP. And there, too, are great economic opportunities -- from the ag side, where they have a 3.2 percent tariff on beef, substantial protection around pork, obstacles to our exports on dairy products that will be dealt with through TPP, to the auto side, where we have a special agreement with Japan to deal with the non-tariff barriers to our auto exports.

So it will be very important that we engage with Japan and the other parties at the G7 about the ratification process for TPP in the various countries and the continuing work that needs to be done in T-TIP to bring political will to the table to address the outstanding issues in a pragmatic and creative manner with the goal of, as the President said in Hannover, trying to reach agreement on T-TIP over the course of this year.

Q A question related to Vietnam. What's the decision, if, in fact, one has been made yet, on whether there should be a full lifting of the arms embargo on Vietnam, or whether it should stay in place? And what might be the timing of such an announcement before departure, or possibly during the trip? Or are we talking about taking longer?

MR. RHODES: Thanks, Matt, for the question. We have not finalized a decision related to this issue. It is something that we regularly review and we certainly expect that it will be a subject of discussion with the Vietnamese. So I'd expect that this will be discussed in the context of the President's meetings, and it's something that we obviously have been looking at as we prepare for the visit in the context of our broader relationship. So we are thinking through how is our evolving security cooperation going to look moving forward. We are looking at, of course, how our broader relationship is evolving, including our continued commitment to support human rights in Vietnam.

So, again, I think this will be discussed in the context of where this relationship is going, and it's something that we'll certainly be addressing in the bilateral meetings with the Vietnamese. And we'll have the opportunity to -- they regularly raise this issue with us, and we'll, of course, want to have the opportunity to explain our thoughts to them, and I think we'll have the opportunity to discuss it in that context.

I will say there's also obviously a lot of views on this issue in Congress, as well. And we've been engaged in consultations with Congress about this and other issues related to the U.S.-Vietnam relationship over the last days and weeks. So this has factored into the set of issues that

we've been reviewing in preparation for the visit. We expect the President will be discussing this issue and how we intend to approach it going forward in his meetings in Hanoi.

And we are looking at it, not narrowly, in the context of simply whether or not to look to them, but rather where is our relationship going, what is the most effective way of advancing our cooperation, but also in building the tougher relationship where we can cooperate on areas of common interest while also having productive and respectful dialogue on areas of disagreement, which of course is primarily focused on issues related to human rights. So we will, again, look forward to continuing this discussion with the Vietnamese and, of course, with those who are interested over the course of the visit.

Q Hi, Ben. Thanks. And can you tell us how you're viewing this EgyptAir incident now that U.S. officials have said that they suspect it was a bomb? Is this looking like this is going to be another case of the President traveling and issues of terrorism overshadowing the other issues on the trip? And secondly, on the TPP, given the roadblocks that have been out there -- that are still out there, what kind of progress do you expect to see towards finally ratifying this eventually? And what's your time frame, and when do you envision this actually happening? Thank you.

MR. RHODES: Thanks, Michelle. On the first question, obviously we are deeply concerned about the situation involving the EgyptAir flight, and our hearts go out to the loved ones of those who are currently missing. Our government has not reached a formal determination about what took place. We have offered our assistance to the relevant authorities that are currently engaged in an investigation. And we will continue to provide you with updates if we draw any formal conclusions. Of course, again, the countries that are more directly involved -- Egypt and France -- are leading the investigation. We've offered our full support, and we obviously will be doing our own analysis of what we believe happened.

With respect to how that relates to the President's trip, we obviously have enormous economic and national security interests in the Asia Pacific region, just as we have a profound and enduring interest in preventing any acts of terrorism. And so we, of course, will be pursuing I think a very important assessment of an agenda that has an enormous bearing on the long-term interests of the American people and our national security and economic security going forward throughout the course of the trip as it relates to terrorism. And that, again, doesn't prejudice the investigation because there's not been any formal determination made. Clearly, that will also be a subject at the G7. One of the principal foreign policy areas that has been a focus of the G7 in recent years has been our shared efforts against terrorism.

On TPP, I'll turn it over to Mike. I will just say that I think that both of these countries are indications of the types of markets that are going to be critical to U.S. exports and job creation going forward. And so from just one perspective -- before I go to Mike -- I think it is a further demonstration of how important it is that the United States not be

shut out of certain markets and have the ability to shape the rules of the road in this critically important region.

But I'm going to hand it over to our trade representative.

AMBASSADOR FROMAN: Thank you, Ben. Just to build on that, we are and we have been in consultation with Congress since completing the agreement last October. We published it in November; we signed it in February. We're continuing to work through the various procedures laid out under Trade Promotion Authority that Congress approved last year and we're consulting with congressional leadership and the leadership of our committees on what the best timetable is for bringing this up for a vote.

In the meantime, we are working with members of Congress individually to walk them through the agreement, address their concerns, demonstrate what's in the agreement for their constituents or stakeholders that they care a lot about. We're working to resolve a handful of key issues that have been flagged as particularly important by members of Congress. And we've already started the process -- normally, after Congress approves a trade agreement, then we turn to the implementation process with the countries.

And in this case, we've decided to accelerate that. In consultation with Congress, we are already working with the countries in the region on the various steps that they'll need to take to bring themselves into compliance with TPP. And that includes Vietnam, where we've already had teams out in Vietnam over the last couple of months talking to them about the array of obligations that they have under the agreement.

Q So I have a couple of questions for you. Specifically for Ben, what do you think about the absence of Russia from the summit table? How does it affect the discussion on Syria and ISIS, for instance? My final question is, is Obama going to be meeting with Hiroshima survivors during this trip? Thank you.

MR. RHODES: Thanks. On the first question, we have been very clear that the G7, formerly the G8, part of the basis of the organization is to have cooperation on behalf of the fundamental international principles and norms that allow for peaceful development, peaceful relations among countries. And when Russia flouted those rules because of its violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, the decision was taken collectively that Russia should not participate in upcoming G7 meetings.

So it was entirely Russia's determination to violate the most basic international principle, which is the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country. That led to this being a G7. Of course, the option continues to be available to Russia to change course and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbors. Until it does, not only are they not participating in the G7 meeting, but of course, together with the other G7 countries we've imposed very significant sanctions on Russia, related to its actions in Ukraine.

I will take the opportunity to briefly say that Russia has an opportunity in front of themselves, together with the Ukrainian government and the separatists, to fully implement the Minsk agreement, which would both be of great benefit to the people of Ukraine but also we've been very clear it could create a pathway for the relaxation of those sanctions.

With respect to Syria and ISIL, Russia's absence from this forum does not foreclose our ability to be engaged in regular dialogue with them about those issues. And, in fact, we've been deeply engaged in discussions with Russia about the cessation of hostilities that we've sought to preserve within Syria about the efforts to promote a peace process in Geneva. Secretary Kerry and Prime Minister Lavrov have spoken about that. President Obama and President Putin have. So we have those channels of communication just as we have efforts to de-conflict our military efforts in Syria. But again, I think it's important that it is demonstrated that there's a cost for actions that violate basic international law, and that's why this is a G7 meeting.

On the Hiroshima program, we have not finalized the elements of the President's visit, including who he might meet with or interact with while he's in Hiroshima. So we will provide you with updates as that is further developed. Again, what we do know is that he will visit the Peace Memorial, that he will be joined by Prime Minister Abe, that he'll have an opportunity to lay a wreath but also to offer his reflections on his visit. And I know that he is very much anticipating the opportunity to have that experience and to speak to the people of Japan and the United States and the world about what he takes away from that experience.

Q Hi, thanks for having this call. You mentioned over-capacity, so, Wally, or Mike Froman, just wanted to ask, I assume the main focus would be on over-capacity of base metals like steel products and aluminum that's weighing on G7 economies and the U.S. And I'm just wondering -- these countries have met before at the OECD and elsewhere on this issue. I'm just wondering, is the G7 where -- a place where we would expect a plan of action on this? Or is it just a place for countries to discuss their individual actions that they might take? And where would the U.S. be in that process? China and even South Korea are right next door to the G7 meetings, so I'm just curious to see how that's going.

MR. ADEYEMO: I think, as you know well, the solution to over-capacity, especially in the base metals, requires a global solution. And while the G7 is a large segment of the global economy, it isn't the entire global economy. The meeting gives us an opportunity to work together to organize our shared approach toward these issues, but we need to work alongside countries like South Korea and Brazil and India and other countries to hold those accountable who are responsible for over-capacity in the base metal sector.

And I think our goal has been, in the United States, to use our trade enforcement laws aggressively to do that. But we know that this is a global problem that requires a global solution, and we want to do a better

job of coordinating with our international partners in the G7 and in other forums.

Q Thanks for the call. It's a question for Ben or Dan. We've seen, again, in the last 24 hours, another escalation of tensions, and so I was trying to see what this intercepts -- the discussion about the Vietnam arms embargo, which is annoying the Chinese, and the ruling coming up. I was just wondering if you can say -- can tell us how are you kind of -- take a little bit of heat out of this issue, and whether you actually want to take a little bit of heat out of this issue.

MR. KRITENBRINK: Look, our approach to the South China Sea has been very consistent, and you'll continue to see that going forward. We have demonstrated very clearly that we don't take a position on any of the competing sovereignty claims in the South China Sea, but we do very clearly take a position on how those disputes are resolved, and we make very clear they need to be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law.

And at the same time, we've demonstrated that the United States, as with all countries, enjoys certain rights under international law, including the freedom of navigation and freedom of overflight.

You have seen, as we have, the reports that there was an unsafe intercept in the South China Sea in the last 24 hours. We're looking into that incident. I don't have further details for it, but I think you're well aware that we routinely carry out naval and other operations, both in the airspace over the South China Sea and in the international waters of the South China Sea. We do those routinely, in a safe manner, and we'll continue to do that going forward.

Although maritime issues is not the central focus of the visit per se, obviously these issues are of great importance to all countries in the region, including to Vietnam and to Japan, obviously to the United States. And I'm confident that when the President sits down with the Vietnamese leadership and with Prime Minister Abe, that this will be one important topic of discussion. And I also anticipate that the leaders at the G7 will have the opportunity to engage on these issues as well.

MR. RHODES: The only thing I'd add, Andrew, is just a couple things. I mean, one is we also have worked to ensure that we have military-to-military engagement with China, in part so that we have the capacity to raise concerns around particular issues, and just have open lines of communication.

The second thing that I'd say is that the United States' role in the region has been to reinforce international rules of the road and peace and stability. And for decades, that presence has helped facilitate peaceful development in the Asia Pacific region. And to the extent to which there is behavior that seeks to take these types of territorial disputes and put them into the type of dynamic where a bigger nation is seeking to inserts its rule over a smaller one, I think that raises concerns in the

region. And it only reinforces the need to have a dialogue around support for clear international rules of the road.

And so we pursued that discussion at Sunnylands with the ASEAN countries -- several of whom are claimants, several of whom aren't -- but all of them have an interest in the peaceful resolution of disputes and the free flow of commerce through the South China Sea. We'll certainly have that discussion with Vietnam. It's only one element of many aspects of our cooperation on security and economic issues.

But again, I think what we see is an interest in the region and the United States being present as a country that is committed to international rules and norms. And that will be our consistent message throughout the course of the visit.

I think we have time for a couple more questions.

Q I have two questions, one for Ambassador Froman on TPP. You talked a lot about exports to a growing middle class in Vietnam, but I wonder if you could talk a little bit about the other phenomenon, which is that I think apparel and footwear textiles imports to the U.S. from Vietnam stand to gain from the lowering of U.S. tariffs. I think the ITC report yesterday talked about imports from TPP countries, especially Vietnam and those markets, we expand by 23 percent, and that ultimately manufacturing jobs would actually diminish compared to baseline assumptions. What does that say to American shoe manufacturers and others who were saying the final remaining jobs we have are destined to go to offshore because of this deal? Is that just the future of kind of where we're headed, and the U.S. has to focus on other jobs? Is that the message for this deal?

And then one for Ben, if I could, about Japan and the President's visit to Hiroshima. There are those who say the President's visit will -- even if he's not apologizing -- will bring even more closure and final reconciliation to the people in Hiroshima, but that then it's up to the Japanese Prime Minister, whether it's Abe or a future one, to take more steps to close the World War II chapter in Asia, despite what he did on the comfort women and some of the speeches to Congress, and on the 70th anniversary last year in Japan. I wonder if you had thoughts about that, or whether you believe Japan has done enough at this point to move forward in the region, and whether at all there's any talk between the U.S. and Japan of having Prime Minister Abe visit Pearl Harbor before President Obama leaves office.

AMBASSADOR FROMAN: Thanks, David. On your TPP question, we worked very closely with both the domestic footwear and apparel manufacturers here in the United States as well as the importers throughout the negotiations. And the final deal was endorsed both by the footwear producers in the U.S. and the footwear importers, same thing. The textile industry endorsed it as well as the apparel importers.

Just take footwear, for example. There are high tariffs of our footwear exports into Japan that will be eliminated. So we're going to see our exports go up. We will see, I believe it's a 2 percent increase in imports of footwear, so most of those increased imports from Vietnam is production shifting from China to Vietnam. It's not all an increase in imports to the U.S.

With regard to the manufacturing question you asked, I think that points to one of the limitations of the model, which is, as you probably know, the ITC model assumes that the trade deficit remains the same -- the trade balance stays the same as a percentage of GDP. So as they show increases of exports in one sector, they need to show decreases in exports or increases in imports in other sectors. And it's a relative measure based on where they see the most significant increases in productivity.

And that's why it shows greater gains in services than it may in some other sectors. But it doesn't mean that in reality there's going to be a decline relative to the baseline.

MR. RHODES: Thanks, David, for your question. I'd say a couple things. First of all, we said that this is not about issuing an apology. And of course, the American people are extraordinarily proud of the generation of servicemembers who fought in World War II, at a time of maximum peril to our nation, and they have a revered place in our society.

What we are able to do in going to Hiroshima is to pay tribute to the enormous suffering and loss of innocence in war. And, first of all, as I said in the opening, you're talking about a conflict that had an enormous human toll, with tens of millions of people killed around the world, including so many innocents. And even in Hiroshima, you had obviously an extraordinary loss of life of innocent Japanese civilians, and you also had the loss of life of many Koreans who were present in Hiroshima, and even American servicemembers who were there.

And I think that the President's message, therefore, is, in part, that leaders and citizens have to be mindful going forward about the enormous cost of war, and that we can never forget the toll that war takes on innocent life.

Secondly, of course, as I mentioned, Hiroshima and Nagasaki are symbols of both that loss of innocent life, but also the toll of nuclear weapons. And it is very important that leaders not lose urgency -- as we get farther and farther away from the use of nuclear weapons, that we not lose urgency in seeking to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and seeking to reduce nuclear stockpiles, and ultimately pursue a world without them.

And we've spent a lot of time promoting nuclear security and seeking to reduce our deployed stockpile and launchers through the New START Treaty, and trying to stop the spread of nuclear weapons through the Iran

deal, and of course, in dealing with the extraordinary challenge from North Korea as it pursues a nuclear program.

So it's an opportunity to I think focus the world's attention on the need to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and seek a world without them.

With respect to Pearl Harbor, I'd just say, first of all, that we draw no linkages to our decision to go to Hiroshima. This is the President's decision. And he is making this decision be he believes that it's important to acknowledge history; it's important to look squarely at history; it's important to have a dialogue about history. And every leader has to make their own choices about how they will do that.

We have encouraged all leaders in Asia to try to look at these difficult historical issues in a manner that promotes dialogue and understanding and ultimately reconciliation.

In that context, we very much welcomed the agreement that was reached with respect to comfort women. And there are many different issues -- and I should add that a great deal of courage from both Prime Minister Abe and President Park, given how important the history of the comfort women is to the people of the Republic of Korea.

And there are many historical issues that continue to be hotly discussed and debated in the Asia Pacific. I think our point is that the more that there's able to be peaceful dialogue about those issues, the more they will not be sources of tension going forward, but rather we can overcome those issues. And, frankly, again, the very fact that the United States is traveling to Japan, that it's now one of our closest allies in the world, and Vietnam, which is a merging partner of ours I think demonstrates how you are able to move beyond difficult history, and that's what we would encourage the countries of the Asia Pacific to do.

So Prime Minister Abe will make his own decisions about how he addresses these issues and about Pearl Harbor, but I think that's certainly how President Obama views it.

Last question.

Q All my questions have actually already been addressed so I'll let someone else go.

Q I wondered if in Hiroshima if the President had any plans to use his reflections to offer any new or concrete steps on how to reduce nuclear weapons, globally or in the U.S. And in that same vein, can you comment on the notion that the world is actually further away from the President's goal of a nuclear-free world now than it was when he gave his speech in Prague seven years ago?

MR. RHODES: Well, first of all, we're not going to give a major policy address in Hiroshima. We just, frankly, didn't think that it was

the appropriate venue. This is such a powerful place and so therefore we thought that a simple reflection on the cost of war and the cost of nuclear weapons was the appropriate way for the President to speak from the heart about his reflections.

I will say that, again, we do hope that in visiting Hiroshima, we're able to once again spotlight the imperative that the world has to seek a reduction and ultimate elimination of the risk of nuclear weapons.

Look, I would -- it might not surprise you -- take a different view of I think what's happened since we took office. I think we made progress on a number of fronts, even as we acknowledge, and we'd be the first to acknowledge, that there's a lot more work to do. First of all, we made clear from the beginning of our time in office that we wanted to keep our own NPT commitments to pursue the reductions of our own stockpiles. And the new START treaty in the first term was one of the most significant arms control agreements of recent years. It significantly reduced our deployed stockpiles and launchers with Russia, and demonstrated that we were once again moving in that direction.

Secondly, we reduced the role of nuclear weapons in our own national security strategy so that we are less reliant on nuclear weapons as we address issues around the world.

Thirdly, we've hosted a series of nuclear summits that have significantly enhanced nuclear security protocols and eliminated a significant amount of nuclear material -- again, all of which is to help keep the most dangerous material out of the hands of terrorists and other actors who we would not want to obtain weapons.

Then, in terms of nonproliferation -- and I think this is really important -- over the course of the last decades since the Cold War, you've seen the proliferation and spread of nuclear weapons through a number of states.

During President Obama's seven and a half years in office, there has not been any new member of the nuclear club, in large part because we were able to reach a diplomatic agreement with the Iranian government and the P5+1 that assures and verifies that they will not be able to develop a nuclear weapon, and that, in fact, has demonstrably rolled back their nuclear program. They've shipped out their stockpile, converted their reactors, and taken other steps to allow for the verification that they are not pursuing a nuclear weapon.

So on nonproliferation and nuclear security and arms control, I think there are things that we are quite proud of. However, to be very specific about what has not taken place, and very straightforward about that, we had indicated an interest in additional arms control. And Russia, particularly after President Putin took office, indicated that they were not interested in pursuing that discussion, so we were not able to have an additional round of discussions around further arms control

agreements. So that's one example of an area where we think that there's further progress.

There are other areas where we'd like to see continued progress around agreements like a fissile material cutoff treaty, where, again, there continue to be challenges in building an international consensus around those issues.

So we certainly acknowledge that there's more to be done. But we do believe that we have bent the curve in the right direction on nonproliferation nuclear security, the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy, and our own stockpile and launchers. I know there's some controversy around some of our modernization, but what we would say is what President Obama said in Prague, which is as long as nuclear weapons exist, we do need to have an effective and credible deterrent, both for our own security and for the security of allies like Japan and the Republic of Korea.

So again, we hope in going that we're able to energize that process, lift up progress that's been made, but also with that, spotlight additional efforts that need to be done. That's all for the better, and we welcome that attention. And we hope to do as much as we can with our time in office, and then we hope that, going forward, future administrations pursue that goal of ultimately -- the goal that, I should say, not just President Obama but Presidents like President Reagan and President Kennedy embraced, which was the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.

So I'll stop there. Sorry to go on. I didn't want to just credit ourselves; I also wanted to be very clear that we do recognize that the President's Prague agenda is unfinished, but that's part of the reason for shining a light on these issues in Hiroshima.

So thanks, everybody, for joining the call.

MR. STROH: Ladies and gentlemen, just as a reminder, the call was on the record, and now that we have concluded, the embargo is lifted. Thanks very much for your participation.

END 5:18 P.M. EDT

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 2/4/2016 8:13:55 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: 4:15PM EST TODAY: Senior Administration Officials to Host Press Call to Discuss New Plan for Building a 21st Century Clean Transportation System

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
February 4, 2016

4:15PM EST TODAY: Senior Administration Officials to Host Press Call to Discuss New Plan for Building a 21st Century Clean Transportation System

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Thursday, February 4th, at 4:15PM EST, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and Director of the National Economic Council Jeff Zients will host a press call to discuss the President's new plan for building a 21st Century Clean Transportation System. The President's plan would increase American investments in clean transportation infrastructure by roughly 50 percent above current levels while reforming the investments we already make to help reduce carbon pollution, cut oil consumption, and create new jobs. The plan will also encourage American innovation and leadership in clean technologies to help reshape our transportation landscape for the decades ahead, while reducing our reliance on oil, cutting carbon pollution, and strengthening our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

This call will be on-the-record and with no embargo.

WHO: Secretary Anthony Foxx, Department of Transportation
Jeff Zients, Director of the National Economic Council

WHAT: On-the-record press call with no embargo

WHEN: Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 4:15PM EST

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 288-8974 and ask for the "White House Call." International participants should dial (612) 288-0340. No passcode necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 11/9/2015 4:03:04 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: 3PM EST TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
November 9, 2015

3PM EST TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Monday, November 9, at 3PM EST, the White House will hold a press call to discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge." The "Healthy Communities Challenge" seeks to engage key communities with large numbers or high percentages of uninsured in states across the country where strong federal, state and community collaboration can have a meaningful impact on reaching the uninsured.

This call is on the record and without embargo.

WHO: Kristie Canegallo, White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation
Jerry Abramson, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honorable Bob Buckhorn, Mayor of Tampa, FL
The Honorable Clay Jenkins, Dallas County Judge

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

WHEN: Today, Monday, November 9 at 3PM EST

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 553-0273 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Media Affairs Office [whitehouse-noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 11/6/2015 4:12:42 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: POSTPONED: White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

POSTPONED: This call will be rescheduled for next week.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
November 6, 2015

White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Friday, November 6, at 11:30AM EST, the White House will hold a press call to discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge." The "Healthy Communities Challenge" seeks to engage key communities with large numbers or high percentages of uninsured in states across the country where strong federal, state and community collaboration can have a meaningful impact on reaching the uninsured.

This call is on the record and without embargo.

WHO: **Kristie Canegallo, White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation**

Jerry Abramson, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Bob Buckhorn, Mayor of Tampa, FL

The Honorable Clay Jenkins, Dallas County Judge

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

WHEN: Today, Friday, November 6 at 11:30AM EST

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1093 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 11/6/2015 1:04:41 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: 11:30AM EST TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
November 6, 2015

11:30AM EST TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Friday, November 6, at 11:30AM EST, the White House will hold a press call to discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge." The "Healthy Communities Challenge" seeks to engage key communities with large numbers or high percentages of uninsured in states across the country where strong federal, state and community collaboration can have a meaningful impact on reaching the uninsured.

This call is on the record and without embargo.

WHO: Kristie Canegallo, White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation
Jerry Abramson, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honorable Bob Buckhorn, Mayor of Tampa, FL
The Honorable Clay Jenkins, Dallas County Judge

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

WHEN: Today, Friday, November 6 at 11:30AM EST

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1093 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 10/21/2015 10:17:19 AM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: REMINDER -- 10:00AM EDT TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Preview the President's Trip to Charleston, WV

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
October 21, 2015

10:00AM EDT TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Preview the President's Trip to Charleston, WV

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the White House will hold a press call to discuss the President's travel to Charleston, West Virginia where he will host a community forum on the prescription drug abuse and heroin epidemic. Communities in West Virginia and in states across the country have been developing and implementing responses to the issue that involve all sectors of their communities. The President will discuss local, state and federal efforts as well as private sector initiatives with those who are addressing the epidemic on a daily basis.

This call is on the record with no embargo.

WHO: Cecilia Muñoz, White House Domestic Policy Council Director
Michael Botticelli, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director
Marcia Lee Taylor, President and CEO, Partnership for Drug-Free Kids

WHAT: On-the-record press call with no embargo

WHEN: Wednesday, October 21 at 10:00 AM EDT

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (877) 531-2986 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 10/20/2015 11:35:45 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: 10:00AM EDT TOMORROW: White House to Host Press Call to Preview the President's Trip to Charleston, WV

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
October 20, 2015

10:00AM EDT TOMORROW: White House to Host Press Call to Preview the President's Trip to Charleston, WV

WASHINGTON, DC – On Wednesday, the White House will hold a press call to discuss the President's travel to Charleston, West Virginia where he will host a community forum on the prescription drug abuse and heroin epidemic. Communities in West Virginia and in states across the country have been developing and implementing responses to the issue that involve all sectors of their communities. The President will discuss local, state and federal efforts as well as private sector initiatives with those who are addressing the epidemic on a daily basis.

This call is on the record with no embargo.

WHO: Cecilia Muñoz, White House Domestic Policy Council Director
Michael Botticelli, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director
Marcia Lee Taylor, President and CEO, Partnership for Drug-Free Kids

WHAT: On-the-record press call with no embargo

WHEN: Wednesday, October 21 at 10:00 AM EDT

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (877) 531-2986 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 10/9/2015 9:25:23 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: Fw: wh travel pool report 6

From: Jaffe, Greg [mailto:greg.jaffe@washpost.com]
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 02:04 PM
To: Barnes, Desiree N. EOP/WHO
Subject: wh travel pool report 6

For attribution to White House spokeswoman Brandi Hoffine:

"Oregon Governor Kate Brown joined the President for the car ride from Roseburg Regional Airport to Roseburg High School. The Governor updated the President on the state's ongoing efforts to provide support and resources to the families affected by the Umpqua Community College shooting and the entire community of Roseburg. The President expressed his thanks for the work that Governor Brown is doing as well as the efforts of other state and local officials during this difficult time."

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 9/14/2015 12:52:14 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: 9:15AM EDT TODAY: Secretary Arne Duncan and Cecilia Muñoz to Hold Press Call to Discuss New FAFSA Initiative

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
September 14, 2015

9:15AM EDT TODAY: Secretary Arne Duncan and Cecilia Muñoz to Hold Press Call to Discuss New FAFSA Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Monday, September 14 at 9:15AM EDT, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Muñoz will host an on-the-record press call to preview the President's travel to Iowa, where the President will announce a new initiative to allow students and families to apply for financial aid starting in October as the college application process gets underway rather than in January. Moving up the FAFSA application start date will mean that more students and families will have more time to apply for financial aid and evaluate their aid offers.

This call is on the record with no embargo.

WHO: Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education
Cecilia Muñoz, White House Domestic Policy Council Director

WHAT: On-the-record press call with no embargo

WHEN: Monday, September 14 at 9:15AM EDT

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1085 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 9/13/2015 9:28:19 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: 9:15AM EDT TOMORROW: Secretary Arne Duncan and Cecilia Muñoz to Hold Press Call to Discuss New FAFSA Initiative

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
September 13, 2015

9:15AM EDT TOMORROW: Secretary Arne Duncan and Cecilia Muñoz to Hold Press Call to Discuss New FAFSA Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC – Tomorrow, Monday, September 14 at 9:15AM EDT, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Muñoz will host an on-the-record press call to preview the President's travel to Iowa, where the President will announce a new initiative to allow students and families to apply for financial aid starting in October as the college application process gets underway rather than in January. Moving up the FAFSA application start date will mean that more students and families will have more time to apply for financial aid and evaluate their aid offers.

This call is on the record with no embargo.

WHO: Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education
Cecilia Muñoz, White House Domestic Policy Council Director

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/11/2015 11:14:31 PM
To: Lee, Monica [Lee.Monica@epa.gov]
Subject: On-the-Record Conference Call on the GCC Summit

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release May 11, 2015

ON-THE-RECORD CONFERENCE CALL
BY BEN RHODES, DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS,
COLIN KAHL, THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR TO THE VICE PRESIDENT,
AND ROB MALLEY, NSC COORDINATOR FOR THE
MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA AND THE GULF REGION
PREVIEWING THE GCC SUMMIT

Via Telephone

4:25 P.M. EDT

MS. MEEHAN: Good afternoon and thank you for joining us, everybody, for this call to preview the visit of leaders and delegations from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries -- that's Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates -- to the White House on May 13th and Camp David on May 14th. This call will be on the record and under embargo until the conclusion of the call. We have two senior officials with us today. The first is Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications Ben Rhodes, and the second is Colin Kahl, the National Security Advisor to the Vice President.

So with that, I will turn it over to Ben Rhodes. Once he and Colin give a brief laydown, we'll open it up to your questions.

MR. RHODES: Thanks, everybody, for joining the call. So the President is convening this important meeting at Camp David at a critical moment in the history of the Middle East. Clearly, we face a range of challenges in the region -- from the ongoing conflicts with ISIL, the situations in Syria and Iraq related to that effort; the current situation in Yemen; the ongoing negotiations with Iran among a range of other issues.

And the purpose of this meeting is to sit down with some of our key partners in the region and to review U.S. policy and GCC policies related to the situation in the region, and to determine ways in which we can strengthen our partnership and our security cooperation going forward.

First of all, I'd note that all of these countries have joined us in the counter-ISIL coalition, and are playing an important role in our efforts to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIL across the region. Clearly, there is significant interest in the GCC about Iran's destabilizing actions in the region, and this will be an opportunity both to review the status of negotiations with respect to Iran's nuclear program but also to review our efforts to counter those destabilizing actions in different countries across the region.

We'll also be discussing our commitment to strengthening the security of our Gulf partners and our cooperation on behalf of our mutual security interests in countering terrorism and promoting a more stable region. This will include a discussion about the types of cooperation we have on military security and counterterrorism issues, as well as the capabilities that we're developing jointly with our partners in the Gulf to deal with a range of current threats and contingencies going forward.

I'd just make the point that this is a discussion about what we can do together -- the United States and the GCC -- in dealing with these challenges. So we'll both be discussing U.S. policies and our approaches, but also GCC policies and approaches, and how we can align those efforts on areas of mutual interest. And we do share many interests in the region, including, again, our interest in countering terrorist activity and promoting stability in places like Yemen and Syria, and, of course, in seeking political efforts to resolve the many different conflicts that are presenting challenges across the region.

Just quickly in terms of what to expect with regard to the meetings themselves. The leaders will be arriving here on Wednesday. Wednesday night there will be a dinner that the President will host here at the White House for the leaders, where they'll have an opportunity to step back and review the current situation in the region.

Then, Thursday there will be a range of sessions out at Camp David. That will cover the different terrorist threats in the region; the current security picture broadly in the region; some of the specific conflicts in the region, including the situations in Iraq and Syria, the situation in Yemen, and the situation in Libya; as well as Iran -- nuclear negotiations, as well as our efforts to deal with Iran's destabilizing actions across the region.

In addition to the President, the U.S. will be represented at a very high level across our Cabinet, given the various areas of partnership that we have with the Gulf. That will include Secretary Kerry, Secretary Carter, Secretary Lew, Secretary Moniz, Director Brennan, and Nick Rasmussen, the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center.

And then the last thing I'd just say before we turn to questions is the President was able to speak this afternoon on the phone with King Salman of Saudi Arabia to discuss our ongoing preparations for the summit. And we, of course, look forward to welcoming a substantial Saudi

delegation, including the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef and the Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as well as other senior Saudi officials. And we'll have a more formal readout of that call later this afternoon, given that it only recently was completed.

I'd also just note that in addition to myself and Colin Kahl, we are joined by Rob Malley, who is our coordinator for the broader Middle East and North Africa here at the National Security Council.

Q Hi, thanks very much. My question, Ben, is can you give any details about how these security guarantees that you'll be discussing will manifest themselves? Will there be a written document? Will there be something that the United States shows specifically that they can hold on to? And can you speak, as well, about any potential weapons deals that may be resulting from the meeting?

MR. RHODES: Sure, I'll say a few words, and if my colleagues want to add. I obviously don't want to get ahead of the substance of the summit too much. I'd say in the first instance that the President outlined America's core interests in the Middle East at the U.N. General Assembly in 2013. He made very clear that we have a core interest in the security and sovereignty of our partners. That would obviously include the GCC countries. And we are prepared to use all elements of our power to back up our commitment to that core interest. And I think at the summit they'll be discussing ways in which we can continue to make it clear not just to our partners, but to the world what America's commitment is with respect to the security of the GCC countries.

Your second question is an important one because this is not simply about what the United States says; it's about what we collectively do in the face of regional threats. And so we will be reviewing with our partners what types of capabilities are necessary to deal with the current challenges we face. We obviously have longstanding military and security relationships with the GCC. We have a substantial presence in the region. But we also want to look going forward at what types of specific capabilities will meet the threats that we face today.

And so there will be a discussion of a range of capabilities with respect to ballistic missile defense, with respect to cyber capabilities, with respect to countering terrorism, and the types of asymmetric threats that countries in the region are facing. So what we want to do is essentially have a game plan for how we can cooperate and work jointly with our GCC partners, not just in providing them with reassurance as to their security in the face of external threats, but also in terms of developing the capabilities that will better prepare them to deal with the evolving situation in the region.

But Colin may want to add something.

MR. KAHL: I mean, I think as many of you on the line know, we already have an extraordinarily deep and wide defense cooperation with the countries in the GCC. On any given day, we have about 35,000 U.S. forces

in the Gulf region. As I speak, the USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group is there. The USS Normandy Guided Missile Cruiser, the USS Milius Aegis ballistic missile defense destroyer, and a number of other naval assets are in the region. We have 10 Patriot batteries deployed to the Gulf region and Jordan, as well as AN/TPY-2 radar, which is an extraordinarily powerful radar to be able to track missiles fired basically from anywhere in the region.

And the mission of all of these forces is to defend our partners, to deter aggression, to maintain freedom of navigation, and to combat terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

So we're doing a lot with our partners in the Gulf every day, and we will continue to do so. But I think what the summit meeting is an opportunity to do is explore ways in which we can act collectively and in a more effective manner. So, for example, in addition to all the ballistic missile assets that we already have in the region, all of our partners in the Gulf are also investing in Patriot systems and THAAD and other advanced ballistic missile defense assets. But frankly, the ability of any country in the region to defend against a missile threat pales in comparison to the ability of the GCC as a whole, as a collective, to defend against this threat if their systems were better integrated.

So one of the things that we'll talk about is what more can we do with our partners in the GCC to share early warning, and to integrate air and missile defenses. We'll also look at ways in which we can improve maritime security, improve critical infrastructure protection and cyber defenses, and expand intelligence and other actions aimed at countering foreign fighters and the terrorist threat in the region.

And all of this comes wrapped together with more training and exercises, ways in which we can streamline the process of our partners getting equipment to carry out these missions. So we do a lot already. There’s more that we can do together, and this is a great vehicle to achieve those common objectives.

MR. MALLEY: This is Rob. Just to build on what Ben said -- I mean, a lot of this was discussed in Paris on Friday when Secretary Kerry met with all the GCC foreign ministers, and the whole concept was to work together with them to see what more we could do in terms of assurances and what more they could do in terms of meeting together to assess the challenges they face.

And there was consensus on two points -- again, echoing what Ben said, but this was with the GCC ministers. First, that the U.S. has a track record of standing up and of helping GCC countries whenever they’re threatened. And that was true when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, and it's true when we allied with them against ISIL in the recent months, and it's true again with regards to Yemen. And they came out quite satisfied, the GCC countries, with the level of assurance that we were discussing with them in regards to Camp David.

And the second point that we all discussed and there was broad consensus was that we need to be more creative in terms of adjusting what kind of cooperation, security cooperation, takes place. The conventional weapons sales is something that many people focus on, but they're really not adapted to either the terrorist threat or some of the other threats that the region faces today. And so we work together on what kind of other means the GCC could get with us and enhancing their own capability to meet the threats that conventional weapons simply are not best equipped to confront.

Q Hi, thanks for doing the call. I just wondered if you could go through who was representing each of the countries, or at least just tell us which top leaders will be there. I know a couple of them have been ill and I know they are not coming, but there's been a little conflict about some of the other countries.

MR. RHODES: Sure. Well, Anita, obviously, ultimately the countries themselves will confirm the level of their participation. I will tell you who we are obviously certain are planning to travel. That would include the Kuwaiti Emir. That would include for Oman, the Deputy Prime Minister, Sayyid Fahd Mahmoud Al Said. That would include the Emir of Qatar. That would include for Saudi Arabia, as we discussed, the Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Nayef and the Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman -- again, very unique for both of them to be attending a meeting like this. For the United Arab Emirates, that would be Mohammed bin Zayed, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, who, as you know, regularly represents the UAE at international meetings. With respect to Bahrain, we are certainly anticipating the attendance of the Crown Prince, who also regularly represents Bahrain here in Washington and at other international meetings. So that would -- oh, and sorry, with respect to the GCC more broadly, the Secretary General of the GCC will be in attendance.

So this is a very -- I know there's been a lot of focus on this, but the fact of the matter is these are the interlocutors who we work on these issues with on a daily basis. And so we very much feel that we have the right group of people around the table to have a very substantive discussion. These are the people responsible for the security portfolios in each of these respective countries. They are very well known figures to the United States. And, again, it is not at all uncommon for a number of these heads of state to not travel internationally for meetings of this nature but rather to have the individuals who are representing them at this type of meeting.

So, again, recognizing there's been a lot of focus on this, we're very pleased and feel like we have the exact right people around the table to have this discussion. These are going to be the people who will be carrying out these various strategies, and we're very pleased with the level of participation.

Q Thanks very much. I appreciate your points there, but I wonder if you could reflect a little bit further on the relationship with Saudi Arabia today and where you feel it's at. I mean, after 9/11 there was a

lot of cooperation on intelligence, a lot of shared mission in terms of terrorists and al Qaeda. But today, it feels like we're on somewhat different pages when it comes to, obviously, ISIS; when it comes to the Arab Spring in Egypt; when it comes to Iran. Obviously the oil prices have changed, the power dynamic to some extent. I wonder if you could reflect on where we are today with Saudi Arabia.

MR. RHODES: Sure, Peter. Look, I think that fundamentally this is a relationship that has been rooted for years, if not decades, on a set of common interests. We share an interest in the stability of the region. We share an interest in the free flow of commerce, including energy from the region. We share an interest in countering terrorism. And I will tell you that today we are cooperating as closely with Saudi Arabia on those issues as at any point certainly in the six and a half years that I've been here, given the fact that Saudi Arabia has joined us in this counter-ISIL campaign.

That is a new step for them, frankly, to be flying missions alongside the United States and other GCC countries in Syria as part of that counter-ISIL campaign. We've worked with them very closely to counter AQAP in Yemen, and in the current context have provided support to their ongoing efforts inside of Yemen, and most recently with Secretary Kerry working in support of also the effort to establish this five-day ceasefire to see if we can improve the humanitarian situation and facilitate a political dialogue.

That's not to say that we have not had occasional differences with Saudi Arabia and other members of the GCC over the last several years. But that's to be expected. Nobody would anticipate a uniform agreement.

I'd say, Peter, given your own reporting on this over the years -- as you know, there were concerns in Saudi Arabia about aspects of our Iraq policy under the previous administration, and there were deep misgivings under the previous administration about the Iraqi government. And one of the difficult challenges in the region for many years was the inability of Saudi Arabia to work with the Maliki-led government inside of Iraq. That's improved substantially in recent months since Prime Minister Abadi took office. And we've seen the leader -- the Prime Minister of Iraq sit down with the President of the United States and Saudi officials at the U.N. General Assembly, and continue to have the type of dialogue with Saudi Arabia that could not have been envisioned under Prime Minister Maliki.

So all that is to say that I think we have a very robust agenda that we share with the Saudis that's manifested in the issues that we're working on with them. There have been disagreements under this administration and under the previous administration about certain policies and developments in the Middle East. But I think on a set of core interests, we continue to have a common view about what we aim to achieve.

What this meeting is about, frankly, is how do we develop strategies and capabilities that can better serve those interests. So it's in Saudi Arabia's interest to counter terrorism, to counter ISIL, and to have a more stable situation in its neighborhood. We want to sit down and have a very broad conversation with them about what types of strategies and capabilities can meet those objectives.

And again, I think what we've seen since the transition of power in Saudi Arabia certainly is the fact that Mohammed bin Nayef and Mohammed bin Salman have been key figures in setting that security policy for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and key interlocutors for us.

Q I wanted to just get your take on something that Marc Ginsberg had written about earlier today. He says that he believes that the Saudi leaders, the Gulf leaders were led to believe that there would be progress, if not agreements, on a mutual defense agreement, a ballistic missiles agreement, and the transfer of F-35 jets. And when they found out that there wasn't going to be something substantial, that they decided it was not worth their time to send their top people to this summit. I wanted to get your reaction to that.

And also, something that John McCain said earlier today, which is that --

MS. MEEHAN: Kristen, you cut out. Are you still there?

Q Sorry, guys, can you hear me now?

MR. RHODES: Yes, we lost you on McCain.

Q Oh, sorry. So something that John McCain said on the Andrea Mitchell Report today, that he thinks that basically Kerry said something that was miscommunicated in Friday's meeting with the Saudis. The exact quote is, "Sometimes he interprets things as he wants them to be rather than what they really are." If I could just get your reaction to that.

MR. RHODES: Well, with respect to the second question, I think the President spoke to this in Panama. We expect there to be differences over policy. But this type of repeated questioning of the credibility of the Secretary of State of the United States of America who served many years in the United States Senate and the United States military is not in keeping with longstanding practice with respect to U.S. national security.

Secretary Kerry had good meetings in both Saudi Arabia and Paris, and Rob can speak to that in a moment. And the President is very pleased with the progress he was able to make.

On the first point, look, the Saudis are sending the people in their system who are responsible for these portfolios. So again, anybody will tell you that, in the current context, Mohammed bin Nayef and Mohammed bin Salman are the key actors as it relates to Saudi security policy.

Clearly, the King sets the direction. And President Obama spoke to King Salman today. They've had several conversations and will have an ongoing dialogue about the broader strategic direction here. But it's, we believe, the right degree of representation for them to have essentially all of the people in their system who have the responsibility for these portfolios at the table at Camp David.

And I'd add, we expect it will go beyond just those two individuals to include other key members of the Saudi national security team.

We do not and never anticipated this to be a summit that only focused on one capability, like the F-35, for instance. What we're focused on is the capabilities that are most relevant to the current security challenges that the GCC faces. We have had a robust relationship with the Saudis and other GCC members with respect to aircraft. But as Colin said, we need to be looking at maritime, at cyber, at counterterrorism, at ballistic missile defenses. We need to be looking at the interoperability of the GCC countries and their capacity to operate jointly alongside us, as well.

So I think it would be a mistake to say that there was some list of very finite capabilities that were the only things on the table here. And frankly, we'll continue to have discussion with them about aircraft in the context of their security needs. But we're actually looking at a much broader menu of capabilities that are going to be necessary to meet the evolving threats in the region.

And with respect to our security assurances, look, clearly we have a set of arrangements that are very painstakingly negotiated with respect to our NATO allies, for instance. But I think we've demonstrated our willingness and capacity to come to the defense of GCC partners when they do face an external threat. We'll be exploring ways to strengthen that assurance at the Camp David summit. And again, we'll also be importantly looking -- not just at those assurances, but at the capabilities that undergird them.

Rob, anything you want to add on Paris?

MR. MALLEY: Yes, just we were in Paris and we went through -- as I said earlier -- together everything that we thought we should work on in a common fashion. This was not a case -- we never saw this, and I think they understood this is not a case of the GCC countries coming with a shopping list and we'd have to tick off those of the items that they wanted that we would agree on. It was a mutual, joint venture. We are in this together to see how we could together strengthen the security and stability of the Gulf. And that's the spirit in which they came to Paris.

I think it's fair to say, as Ben mentioned, there's one issue they have. Some of them wanted a formal treaty, and that's something we told them weeks ago was not possible. I think whether they were disappointed or not, they got it, they understood that. And we've been working since then. And in Paris, the Secretary went through in some detail what our

thinking was. He wanted to hear what their thinking was. And we didn't hear any dissatisfaction. Again, one of them reminded us that they would have liked a treaty, but beyond that there was no hint of dissatisfaction. And we agreed that in the days between Paris and Camp David, we'd keep working to make sure that we were aligned on the set of things that we both wanted to see coming out of Camp David.

I think a number of you may have spoken to Foreign Minister al-Jubeir. He just reiterated that point in a press encounter. And King Salman and President Obama just had a conversation along exactly these lines. So I know the story is out there, but it's a fact that in this meeting in Paris there was no hint of dissatisfaction, and rather a willingness to try to continue to refine whatever it was we'd come up with in Camp David. And the proof will be at Camp David when we come out with the GCC countries with a set of steps that we're going to take together.

MR. KAHL: So this is Colin. I would just add on the arms piece. This administration has worked extraordinarily closely with the Gulf states to make sure that they had access to state-of-the-art armaments. I mean, just to give you -- you mentioned the F-35, but keep in mind under this administration we moved forward on a package for the Saudis that will provide them the most advanced F-15 aircraft in the region. The Emiratis fly the most advanced F-16s in the world. They're more advanced than the ones our Air Force flies. Taken as a whole, the GCC last year spent nearly $135 billion on their defense. The Saudis spent more than $80 billion. Taken in comparison, the Iranians spent something like $15 billion on their defense.

These countries have access to extraordinarily advanced weapons systems. But there's two things to keep in mind here. One is, the threats that they really face are frequently in areas like terrorism, cyber-attacks, maritime security, threats to critical energy infrastructure. And these are the types of capabilities I think that are probably most germane to addressing the challenges that most concern them at the moment.

And the second thing is, the key right now is figuring out ways for the Gulf states to work collectively and to work with us in a more integrated and interoperable fashion, because the whole can really be greater than the sum of its parts when you're talking about the ability to make the most use of advanced air defense systems, ballistic missile defense systems, maritime capabilities, et cetera.

So much of the summit is oriented around ensuring that the GCC states have the access to the capabilities they need, but also using the capabilities they already have more effectively.

Q I actually have two questions. The first one is sort of taking another stab at Jeff's question at the beginning. In terms of what we should expect out of this meeting, are we expecting a written statement? Is there going to be sort of a doctrine that comes out of this? And you'd mentioned a lot of the different issues that are going to

be covered. Whatever comes out of this in terms of a written statement, will it likely cover all of those different issues from the battle against ISIS, to what's happening in Libya, to what's happening in Syria and Iraq, as well as with Iran? Should we expect something that's broad enough to cover all of those issues?

And then the second one is, to what extent will human rights be a part of this conversation? The President said that tough conversations are needed to be had about internal policies and politics within these countries. Is that something that you expect to play a major role in these discussions?

MR. RHODES: So, yes, my apologies for not being more specific in response to Jeff's question. I would certainly anticipate that there will be some form of a statement emerging from the summit that reflects the common positions of the United States and the GCC on a range of issues. The United States, of course, will be speaking for ourselves, in addition -- and providing some additional detail. And I think we'll be discussing -- part of this I think we'll be able to communicate clearly what our approach is on all of the regional issues. I think we'll be able to specify the types of capabilities that we're going to be enhancing together; the types of assurances that the United States has made to the GCC, as well as the commitments the GCC is making going forward on these various issues.

So I think there will both be a sense of the shared position of the United States and the GCC, as well as the respective positions of the United States and various GCC members, as well as the collective.

On human rights, this is a regular topic of discussion with the GCC countries. This summit is clearly focused on the regional security picture and how we can deepen our security cooperation across the region. At the same time, I think the United States has made clear and will continue to make clear our support for a set of universal values, but also the fact that the pursuit of inclusive governance, the promotion of reconciliation within societies is a part of promoting lasting security. So in that regard, when you look across the region, we believe that certain approaches that foster inclusivity in the long run are going to be helpful to our efforts to promote security.

Q Hi, thanks very much for the call. I just wanted to ask if you think you'll be in a position to actually announce anything on ballistic missile defense, given the disagreements that have existed within the GCC about what installations go where and so on. And also whether there will be anything specific on joint exercises or training in maritime security.

MR. KAHL: I don't want to get ahead of our announcements, but we will have some specific announcements as it relates to better integrating the GCC ballistic missile defense architecture. So stay tuned on that. There are things that we can do not just bilaterally with the countries, but collectively with them. And we'll have details on that in the next couple of days.

We'll also be announcing additional military exercises that are pegged to increase the proficiency and the ability of the GCC states to act interoperably -- that is together, among themselves and with us to address asymmetric challenges, and in the maritime domain and counterterrorism, as well as in air and missile defense. But anyway, we'll have more details obviously in the next couple of days.

Q Thank you for taking my question. The administration has said a number of times that the nuclear negotiations and Iran's interference in the region are two separate issues. I was wondering at the summit, will the administration present these topics as separate issues and discuss them as separate issues? And would you say that the GCC and the U.S. are in conflict over these two issues?

MR. RHODES: Thanks, they're good questions. We will be discussing both the ongoing nuclear negotiations, as well as other regional activities that Iran has engaged in. We have made clear that the issues are separate in the sense that the United States is negotiating very specifically a nuclear deal with Iran. But at the same time that we are negotiating that deal, our concerns over Iran's other destabilizing actions in the region will remain constant.

Where they are related is in our strong belief that an Iran armed with a nuclear weapon, or the capability to amass enough material for a nuclear weapon would pose a much greater risk to the region than an Iran that is without one.

So simply put, if you imagine what Iran is doing today, and then you consider Iran undertaking those activities with a nuclear umbrella, the situation would be much more unstable and much more threatening to our partners. That's why we believe that the nuclear deal is profoundly in the interest of not just the United States and our P5+1 partners, but also the region more generally. Because, again, if you can diplomatically and peacefully resolve the nuclear issue in a way that prevents Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, we believe that will lead to a much more stable region than a situation in which Iran is essentially at the doorstep of having enough material to produce a nuclear weapon.

We addressed these issues in Paris. We'll be addressing them at Camp David. Secretary Moniz is participating in the meetings precisely because of his expertise and involvement in the negotiations.

But I don't know, Rob, if you have anything you want you add.

MR. MALLEY: And Secretary Lew will participate because they're also looking at issues having to do with financing of Iranian-affiliated organizations. So I think, again, as was clear in Paris, we are looking at the Iranian problem as a whole, all of the aspects of it -- the nuclear one -- and for the reasons Ben mentioned we think are critical. But that doesn't mean that we're not looking at what else we need to do to counter Iran's destabilizing activities and to get to the point where we can try

to resolve some of those regional conflicts in which Iran obviously has a hand and is going to have to at some point be at the table and play a more constructive role.

Q Hi, guys. Thanks for doing the call. I know you mentioned several times that cybersecurity will be a part of these conversations later this week. I was wondering if you could detail a bit more kind of the cyber-threats that you see in the region, how you think that will play into the discussion, and what exactly the type of cooperation or relations, or joint agreements that might come out from a cyber perspective, what types of things might you guys agree to do moving forward, particularly to address the type of cyber threats that you're seeing in the region.

MR. KAHL: The President has repeatedly made clear that cyber-threats pose one of the greatest national security challenges to the United States, but it also poses an increasing challenge to countries in the region. Obviously, in recent years, you've seen attacks on the Saudi Aramco network -- computer network. For example, attacks that at least the media attributed to the Iranians. There are concerns that this is a vulnerability across the Gulf states to critical infrastructure.

For years, we worked closely with the Gulf states to improve the protection of critical infrastructure, especially in the energy domain. And I think we are looking for opportunities to expand that cooperation and deepen that cooperation through exchanges between our agencies and departments and theirs -- sharing lessons learned on how we have attempted to harden our own government and private-sector infrastructure against outside hackers and cyber intrusions, and to share those lessons more fully with our Gulf partners.

So that's really what we're talking about here. I think there's also an opportunity, as we think about crafting military exercises, that aim not just at conventional challenges but at these asymmetric challenges to include a cyber dimension -- a more fulsome cyber dimension to those as well. So we'll be talking about those types of things.

MR. RHODES: Just very quickly, we've also seen a nascent effort from ISIL to pose a challenge in this space. And so in addition to state-sponsored cyber threats, there's also the terrorist threat. I'd just take the opportunity to add that these GCC partners are also with us in the effort to counter the ISIL ideology more broadly, which is often propagated online and through social media. And many countries have stepped up, particularly Saudi Arabia and UAE in particular, in working cooperatively to counter that ideology. And, indeed, the UAE has hosted a number of events with the express purpose of mobilizing voices from within the Muslim community to counter ISIL's efforts to recruit and radicalize young people.

MS. MEEHAN: Operator, I think we have time for one more question please.

Q Rob and Colin in particular, how good a sense do you have of what the Saudis and the other Gulf countries are looking for here? Colin, you went through quite a list of sort of what the U.S. wanted to address, and I'm just wondering how clear it is to you what they're looking for -- in particular on this whole question of what to do about an Iran unbound by sanctions that would be freer, and richer, and more capable of continuing its destabilizing actions in the region through its proxies.

MR. KAHL: Thanks, Margaret. I'm going to have Rob chime in here, too, because of course he just met with the GCC foreign ministers along with Secretary Kerry in Paris, so he'll have some real-time insight to provide for you.

Look, I think that this is an uncertain time across the Middle East, and I think the GCC countries are looking to us to reaffirm the commitment, frankly, that goes back to the end of World War II, as it relates to the Saudis and was part of the Nixon doctrine and part of the Carter doctrine, and was reaffirmed by the President in 2013 at the U.N. General Assembly about our commitment to the external defense of our partners in this part of the world who include the Gulf. So they're looking to us at this moment of uncertainty in the region to reaffirm that commitment, and my sense is that they'll be pleased with what they hear.

I know that there's a lot of talk about Iran being unbound or unshackled by this agreement to somehow create more mischief in the region. I think it's important to keep in mind that the sanctions that we're talking about suspending and eventually lifting in the context of a nuclear agreement were put in place precisely to achieve meaningful and verifiable constraints on Iran's nuclear program. They were never an end in and of themselves, they were always a means to achieve a nuclear agreement along the lines of the one we're negotiating now. And as Ben mentioned earlier, the worst thing for the region would be a nuclear-armed Iran that could hide behind a nuclear deterrent to engage even more openly in terrorism and subversion and support militancy, et cetera.

So a truly unshackled Iran would be one that had incredibly robust nuclear weapons capabilities, and therefore felt emboldened to create even more mischief in the region. So obviously the deal that we're negotiating with the Iranians and the P5+1 is meant to directly address that threat, which we think is quite considerable, and our allies do, as well.

I think it's also important to keep in mind that much of Iran's perceived success in recent years has happened despite sanctions. That is, keeping sanctions in place is not a recipe for preventing Iran from causing mischief. And the reason for that is much of Iran's perceived success is not a consequence of their strength but, frankly, the weakness of a lot of the states in this part of the world. When you look at places like Yemen or Syria or Iraq or elsewhere, you have a weakening of state institutions, which has provided the ability for Iran to expand their influence. So, much of the solution is not necessarily a weaker Iran but, frankly, stronger partners.

And one of the things that we'll be focused on intensely with our Gulf State partners is how do we strengthen our partnerships with them, but also our partnerships in places like Yemen and Iraq and elsewhere, and also how do we promote power-sharing arrangements and more inclusive political institutions in places like Yemen and Iraq and Syria in ways, frankly, that help those states stabilize and over the long term help push back against nefarious influences of all kinds.

MR. MALLEY: I think Colin covered most of it, Margaret. I'll just add -- just my sense from meeting with the GCC representatives last week and then again in Paris on Friday. I think there are two dimensions to sort of what they're looking for.

One is, there's just this sort of amorphous sense they want to make sure that the U.S. is there -- will be with them. All these stories about the U.S. pivoting or sort of being fatigued with the problems in the Middle East. And I think that was -- if our engagement in the fight against ISIL, if our very robust engagements with the GCC didn't convince them, I think Camp David and everything that they've heard from us so far should have persuaded them that that concern is unfounded. But I think that's part of it. They just want to hear that we're there and that we care. And I think that was part of what -- that's what Camp David is actually going to do.

The second is what Colin spoke about, which is more specific, which is Iran. And there you have a whole slew of concerns they have about whether once we have a deal, we're going to turn our back on our traditional allies; whether we'll normalize with Iran; whether the deal is going to empower Iran; whether we are assuming that a deal will lead to moderation, which they think is not the case. And again, these are points that the President has made time and again, and these points were made again by Secretary Kerry and by Secretary Moniz and by a representative from the Department of the Treasury in Paris. None of that is the case.

First of all, again, as Colin said, it's precisely because we think Iran has engaged in destabilizing behavior that we don't want to see them acquire a nuclear bomb. And the President's bet is not a bet on moderation. It's a bet that assumes the worst; hopes that maybe Iran will change its behavior. But this is a deal that's supposed to be as solid and as good -- if Iran doesn't change as if it does change.

And in terms of the sanctions, which is one of their concerns, we obviously make the point the sanctions are not going to be removed all at once. Not all of them are going to be removed. A lot of them are going to stay in place. And we have snapback -- if we get a deal, that is -- on sanctions and of the U.N. sanctions.

A lot of this I think the foreign ministers hadn't heard; I don't think the leaders will have heard. And so they need to better understand what our approach is towards Iran. I think it's one the President has been transparent about from day one. He also believes -- as was mentioned earlier, and as Colin just said -- part of this is to get the GCC States

in a position where they could deal with greater confidence and self-confidence and strength with Iran, not in order to perpetuate a never-ending conflict, but to engage Iran to try to resolve the problems of the region, which will only be resolved once the region itself comes together and tries to find security arrangements that will stabilize the situation in Syria, in Yemen, in Iraq and elsewhere.

And so that's sort of the paradigm under which this is taking place. The prism through which we look at this is how do we strengthen our cooperation with the GCC, how do we strengthen the GCC's own capacity so that the strategic balance in the region is such that you could finally get to the point where the GCC, Iran and other countries in the region could actually resolve the problems that are making the region as unstable and as dangerous as it is today.

MS. MEEHAN: Great. Thank you, everyone. That concludes our call. As a reminder, this call was on the record and is no longer under embargo. Thank you and have a good day.

END 5:13 P.M. EDT

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/24/2015 9:56:35 PM
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Subject: On-The-Record Conference Call on the Upcoming State Visit of Prime Minister Abe of Japan

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 24, 2015

ON-THE-RECORD CONFERENCE CALL
BY DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, BEN RHODES
DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, CAROLINE ATKINSON
AND NSC SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS, EVAN MEDEIROS
ON THE UPCOMING STATE VISIT OF
PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE OF JAPAN

Via Telephone

*Please see below for a correction, marked with an asterisk.

1:41 P.M. EDT

MS. MEEHAN: Good afternoon, everybody. This is Bernadette at the National Security Council. Thank you for joining us for this call to preview the official visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. This call is on the record, which means you can quote all of our senior officials by name and title. We will embargo this call until the conclusion of the call.

Our three senior administration officials are, first, Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications, Ben Rhodes. Second, Deputy National Security for Asian Affairs -- excuse me -- National Security Council Senior Director for Asian Affairs, Evan Medeiros. And third, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics, Caroline Atkinson.

And with that, I will turn it over to Ben.

MR. RHODES: Thanks, everybody, for joining the call. I'll just be brief and then turn it over to Evan to go over the highlights of the bilateral agenda, and then Caroline to go over some of the economic and global issues.

I'd just say, first, that we really look at this visit in the context of our broader efforts to continue to rebalance the Asia Pacific region. This has been one of our core foreign policy priorities throughout President Obama's time in office. And we recently concluded

some important business in the last calendar year with respect to our Asia rebalance on the President's trip to the Asia Pacific region in November, where we reached an historic climate change agreement with China; where we also were able to visit Australia, a country with whom we concluded an important defense agreement last year.

And again, we continue to deepen our engagement with Southeast Asia through our attendance at ASEAN and a number of agreements reached last year, including a defense agreement with the Philippines and the comprehensive partnership that was forged with Malaysia.

As we looked at this year, we obviously have a very small number of official visits and state dinners that we can host over the course of a year and we wanted to prioritize our engagement with Asia Pacific through those visits. And so we will be having Prime Minister Abe here for an official visit and state dinner, and later this year we will be hosting President Xi Jinping of China for a state visit, as well.

As a general matter, we've always made the case that the cornerstone of our Asia rebalance is the relationship between the United States and our traditional allies in the region, and the U.S.-Japan alliance is clearly at the center of our network of allies and partners in the Asia Pacific region. So this visit reinforces both the U.S.-Japan alliance, but also the U.S. commitment to the security and stability of the Asia Pacific region more broadly. And again, Japan is also a country we cooperate with not just in the region but globally.

So this helps set the tone for a year of very active engagement between the United States and the Asia Pacific region that will include, as I mentioned, President Xi Jinping's state visit, also a visit from President Widodo of Indonesia, and the President's attendance at the ASEAN and EAS and APEC summits later this year.

With that, I will turn it over to Evan to go through the bilateral agenda.

MR. MEDEIROS: Thank you very much, Ben. Thanks, everybody, for joining us today. It's my pleasure today to talk about Prime Minister Abe's visit to Washington. This is going to be a historic visit for this administration. It's the first time in this administration that we have had an official visit of the head of ~~state~~ *government of Japan, and the first time in the United States -- the first time since 2006 that we've had such an official visit. This visit affirms the centrality of Japan to our Asia policy, and confirms Japan's enduring contributions to security and prosperity in Asia and globally.

Let me run through very briefly the schedule of Prime Minister Abe's visit to the United States, highlight a few themes, talk about the policy issues that are going to be discussed, and then pass it over to Caroline to talk about some of the economic and global issues.

In terms of the schedule, Prime Minister Abe will be making four stops in the United States. His visit begins in Boston, then he arrives in Washington for the official bilateral portion of his visit. Then he will go to San Francisco and Los Angeles.

In Washington, the bilateral portion of the visit includes the following: An arrival ceremony on the South Lawn, a meeting in the Oval Office, a press conference with President Obama, a lunch at the State Department hosted by the Vice President and Secretary of State Kerry, and then of course a state dinner at the White House with nearly 300 guests.

Also, let me add that on Monday in New York City, there will be a historic two-plus-two meeting with Secretaries Carter and Kerry that will announce some historic changes to the way the U.S.-Japan alliance operates.

In terms of the themes for the visit, let me highlight a few important ones. First, given the fact that 2015 is the 70th anniversary year of the end of World War II, we believe that the current state of the U.S.-Japan relationship highlights the power and the possibility of reconciliation between former adversaries. The U.S.-Japan relationship has traversed -- has changed a lot over the last 70 years, and it's arrived at a point of a very close alliance in which we cooperate regionally and globally.

A second major theme of the visit is the transformation of the U.S.-Japan relationship on both economic and security issues, and the breadth and depth of our cooperation in terms of our defense relationship and on economic issues -- and Caroline will talk about TPP -- is at historic levels.

A third major theme to highlight is the fact that the U.S-Japan relationship is very active in Asia, but it also has a very active global agenda. We work together on a variety of global challenges including climate change, health security, and a variety of other issues. These themes and messages are going to be reflected in a joint vision statement and a bilateral factsheet that we will release on Tuesday during the day of the official visit.

During the meeting in the Oval Office, the two leaders will discuss a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues. Bilaterally, they will discuss recent changes to our alliance, and specifically, our defense guidelines, and the importance of continued progress on our force posture realignment related to Okinawa, and in particular, the importance of keeping to existing agreements on Okinawa and elsewhere on track.

Regionally, they'll talk about issues like North Korea, Southeast Asia, maritime security and regional economic affairs. On North Korea, we will -- the President will stress the importance of sustaining a unified approach aimed at denuclearizing North Korea and deterring provocation.

Globally, they will talk about the challenges posed by Russia, Iran's nuclear activities, climate change, global health security, nuclear

security, the empowerment of women and girls -- especially through recent collaboration on girls' education, which was highlighted during the First Lady's visit last month to Japan.

Now let me turn it over to Caroline to talk about some of the economic issues and other global areas of cooperation.

MS. ATKINSON: Thank you very much, Evan. So the key economic issue that we expect the leaders will discuss concerns our trade relations in the context of the Transpacific Partnership, the TPP, which, as you know, is a very large, complex and important trade agreement that is currently being negotiated with 11 other countries, including Japan.

We are not expecting to reach any formal announcement during the visit. We do hope that the leaders will be able to have a constructive conversation that reflects the substantial progress that has been made in negotiations, which has narrowed the important differences that there were between the United States and Japan.

We're not there yet, to a final deal, and more work is needed. In fact, we expect our negotiators to continue their work as they have been doing over many months now. But there is -- Ambassador Froman was just recently in Tokyo. He had good discussions, constructive discussions, and made substantial progress. And we think that this meeting will be a good opportunity for the leaders to review that progress. And of course, this progress between the United States and Japan is a critical element for taking forward the broader discussions on TPP.

I would just comment that the backdrop of action, positive momentum on Capitol Hill for trade promotion authority is very positive. We have had bipartisan and bicameral support in the last two days for the trade promotion authority 2015, which is the way that Congress can set out the negotiating objectives for the administration in a way that will allow us to go forward and eventually close out broader trade agreements.

The other issues I'll just touch on briefly. Of course, we work with Japan in the G7 and in the G20 on a number of global issues, importantly, the progress in the global economy. As you know, the United States' economy is recovering solidly. Of course, we still have further to go, but we're clearly in the midst of recovery. Japan is not in the same position, and we will discuss -- I expect the leaders to discuss how to promote stronger global growth based on domestic demand.

We also work with Japan on such issues, as Evan mentioned, as global health, energy efficiency and climate. Just a word on climate -- as he always does, we would expect President Obama to raise this important global issue, which is very high on his agenda, with Prime Minister Abe. We work and have worked very closely with Japan in climate negotiations. The United States recognizes that we have a critical role to play in combatting global climate change, and we have been leading the international effort with our domestic work here and also with the

international work partnering with China last year, working also with India, with Mexico, which has also announced its climate targets.

So this visit will provide an opportunity for the two leaders to further their cooperation, and to help build momentum towards a successful and ambitious climate agreement in Paris in December.

Thanks very much.

MR. RHODES: I'd just say one more thing before we go to questions.

On this issue of U.S.-Japan cooperation on global challenges, I'd also note that we were able to generate significant momentum for the effort to reach a global climate agreement later this year in Paris through the China agreement that I mentioned, but also the United States and Japan both making their commitment to the Green Climate Fund during the G20 in Australia last year.

So Japan has been a good partner in stepping forward with a commitment in that respect. And as we head into Paris, clearly both the United States and Japan will have a leadership role to play in helping to bring about a successful conclusion to those discussions.

Similarly, in the context of the broader Asia Pacific policy that I referenced at the beginning, President Obama had a good trip to India earlier this year, an historic visit, as the Chief Guest at Republic Day, where he discussed, obviously, the climate change effort, but also deepening our own relationship and partnership with India in the Asia Pacific. This of course is an area that Prime Minister Abe has also discussed with Prime Minister Modi in terms of their collaboration in the region, as well.

So many of the different partnerships that we're forging across the region have been mutually reinforcing, and we believe can contribute to the stability and prosperity of the broader region.

And with that, I think we're happy to move to questions.

Q Thanks, all of you, for doing the call. I wanted to ask about the trade issue, so perhaps Caroline can help me out here. First of all, would you all have preferred to already have the trade promotion authority in advance of this meeting? Would it have, in essence, helped to close the remaining issues pending in the talks with Japan? I wondered if, leading up to this, whether there has been some significant narrowing of the gap on issues regarding U.S. tariffs on autos and Japanese tariffs on beef, which seem to be the main outstanding issues.

And I wanted to ask also -- we've heard the President yesterday and today strongly push back against criticism from Democrats on fast-track, and does that suggest that despite the victories that you mentioned in committee that the prospects, from your estimate, remain very much in doubt that you can get fast-track in the end? Thanks.

MR. RHODES: Well, Jim, I'll start and then turn it over to Caroline if she can add, as well.

First of all, we've been clear that the trade promotion authority and then an agreement like TPP would be very important for American businesses and workers for the simple reason that over the course of the last six years, as we've pursued this Asia rebalance, we've made clear that part of the focus on this region is the fact that this is the largest emerging region in the world; that U.S. growth and job creation is going to have to be supported by our ability to access these markets and our ability to have rules of the road that level the playing field and allow for U.S. businesses to be competitive. And that's what the TPP process has been all about.

And the case that President Obama has been making in recent days to some of his strongest supporters is that the United States cannot be closed out of these markets, and that the type of economic growth that we all support depends upon these types of high-standards trade agreements. And if we're not writing the rules, they're going to be written without us, and we risk being closed out of these markets.

Now, that's the context for the ongoing debate over trade promotion authority. We believe that this is a very important tool in ensuring that there are clear objectives that are set for our trade agreements, and there's a clear signal about the United States' commitment to conclude high-standards trade agreements.

And that ultimately puts us in a stronger position at the negotiating table to make progress on the issues that count to us, such as having high labor and environmental standards, and making clear that U.S. businesses are going to have the type of market access that can lead to job creation here in the United States.

So the progress that's been made on TPA already has been important and has been bipartisan. And we do believe that if we continue to make the case, both Republicans and Democrats will support trade promotion authority. And at the end of the day, that is going to allow us to secure the best possible trade agreement that we can in the context of TPP for our economic interests.

With respect to the specific market issues that you addressed, obviously there have been -- as you get towards the end of a negotiation and you're dealing with very important sectors like autos and agriculture, there are very sensitive issues for all the countries involved, and that's certainly the case for the United States and Japan.

What we've been able to do is close out many issues and then focus on the sensitive issues, and make progress in finding solutions that can allow for us to reach, ultimately, a bilateral understanding, which we're still working towards. And that of course is important to our ability to

work with the other 10 TPP countries to pursue a conclusion of an agreement.

Q Hi, yes. Thank you. Maybe for Evan or Ben, or both -- the Prime Minister, the day after visiting the White House, will of course go to Capitol Hill for a joint session speech. I wondered, President Obama has been very active in trying to broker better communication and dialogue between Prime Minister Abe and President Park of Korea. Korean diplomats in D.C. are suggesting that they expect the Prime Minister in his speech to Congress to at least take some time to address the historical issues that have caused some of this friction, specifically about comfort women.

I wondered if the administration has asked the Prime Minister and his staff to find room to address that issue, if you suggested specific kind of wording and how far to go. And if you -- either way, whether you've done that or not, whether you expect the Prime Minister to do so and think it would be a good idea.

MR. RHODES: I'll turn that over to Evan. I would say that we, as you know, have encouraged dialogue between the Republic of Korea and Japan, two of our closest allies in the region and the world. I'd note that we're also going to be hosting President Park here at the White House later this year as well to continue our dialogue with our Asian allies. And we encourage Prime Minister Abe to constructively address historical issues consistent with Japan in the past, statements on these issues, and in fostering better cooperation on anything of tensions in the region. But I'll hand this over to Evan to build on that.

MR. MEDEIROS: Hi, David. This is Evan. Thanks for a great question. From my perspective, our alliance system in Northeast Asia is one of our unique assets. And we have been very engaged from the beginning of this administration in modernizing that alliance structure and making sure that our allies themselves have a good relationship.

And the President has been very actively involved in encouraging a more productive relationship between Japan and the ROK in the past several years. You may recall that in March of last year, in the Hague, he hosted a very unique trilateral meeting with Prime Minister Abe and President Park to talk about nuclear security in North Korea in particular, but that provided a venue for all three leaders to get together.

In those kinds of settings, we have discussed history issues with leaders throughout Asia, both in Japan and South Korea. And we always stress that it's important to address history questions in an honest, constructive and forthright manner that promotes healing, but also in a way that reaches a final resolution.

So we're very supportive of diplomatic efforts between Japan and the ROK to improve their relationship. And we think that all sides should address history issues from that perspective of being constructive and focusing on the future, and reaching final resolutions.

Q Hey, guys. Thanks for having the call. I was wondering, first, if you could talk anymore -- or preview any more of the announcement with Carter and Kerry up in New York. And then also, just on the issue, I know -- of comfort women and the historical differences that we just brought up, I know that you've been encouraging honest and constructive dialogue, but it seems like the situation has been deteriorating. There's been a lot of frustrations, I think, voiced by South Korea recently. And so I'm wondering if there's any fear or -- that this is an issue that could complicate the President's pivot towards Asia and sort of setting up a deeper collaboration, bilaterally, between the two, between South Korea and Japan.

MR. MEDEIROS: Thanks. Great question. On the Carter-Kerry meeting, I don't want to get ahead of my colleagues at the DOD. I would just say at the meeting we are going to have a major announcement about a revision of our defense guidelines, a revision that would significantly expand Japan's role in the alliance and provide for -- which provides the mechanism for Japan to provide a wider range of support to U.S. forces. But I think my DOD colleagues will have more to say on this at a briefing on Monday.

Regarding Japan-ROK, I don't have a lot more to add to my previous question, which is just simply we believe that a better, closer, more constructive relationship between Japan and the ROK contributes to peace and security in Northeast Asia. It's an issue that we have been actively involved in. I referenced the trilateral meeting last year. We know that there is progress -- there is discussions and diplomacy going on, in particular at the DG level. We encourage that, we support that. And we think that approaches to the history questions should be ones that are honest and forthright and focused on the future.

Q Hi. Thanks for doing the call. I was wondering -- I know you mentioned the Okinawa base relocation, but I was wondering if you could give us a little more specifics on what the U.S. would be expecting from Japan in terms of reviewing the alliance*2359 in the defense guidelines? And also, in terms of Okinawa specifically, how is the U.S. going to avoid the perception that it's interfering in domestic Japanese politics when it comes to the base relocation? Thank you.

MR. MEDEIROS: Thanks for the question. On the issue of Okinawa, I would say that the issue is being well-handled. The agreements are on track. We appreciate Prime Minister Abe and his administration's leadership on this issue. And we think that the configuration we've outlined for the disposition of U.S. Marines related to Okinawa and throughout the region is a very important part of our broader force structure in the Asia Pacific, and we think it's being well-implemented. And both leaders will talk about the importance of both sides fulfilling their commitment.

Q Hi. Just a quick question on the -- I know you don't want to get into specifics about the reform of the defense guidelines, but could you speak more broadly about whether the President might offer some

support for Abe's efforts on Article 9? And also, on a kind of separate point, have you guys seen any substantive impact from the creation of the Japanese NSC? Is there a chance of a relationship in any way? Are you seeing a more strategic focus from Tokyo?

MR. MEDEIROS: Thanks for the question. When the President was in Tokyo last year, he expressed support for the Cabinet decision on collective self-defense. We think it's an important decision that opens the -- opened the pathway for us to begin to revise the defense guidelines, which we're going to realize next week.

So from our perspective, we think it's an important step and one that will enable the U.S.-Japan alliance to be more active in East Asia and even globally.

MR. MEEHAN: Andrew, would you mind repeating the question about the NSC?

Q I think it was a couple of years ago that the Japanese created their version of the NSC, with help from you guys, as I understand it. And I was just wondering if you've seen -- if that's led to any substantive change in the way the relationship is managed, or if you're seeing more strategic focus from Tokyo these days? A willingness to play a bigger role in the region?

MR. MEDEIROS: The Japanese NSC has been an important renovation in their national security decision making. It's opened up a more direct channel between our NSC and the Japanese NSC. Susan Rice has developed a very productive and very constructive relationship with her Japanese counterpart in which they are in I would say regular consultation about the major issues in the overall relationship.

And like any NSC, the key function of the institution is interagency coordination. And I think the Japanese NSC has allowed us to sort of broaden the scope of the regional and global issues that we work on because it's facilitating more efficient interagency consultation.

MR. RHODES: I would just say as a general matter, too, when you look at Prime Minister Abe's approach, their NSC and some of the changes that he has made, we very much welcome the fact that Japan is looking to play a more constructive role in promoting peace and stability in the broader Asia Pacific region.

And so for instance, he has pursued, deepened cooperation with a number of ASEAN countries just as he's pursued deeper cooperation with countries like Australia and India. We believe that this is a very welcome step forward for Japan.

Part of what the United States wants is for our allies to have better relations and our partners to be cooperating. Because if you look at the different challenges in the Asia Pacific -- whether or not you're talking about counter-piracy, or disaster response, or maritime security -- the

cooperation between the different countries in the region is going to be critical to finding solutions and creating the environment for stability in the region generally.

That's the approach the United States has taken in terms of deepening our relationships with ASEAN, obviously strengthening and modernizing our alliances, and also having constructive relations with China, including deeper military-to-military relations.

So the type of outreach that Prime Minister Abe is doing has been strategic in deepening an important set of relationships. And we believe that that dovetails very nicely with the U.S. rebalance of Asia Pacific in terms of having a network of alliances and partnerships that can contribute to a more secure, stable, and prosperous region.

Q Hi. Thanks very much for doing the call. I just wanted to clarify on the TPP, Ms. Atkinson and Ambassador Froman have both said that there's not going to be a final deal that's announced after the meeting. But do you expect that Prime Minister Abe and President Obama could reach some sort of agreement in principle during their meeting, or will this mostly be focused on trying to translate the progress that's been made in the bilateral talks toward the full 12-party talks?

MS. ATKINSON: Thank you very much. Look, as it's been clear, I think we have made substantial progress. There are a number of difficult issues that the negotiators have been working on bilaterally for a long period of time; somebody mentioned, correctly, autos and a number of agricultural products.

We expect the leaders to review the progress and to have the opportunity to discuss what should be the next steps together, but we do not expect any announcement of a final deal. We still have some work to do. Thank you very much.

MR. RHODES: And I have to say, look, clearly this is an important milestone along the way towards a potential conclusion of TPP. And what we want the leaders to do is to continue the momentum that we've had in recent discussions as we work towards the U.S. and Japan being able to reach bilateral understandings. But we also want the U.S. and Japan to be able to work with the other TPP countries to close out remaining issues as we head forward in the coming weeks.

So it's an important meeting for the two leaders to get together and review that progress and to look forward both towards how we are addressing the bilateral issues, but also towards how we are working with the other 10 TPP countries.

And look, the perspective of the United States is we're going to want to make sure that we're not just working towards a conclusion of an agreement, but we're working towards the conclusion of an agreement that has the type of standards that we are seeking, both in terms of how our businesses and workers are positioned in the Asia Pacific region, but also

how we're looking at a range of issues on labor and in the environment and other issues that we believe have to be dealt with in ways that go beyond past trade agreements and set new high standards as we look forward to a host of efforts in the 21st century to strengthen trade relations, not just in this region, but globally.

Q Thank you. My question is, since Prime Minister Abe met with President Xi Jinping in Beijing late last year, have you seen any kind of qualitative impact on the Japan-China relationship since then?

MR. MEDEIROS: What we've seen is a gradual improvement in the relationship in which they've opened up new channels of dialogue on both maritime issues broadly characterized, as well as military-to-military discussions, including addressing issues like crisis management. And then you may have seen that just earlier this week, when both Xi Jinping and Abe were at the Bandung Conference in Indonesia, they met on the sidelines and had about a 30-minute meeting.

So the United States warmly welcomes these efforts. We appreciate Prime Minister Abe's leadership in pursuing a diplomatic approach to improving the relationship and addressing their differences on maritime issues, especially related to the islands. And I think that this is an area where the U.S. has helped to create the conditions in Asia for a diplomatic -- or an improvement in diplomatic relations between Japan and China.

And this is an example of where when the United States is clear about its security commitments, when the United States is clear about its desire to see diplomacy pursued, that eventually, over time, both sides come to understand that diplomacy is the best way to approach an improvement in relations.

MS. MEEHAN: Great. Thank you, everybody. This concludes the call. As a reminder, this call was on the record and is no longer under embargo. Thanks, and have a great afternoon.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 1, 2015

ON-THE-RECORD CONFERENCE CALL
BY SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CYBERSECURITY COORDINATOR
MICHAEL DANIEL,
AND DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY ACTING DIRECTOR
FOR THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL JOHN SMITH
ON THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER,
"BLOCKING THE PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS ENGAGING IN SIGNIFICANT
MALICIOUS CYBER-ENABLED ACTIVITIES"

Via Telephone

10:05 A.M. EDT

MS. MEEHAN: Good morning, everyone, and thank you for joining this press call to discuss the President's executive order, "Blocking the Property of Certain Persons Engaging in Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities." It's a mouthful.

This call is on the record but will be embargoed until the end of the call, so please no social media until the call is over. On the record means obviously that you can quote the senior administration officials by name and title. They are Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator, Michael Daniel. And our second official is Department of the Treasury Acting Director for the Office of Foreign Assets Control, otherwise known as OFAC, John Smith.

So with that, I'll turn it over to our first official, Michael Daniel.

MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Bernadette. Thank you, everyone, for taking the time to talk with me today. As we are all very much aware in this day and age, cyber threats are some of the most serious national security and economic challenges facing the United States. And over the last few years, the administration has been pursuing a comprehensive strategy to confront this threat. And in particular, what I want to talk to you about

today is one new element of that strategy that we're rolling out -- a sanctions E.O. to respond to the most significant cyber threats.

In particular, we believe that we very much need the full range of tools across the spectrum in order to actually confront the cyber threats that we face. So diplomatic, law enforcement, economic, military, intelligence -- all of those tools are necessary in order to combat this threat.

So we have been over the past several years putting those tools into place and expanding our capabilities and abilities to confront this threat, and this sanctions E.O. is one particular piece of that.

So what this sanctions E.O. is really designed to do is it is designed to fill in a gap that we have identified where individuals carrying out significant malicious cyber activity are located in places that it's difficult for our diplomatic and law enforcement tools to reach, whether because they're behind the borders of a country that has weak cyber security laws, or the government is complicit in, or turning a blind eye to, the activity that's happening and we don't have good law enforcement relationships or other kinds of relationships.

So what we are doing is putting in place a tool that will enable us to impose costs on those actors. And in particular, what we are doing is we are focusing on those actors that pose a significant threat to the national security, the foreign policy, or the economic health or security of the United States as a whole, and that carry out one of four explicit kinds of harms through cyberspace: damaging attacks on our critical infrastructure; disrupting computer networks, say, through a widespread distributed denial of service attack; widespread or significant thefts of personal information, financial data, trade secrets or intellectual property; and the knowing use and receipt of those stolen goods.

So it's important to note that we very much intend this tool be one that is targeted and judicious in its use. It's not one that we are expecting to use every day. In most cases, our diplomatic and law enforcement and other tools will be the ones that we turn to first. But it's important that we have this capability in our toolbox in order to go after the threats that we face. We will not certainly be using this to target free speech or interfering with the free and open Internet, and we're not going to be going after the innocent victims of people whose computers were taken over and used by malicious actors. So it's a very targeted and limited authority.

So we know that sanctions are not a cure-all for this particular threat, but it is an important tool for us to have. The last thing I would say is we are not -- and Treasury can go into this in more detail -- we are not announcing any designations under this new authority today. We are putting in place the framework so that it's available for us to respond, if we needed to rapidly, to an emerging cyber threat. In the future, we will use this tool in a targeted and coordinated way against the worst of the worst, the most serious overseas malicious actors, the

ones that could actually threaten the national security, foreign policy, or economic health or financial stability of the United States.

So with that, I'll turn it over to John over at Treasury.

MR. SMITH: Good morning. This is John Smith from the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control. Thanks for joining us this morning. I'm going to briefly discuss some of the details of the new executive order. I should start by saying we are excited about this new tool that will allow us to expose and isolate those behind malicious cyber activity. The executive order allows us to put a name to those who go to great lengths to mask their identity, to expose our adversaries behind these attacks for the world and, of course, financial institutions to see.

As Michael noted, this new executive order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, to impose sanctions on individuals or entities that engage in significant malicious cyber-enabled activities that are reasonably likely to result in, or have materially contributed to, a significant threat to the national security, foreign policy, or economic health, or financial stability of the United States.

Since Michael went through some of the details of the executive order, I'll highlight a few points and I'm happy to take more detailed questions afterward about today's action. This authority is focused on significant threats, threats that endanger the national security or foreign policy of the United States, or our economic health and financial stability. It's also focused on protecting critical infrastructure. This action builds on efforts by the U.S. government and public-private partnerships to disrupt threats and hasten response-and-recovery efforts by punishing malicious cyber actors.

I think it's important to note that while this authority is powerful, it is a piece of the larger U.S. government response to enhancing cyber security. This means that we intend to use this tool judiciously and in extraordinary circumstances. It will not replace law enforcement mechanisms, and we intend to work closely with law enforcement in the careful application of this tool.

Finally, as Michael noted, this authority is not designed to police the Internet or stifle technological innovations. Just as we have a responsibility to protect the U.S. financial system from abuse by malicious actors, we have a responsibility to protect the United States from those who exploit our information technologies to threaten our critical infrastructure, our economic health and financial stability, and other core interests.

With that said, I'm happy to answer any questions.

Q I want to focus on the potential sanctions against companies that knowingly benefit from the fruits of cyber espionage. When the Justice Department indicted those five Chinese military hackers, FBI

Director James Comey said, "For too long, the Chinese government has blatantly sought to use cyber espionage to obtain economic advantage for its state-owned industries." From that, one presumes that the U.S. government has evidence that Chinese state-owned industries have knowingly benefitted. Can you talk about whether you do have that evidence and how far it extends? And what's the potential universe of companies here that could be sanctioned?

MR. DANIEL: Sure, so I'll start at the top and then I'll ask Treasury to sort of comment on kind of the standards of evidence that we use.

I'm certainly not in any position to speculate on the particulars of any given company and what we might have in terms of evidence. What I can say from a broad standpoint is that we know that in many cases, not just in any one country, but across a wide swath of the planet, actually, there are companies that hire hackers to steal intellectual property. And we don't want to just deter those that are actually with their fingers on the keyboard, but also those that are behind those groups and that are funding those groups and are enabling those groups to carry out their activity.

So that's why we felt it was important to have a broader tool that encompassed more than just kind of the individual hackers that are carrying out the activities, as important as that is to deter, but we also wanted to deter those who are paying for it.

John, do you want to add anything to that?

MR. SMITH: Sure, I agree with what you said, Michael. And I would just emphasize, as I think we've said, that this executive order is not targeted at any one country or region. As Michael noted, this is activity that we see coming from regions and countries and jurisdictions around the world. And we're focused on the activity and the threats that the activity poses to the U.S. and the U.S. financial system.

I can't talk about any evidence that we have or any targets that we may go after; that's something that we work very cooperatively with our interagency partners, including the Justice Department, on where we may go next. I can say that we will work aggressively to make sure that the U.S. government and our whole-of-government approach is able to go after the cyber threats that we face.

Q Hey, guys, thanks for doing the call. Tell me, how do these sanctions that were outlined here, how is it different from the sanctions that the President went ahead and ordered on the North Korean individuals and North Korean intelligence agency after the Sony attack? And would the Sony attack have qualified for these types -- in other words, would that attack meet the conditions that you're outlining here at justifying these sanctions?

MR. DANIEL: So I think in broad terms -- again, I'll let Treasury follow up and comment on the specific details. In my view, what sets this

executive order apart is that it is focused on malicious cyber activity. And it's the first of its kind in this space where we don't have to rely on a sanctions regime that is, in fact, targeted at a particular country or group of actors within a country, but is more broad-brushed than that.

At the same time, it's narrow in the sense that it's not just any malicious activity; it's specific activity that is of a significant level to affect the national security or the economic health of the United States, and that it is associated with one of those four really important harms that I was talking about.

It's very difficult to speculate whether or not we would have used this tool with respect to Sony. I can say that obviously we will now -- this will become one of the tools that we will have in our toolbox. And going forward, if we face similar incidents like that, it will certainly be something that we will consider, and we will consider whether we have the evidence in a form that we are willing to disclose publicly, that we would be willing consider using this tool.

John, do you want to add something from Treasury's perspective?

MR. SMITH: Sure. I think I agree once again, Michael, with much of what you've said in terms of how does a Sony attack differ and what would our response be. I look at sanctions programs as coming in two broad types, and we have sanctions programs that focus on jurisdictions like North Korea, Iran, other jurisdictions that are really in the news and that we have particular criteria that relate to those jurisdictions. And then we have some sanctions, executive orders that allow us to target activity wherever the attack activity that threatens the U.S. interests may occur, may arise from.

And this joins the ranks of our counterterrorism authorities, our narcotics authorities, our transnational and criminal organization authorities that allow us to go after activity and the threat that that activity poses to the United States wherever it may come up. So it wouldn't matter to me whether the next threats come from North Korea or anywhere else, if this gives us the tool in our toolbox to go after that activity. Whether or not that attack would qualify under this executive order isn't something that we've calculated. What I'm looking from the future is what can we do under this executive order, and that's what our focus will be.

Q Can you be more specific about how you define "malicious"? What would the tipping point be to trigger something like this? And also, do you have a sense of when you expect to name individuals or groups in this first round of sanctions, if that's already on your radar?

MR. DANIEL: So, I'll let John handle the first part of that question. The second half -- no, we don't have a particular timeline. We wanted this authority in place to deal with any emergent threat. Obviously, we have a robust -- very robust interagency process to

identify particular targets that we would consider. And we are going through that process, and we will see what comes out of it. But we certainly don't have any particular timeline on that at this point.

MR. SMITH: And I'll just add from the Treasury perspective. If you look at malicious cyber-enabled activities and kind of the title and the preamble to the executive order, how we define or characterize what "malicious" would be is really with respect to the harms that you see in sections 1(a)i and then A through D of the executive order, when the executive order has harming or compromising the provision of services by a computer or network of computers that support a critical infrastructure sector, or significantly compromising the provision of services by entities in that sector. Those would be what we would consider to be -- those are examples of some of what we would consider to be the malicious cyber-enabled activities.

Q I just want to follow up on Peter Baker's question if I can, and see if I can get a little more specificity, understanding you don't want to look back. But is there something about this executive order that would open up a new tool box in a case like Sony? Or is it really more about location as opposed to the types of sanctions, in that case? I'm just, for our own edification, trying to figure out would this have changed the game there and going forward, or no because of it being North Korea.

MR. DANIEL: So I think in my mind, the way that I look at this would be what we are trying to do is enable us to have a new way of both deterring and imposing costs on malicious cyber actors wherever they may be, and across a range of threats that we face, both to our critical infrastructure and to our intellectual property and personally identifiable information.

And in that realm, we wanted to separate out location from that, because obviously cyber incidents tend to flow very easily across international boundaries, and so trying to tie that to particular locations just didn't make sense sort of in the cyber area. So we had to look at the kinds of regimes, like John alluded to, of CT and narcotics and transnational crime where what you're focused on is the activity and the harm involved.

Certainly, our experience of looking at how to craft the proportional response that the President called for in response to the attack on Sony Pictures Entertainment, certainly that process informed us as we are finishing up this executive order and highlighted the need for us to have this capability and to have this tool. But I think that's really how I would frame up an answer to your question.

MR. SMITH: And this is John, and I'd just add in that we should emphasize that what we did with each one of the executive orders -- the North Korea authority versus the authority here -- the North Korea authority gave us the authority to designate officials of the government

of North Korea, officials of the Workers' Party, and those that materially assist or support the government or those officials.

And so we took the actions that we did in the beginning of January as a response to certain provocative activities in North Korea, including the Sony Pictures attack. But it wasn't directly a response in the executive order criteria to cyber-enabled activities -- malicious cyber-enabled activities of the government.

This allows us to have an executive order that actually focuses directly on the activities of concern, whether they arise in North Korea or another jurisdiction. And we can directly target those malicious cyber-enabled activities that are of concern, rather than targeting as a response to an attack -- officials of the government or other persons who meet our criteria.

Q Hi, thanks so much for taking my call. The order talks about interruption of computers and networks not just within the 16 critical sectors of infrastructure, but also organizations that support those sectors. If you look at the sectors, they're fairly wide-ranging. They include information technology; they include the financial services sector. I guess my question is, it seems that, in fact, any sector of the economy affected by a foreign attack would be potential fodder for a sanctions. Is that a correct reading of the order?

MR. SMITH: I think that in the short term, if it is something -- to answer your question, if it was an attack that actually rose to the level, or a disruption of service that rose to the level of posing a significant threat, or materially contributing to a threat to the national security, foreign policy, or the economic health or financial stability of the United States -- which is quite a mouthful to keep repeating -- but if it meets one of those tests, then we wanted to be sure that we could actually use this tool against it.

So, yes, if you were affecting a network of some entity in the -- some group of entities probably in the United States that rose to that level -- that it was actually posing a threat, for example, to our overall economic health -- then I think most people would say, yes, that's the kind of thing you would want the U.S. government to be combatting. And this is one way that we could do that.

But obviously we would have to be able to make the case that, in fact, that group of entities that were being affected by that disruption met that significance test.

Q Hi, thanks very much. Two questions. One is, attribution can be very hard. So what level of evidence would you need? Is it reasonable cause or (inaudible) standards? And separately, (inaudible) I'm still a little bit lost about what does this new executive order allow you to do that you couldn't already do in that --

MR. DANIEL: John, do you want to take the first part of that?

MR. SMITH: Sure, I can start off. The standard of evidence is reasonable basis to believe or reasonable cause to believe. It's the basic standard of evidence that administrative agencies across the government use under the Administrative Procedure Act, under which we operate. And so that's the standard of evidence that we use. When we do a designation or target someone under the authority we always do it publicly, we identify it publicly. And we put out a fact sheet or press release, outlining the unclassified aspects of the case so that the international community and the U.S. financial system know the reasons that we're taking the action.

In terms of what this authorizes us to do that we could not do before is, before we had country-specific executive orders that allowed us to designate. For example, with respect to North Korea, we had the authority under the executive order to designate officials -- if we chose -- to designate officials of the government, officials of the Workers' Party. We did not have the authority to designate based on the activities of threatening the U.S. through their malicious cyber-enabled activities. Now we have that authority based on the malicious cyber-enabled activities that they do that we can target directly those activities and not indirectly officials of a government where we may have a sanctions program. So this allows us to go much broader beyond those countries, beyond those areas where we have sanctions programs, and this allows us to target the activity itself wherever it arises.

Q So a couple questions. I'm just wondering, are there any past examples, recent examples in the last few years in which you think this authority would have been used, that you would have looked to this authority? For example, maybe the (inaudible) attacks against the banks. And then I'm also wondering, what would the sanctions actually look like? What kind of punishment would anybody who is designated under these sanctions actually face?

MR. DANIELS: I think that sort of speculating how we would have used this tool in the past is very difficult because the circumstances are going to vary, and we didn't have the benefit of having this tool when we went through the policy discussions. Certainly, I can say that the class of activities that are, again, something that has the potential to cause widespread disruption to our financial sector, obviously something that would meet the significance test for the financial stability of the United States if we felt that we could make the case, as John just laid out -- in the way that he laid out, that we would consider using this tool.

And also, keep in mind that some of our view here is that we want to have this tool available as a deterrent and through those that would consider carrying out some of these activities. So it's not just actually composing the sanctions where we hope to have the effect. So I think that certainly it's both targeted, in the sense it has to be very significant and meet those four harms, but it's also very broad in that those harms cut across a wide swath of activity.

John, do you want to follow up on that?

MR. SMITH: Sure. I agree again with what you said, Michael. I would say that, from our view, the past informs the present. And in terms of the examples that we've seen in the past helps us shape the executive order to make sure that we have the maximum flexibility of targeting so that we can go after the targets that are really of concern, while also demonstrating that those targets have engaged in the significant level of threat and activity to fall within the scope of the executive order.

In terms of what the punishment is, as you -- I think the word you used, what would the sanctions look like. What happens as a result of our sanctions authority is we freeze the assets -- anyone subject to U.S. jurisdiction would have their assets frozen. Also, it prevents U.S. persons from engaging in any transactions with those named under our executive order. So it basically freezes in place now any assets, and it also prevents future activity, future transactions; any further assets coming through the country would be frozen. And it also has a visa ban restriction that the State Department administers.

Q I know you said you don't want to target innocent victims. I just want to get into the question of, is there any due process involved if somebody feels they are wrongly targeted, wrongly sanctioned? Is there any judicial review, is there any process to appeal this?

MR. SMITH: The answer is, yes, there is due process involved. Anyone who is sanctioned under this authority has the ability to challenge their designation with OFAC. They can bring an administrative petition with us, or they can go -- at the same time, choose not to come to the agency and they can file suit in any federal district court in the country.

Q You said that part of the problem in cybersecurity is going after people who are in fairly obscure jurisdictions around the world where you don't have legal authority. How many of the people do you think that are engaged in cyber-attacks actually have assets in the U.S. or in places where you can get them? And how much money do you think there is in terms of assets held by cyber-attackers in the United States?

MR. DANIEL: So that's a good question. I think that that's a very difficult one to answer with any degree of specificity. But obviously, given the scope and breadth of the U.S. financial system and the fact that many, many actors try to convert their malicious -- what they steal through cyberspace and to launder it into open money, it means that a lot of that does wash through the U.S. financial system. And so I think that we do believe that there is an opportunity to impact those entities financially. It's I think very difficult to sort of get the scope and scale of it.

The other thing I would say is that we would also hope that some of our allies and aligned countries would consider joining us in creating these kinds of regimes so that it would not just be the United States that

would be able to impose these sanctions but other countries as well. And if we started building a coalition of those kinds of authorities you could really start to have a financial impact.

MR. SMITH: And I would add that the prevalence of the U.S. dollar in the international financial system means that many transactions come through the United States that, frankly, people did not intend. If you engage in a transaction in third countries, often the transaction may be -- the contract may be specified in U.S. dollars and may send transactions from their banks in countries that are far away from U.S. borders and they come through the U.S. financial system to be dollarized. So more often than you would expect, actors in third countries that attempt to engage in international transactions have their monies frozen when they run afoul of U.S. sanctions, even if they never knew that they had a U.S. footprint in their transactions before.

I'd also mention that the effect of the sanctions is a prohibition on dealings with U.S. persons. That means U.S. technology; that means U.S. goods. And when we're talking about the Internet and the use of the Internet and technologies around the world, many of these actors may try to rely on the sophistication of the U.S. technology sector, and this will also hinder them in that area as well.

The final piece that I would add, adding to Michael's point about hoping that other countries may join with us in a coalition -- we also don't have to wait for that to occur, because what we find with our sanctions authorities is that foreign financial institutions voluntarily comply with our sanctions list. They, frankly, do not want to deal with terrorists, narco-traffickers, transnational criminal organizations, or, after today, malicious cyber actors that we may put on our list. Foreign financial institutions voluntarily choose to comply, often close those accounts, and frequently freeze the assets as well.

We have much more cooperation offshore than many may expect. And that's been the strength of the U.S. sanctions authorities over recent years.

Q Can you speak a little bit about -- you're obviously going to have to have some pretty precise attribution to sanctioned individuals or entities who are responsible for this. So can you talk a little bit about how you think attribution has improved or why you think it's at the level that you can now use a precise tool like this? And related, are you concerned that you're going to have a lot of companies now coming to the administration and asking you to sanction people who are stealing their intellectual property, since we know that that is really a quite widespread problem, that a lot of companies are targeted?

MR. DANIEL: So I think that certainly our ability to do attribution has improved. You rightly note that it continues to be a challenge, and it was one that we will have to weigh very carefully when we consider designating a target about do we have the level of attribution that we are

confident in and that meets the test that John laid out, and that we would be willing to provide that evidence openly.

I feel that the investments that we have made in our capabilities over the last few years make that a more tenable prospect, but certainly one that is not a foregone conclusion; that we will always be able to use this tool in every instance because of that. But I do believe that we are getting better at that, and that is something that we are continuing to pursue, honing our skills and improving our ability to do that kind of attribution.

I think that, in broad terms, whether we would expect a whole flood of requests, I don't think so. But to the extent that it does encourage companies to come forward and work more closely with U.S. law enforcement and give us a better picture of how truly widespread that is -- as you note, we do believe, based on the evidence that we have, that it is incredibly widespread and we want to encourage companies to work with us in a way that we can try to use all the tools that we have available to us, not just this one, but all the tools that we have to go after those that are stealing our intellectual property. So I would hope that the addition of this tool shows the commitment of the administration to protecting U.S. intellectual property and support our efforts in that regard. And that it does encourage more companies to come forward.

But I should be clear that this tool is not meant to protect any one individual U.S. company. It is designed to -- where we have widespread theft of our intellection property on a scale that actually affects the economic health of the United States as a whole. There are other tools that we have to go after -- through law enforcement and other things -- to go after those that are related to just individual companies. But certainly to the extent that we see a pattern emerge of an actor that is stealing intellectual property left and right from numbers or scores of U.S. companies and that is certainly something that we would consider.

MR. SMITH: I'll just echo what Michael said. In terms of the -- on the second point on having companies come to us and do we have any concern with that, and the answer is absolutely not. Again, echoing what he said, I think the more information about trade secret theft, the better off we are -- not only is the Treasury Department, the Justice Department, and all agencies of the U.S. government. So we would welcome the input from the private sector and others that may have relevant information on trade secret theft that would be covered by the executive order.

Q I know you guys are looking forward in terms of future cases for these new sanctions authorities, but I was wondering if they could be applied to many of the open cases in which suspects have been named in unsealed indictments or through other methods, but the suspects are residing in countries like Russia or elsewhere, where it's difficult to extradite them or bring them to the U.S. through other means. Could you be looking at some of these open cases where there are still suspects who were out there who haven't been caught or arrested yet?

MR. SMITH: So what I would say from -- this is John from the Treasury Department. I would say that certainly we'll look at all of the relevant information that we receive, and we will aggressively work with our interagency colleagues to make sure that we target those that deserve to be targeted under this executive order.

So we're going to look at all of the information that we have, all of the information that we receive, to determine what the target sets should be. And this is a widespread cooperative effort that we'll engage in to make sure that we go after those that are engaging in the significant types of threats and activities that this executive order is intended to cover.

Q Actually, she just asked the question that I was going to ask. This is a point that I wanted to sort of combine two questions. One is, going after cases where we have suspects in Russia. Currently, when you can't reach those, you often wait until they go on vacation in Thailand or some other place where you can nab them. And so I'm wondering if this is sort of another tool to go after those that you can't get in those -- or that you've waited in the past.

But I wanted to talk to the attribution questions that came from NPR. We had questions with the North Korea hack where the government did come out with some level of evidence that it had toward attribution. And I'm wondering what will be the threshold for what's publicly disclosed in terms of attributions to back a case, to make a case. You keep on talking about how you will make a case and whether you will have evidence for a case. But I'm wondering to what degree will that be publicly available for someone to either bring a case to dispute or for others to judge it on the merit.

MR. SMITH: I think the answer to the first question that you asked is I think this authority is intended to complement our existing authorities. We intend to work with other law enforcement and other agencies within the U.S. government to make the most of this authority. And so I think we will make a decision within the U.S. government as to how to best target any particular actor that we may be concerned about falling in with the scope of this executive order.

It may be to simply pursue the Justice Department criminal remedies that can be very powerful. It may also be for us to engage, because the sanctions tool would be seen to be a better fit and we may decide to wait until the moment is right. And you gave an example of when the moment could be right for certain actions. There are many, many moments in an investigation when it may be right for us to take action, when it may be the most beneficial, the most advantageous to our cases, and we will work those with the interagency to make sure that we strike when we should, when it's the most opportune moment.

In terms of what's publicly disclosed, with each and every designation action that we take under every one of our sanctions authorities, what we do is, to the extent that we're relying on classified

information, we go through a rigorous process before that time to see -- before the designation is announced to see what we can declassify or what we can announce at the time so that with each and every designation we have some declassified information that can be included to explain the basis for our designation.

Sometimes we have more, sometimes it's more highly classified and there may be less that we can share publicly. But we do endeavor with each and every designation to go out with a public press release that outlines the reason we're taking the action.

Q Hi there. Thank you very much. My question is pretty simple. Would the enactment of CISA, if that happens, assist you guys in identifying parties that could be targeted with sanctions? And related, have there been any conversation with lawmakers about this framework?

MR. DANIEL: So certainly from my perspective, the enacting information-sharing legislation would, obviously to the extent that it increases the information flow between the government and the private sector, would certainly enable us to do a better job of amassing evidence, in identifying targets, and basically building the cases that we would need to use this tool. So, yes, it would certainly work in concert.

And, yes, we did do consultations with the Hill, as we do with all executive orders, as we were getting ready to roll this out. So there were definitely consultations with the appropriate congressional staff.

MODERATOR: Thank you very much. That will conclude this morning's call. I would like to thank very much Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator Michael Daniel, and Department of Treasury Acting Director for the Office of Foreign Assets Control John Smith.

As a reminder, this call was on the record, and you can quote the two officials I just cited by name. And since the call is now over, the embargo is now lifted.

Thanks very much, everyone, for your attention and participation.

END 10:47 A.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 18, 2014

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY JOSH EARNEST

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:04 P.M. EST

MR. EARNEST: Good afternoon, everybody. Nice to see you. Sorry we're running a little behind today. Let's go straight to questions.

Nedra, do you want to get us started?

Q Does the White House believe that North Korea is behind the hack at Sony Pictures?

MR. EARNEST: Nedra, this is a matter that is still under investigation both by the FBI and the National Security Division of the Department of Justice. I, for I think pretty obvious reasons, am not going to get ahead of that investigation or any announcements that they may make about that investigation. But I can tell you that, consistent with the President's previous statements about how we will protect against, monitor, and respond to cyber incidents, this is something that's being treated as a serious national security matter.

There is evidence to indicate that we have seen destructive activity with malicious intent that was initiated by a sophisticated actor. And it is being treated by those investigative agencies, both at the FBI and the Department of Justice, as seriously as you would expect. It has also been the subject of a number of daily meetings that have been convened here at the White House that have been led by both the President's Homeland Security Advisor and occasionally by his cyber coordinator. This includes senior members of our intelligence community and homeland security officials, military, diplomatic, and law enforcement officials as well.

Q What is the United States going to do about it?

MR. EARNEST: Well, before we start publicly speculating about a response, it's appropriate that we allow the investigation to move forward. I do understand that the investigation is progressing, and that as the members of the national security team meet to discuss this matter, they are considering a range of options.

As they do so, though, they're mindful of the need for a couple of things. First of all, as we would be in any scenario, sort of strategic scenario like this, they would be mindful of the fact that we need a proportional response, and also mindful of the fact that sophisticated actors, when they carry out actions like this, are oftentimes -- they're not always but often seeking to provoke a response from the United States of America. They may believe that a response from us in one fashion or another would be advantageous so them. And so we want to be mindful of that, too. And the President's national security team is mindful of those two important strategic considerations as they consider a range of available responses.

Q There's been a big debate over Sony cancelling "The Interview." What has the President said? Or is he expressing opinion about a movie that depicts the assassination of a sitting head of state?

MR. EARNEST: I haven't talked to him about that. What I can say as a general matter is that the President and the administration stands squarely on the side of the artists and other private citizens who seek to freely express their views. Sometimes those views can be laced with criticism, or are sometimes intended to provoke either some kind of comedic response or one that is intended to be some element of some pretty biting social commentary. All that is appropriate and well within the rights of private citizens to express their views.

And the President has certainly been on the receiving end of some expressions like that. And while we may not agree with the content of every single thing that is produced, we certainly stand squarely on the side of the right of private individuals to express themselves. And that is a view that is strongly held by this administration, as it has been throughout the history of our country.

Q And then quickly on one other matter. The EU announced a ban on businesses doing investments in Crimea today. Is the United States planning to take similar action? And can you give us an update on the President's plan to sign the Russia sanctions bill -- and also NDAA while you're at it?

MR. EARNEST: Let me first begin with the Russia sanctions bill as it relates to Ukraine. The President does intend to sign H.R. 5859 into law. Signing the legislations does not, however, signal a change in the administration's sanctions policy, which we have carefully calibrated in accordance with developments on the ground and coordinated with our allies and partners, principally in Europe.

At this time, the administration does not intend to impose sanctions under this law, but the act gives the administration additional authorities that could be utilized if circumstances warrant it. This administration will continue to work closely with allies and partners in Europe and internationally to respond to developments in Ukraine, and we'll continue to review and calibrate our sanctions to respond to Russia's actions.

The United States again calls on Russia to end its occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea, cease support for separatists in eastern Ukraine, and implement the obligations that it signed up to commit to under the Minsk Agreements. As the President has said many times, our goal is to promote a diplomatic solution that provides a lasting resolution to the conflict, and helps promote growth and stability in Ukraine and regionally, including in Russia.

In this context, the United States continues to call on Russia's leadership to implement the Minsk Agreements and to reach a lasting and comprehensive resolution to the conflict which respects Ukraine's sovereignty and territory integrity. The United States, if Russia acts accordingly, remains prepared to roll back sanctions should Russia take the necessary steps.

I don't have an update at this point as it related to the NDAA bill. The President does intend to sign it. It does include some riders that we have expressed concern about in the past that interfere with the administration to carry out the necessary steps to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay. The President has long believed that that prison should be closed. But there are important pieces of this legislation that, in our view, inappropriately interfere with our ability to take the necessary steps to accomplish that goal.

Q So should we expect a signing statement with that?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have anything to preview along those lines. I know that in previous occasions when the President signed the bill it has been accompanied by a statement. I don't know whether or not that will be the case this time. I wouldn't be surprised if it does, though.
Jeff.

Q Josh, back on Sony. If it is determined that a nation state was behind this attack, does that affect the degree to which the United States would want to respond?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Jeff, I don't want to get ahead of any investigation that's being conducted both by the National Security Division of the Department of Justice and the FBI, who are both looking into this matter cooperatively. I can tell you that regardless of who is found to be responsible for this, that the President considers it to be a serious national security matter, and it's being treated as such both in

the course of the investigation but also by leading members of the President's national security team here at the White House.

Q Is it fair to say that investigators are closing in on who's responsible?

MR. EARNEST: It's fair to say that the investigation is progressing. This is something they've been looking into for quite some time and I know that there is significant investigative resources that have been committed to this effort, and they've been making progress. But I don't have any update that's more specific than that.

Q Okay. And on yesterday's big news, is the White House concerned with regard to Cuba about Republicans stopping Treasury and Commerce from changing their regulations to allow expanded trade, particularly in telecoms, which the President mentioned yesterday?

MR. EARNEST: Not particularly. Primarily because the steps that the President announced are steps that are well within his executive authority as President of the United States and he's directed the agencies that are responsible for implementing those regulations to make the kinds of changes that are needed to reflect what the President believes is a more effective strategy for dealing with Cuba.

That said, we certainly would welcome the kind of legislative action, specifically repealing Helms-Burton, that would roll back even more of the restrictions that are currently in place that limit some economic activity between the United States and Cuba. The President has done all that he can do using his executive authority, and the remaining restrictions can only be removed through congressional action. And we certainly would encourage Congress to act in bipartisan fashion to do that.

Q And lastly, has the White House -- has the President seen the Secret Service review and is he satisfied with it?

MR. EARNEST: I don't believe the President has. I know that senior officials here at the White House will be briefed before the end of the week on that report, if they haven't been already. But again, I anticipate that we'll have more -- that you'll be able to obtain more information on this today from the Department of Homeland Security.

Q Today for sure?

MR. EARNEST: That certainly would be my expectation. It was my, actually, understanding that they were supposed to release it yesterday. I'm not sure why that didn't happen. But I do anticipate that they will have figured out whatever kinks that were in the system and will take care of that important piece of business today.

Christi.

Q Thanks, Josh. Back on North Korea. You're calling it a national security matter. Does that mean you don't consider it a national security threat at this point? In other words, that there might be other attacks coming?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Christi, we certainly have seen -- well, let me actually step back and say -- I know you referred to it as the North Korea matter. That's certainly the way it's been widely reported. I'm not in a position to confirm any attribution at this point. But certainly as a general matter, the President does view some of the attacks that we have seen in recent years as a threat to our national security. And there has been an effort underway throughout the President's first six years in office to do what he can do, again, using his executive authority, to try to better prepare our country to defend against those attacks and to respond to them when they occur.

I can give you a couple of examples of things that the President has succeeded in doing. We have taken steps to better protect our infrastructure both here in the federal government and working with the private sector to help them protect their infrastructure from attacks. We've worked hard to tighten up and secure federal computer networks. We've sought to improve our capability as it relates to both investigating these intrusions and responding to them. We have sought to build a stronger cooperative relationship in working with countries around the world to confront this threat. And we have also been working at a variety of agencies to develop more sophisticated technology, again, that would better defend our networks and allow us to more effectively respond when intrusions occur.

So there have been a number of steps that this administration has been taking because of the perception of this national security threat. That's also the reason that we continue to call on Congress to act on cybersecurity legislation. And you've heard me on a variety of occasions stand up here and urge Congress to take action on this. This is not the kind of topic that should allow us to be divided along party lines. This is something that has a clear impact on our economy and has a clear impact on our national security. And I would anticipate that Democrats and Republicans should be able to work together on this.

Q And just because you used the phrase "proportional response," does that mean that one of the things you're considering would be a kind of attack on computers where the attacks originated akin to ones that were launched against Sony?

MR. EARNEST: I wouldn't speculate at this point about the range of options that are currently under consideration. I also wouldn't commit at this point to at some point being entirely transparent about what that response is.

Q And could you also say how provoking the U.S. might be of benefit to the people who did this?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I know that there are -- it's difficult to do that in the abstract. But I do think that there are -- it's not hard to imagine that there may be some organizations or individuals who would perceive a specific response from the United States as something that might enhance their standing, either among their cohorts or colleagues, or even on the international stage.

So, again, I point that out only to indicate that we're mindful of that phenomenon as we consider the range of options.

Q And just to circle back, you didn't rule out a proportional response of taking attack on this, the computers from which the attacks originated -- you didn't rule that out.

MR. EARNEST: I did not. I mean, in fact, I have indicated that we believe this destructive activity merits an appropriate response. But I would acknowledge that an appropriate response is something that is not always obvious, but is something that is worthy of careful consideration. And that's exactly what the President's national security team is doing.

Jim.

Q If there is a government -- a foreign government that is behind this attack on Sony, would that merit sanctions?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, there are a range of options that are under consideration right now. I'm not going to speculate on which options might work best. There are people that have a lot more experience and expertise in this area who are considering this question, and once they've made a decision I do anticipate we'll be in a position to tell you a little bit more about that decision. But as I mentioned to Christi, I don't anticipate that we'll be in a position where we're going to be able to be completely forthcoming about every single element of the response that has been decided upon.

Q And is that imminent, this decision on a response?

MR. EARNEST: Well, what will come first is more information about the investigation and some conclusions about the investigation.

Q -- get that sometime today, tomorrow?

MR. EARNEST: I'd encourage you to check with either the Department of Justice or the FBI. I know that they have made -- that investigation has been progressing, but I don't know the exact timing in terms of when they'll be ready to start talking about that a little bit more publicly.

Q You're not prepared to say here at the podium that North Korea was behind this?

MR. EARNEST: I'm not prepared to ascribe any accountability for this specific act, or to describe who might have been the sophisticated actor that initiated it.

Q And did the President discuss this with the Japanese Prime Minister? I know that was not in the readout of that call.

MR. EARNEST: I don't have any more details about their conversation beyond what was included in the readout.

Q And yesterday you said the President would be willing -- or potentially might be willing to go to Cuba someday. You're not ruling it out.

MR. EARNEST: Correct.

Q Would the President welcome Raul Castro to the White House?

MR. EARNEST: That's a hypothetical as well. I don't know that Mr. Castro has necessarily indicated a desire to travel to the United States and visit the White House. I guess what I would say is that there --

Q -- any more outrageous than the President going down to Cuba?

MR. EARNEST: I mean, I suppose not, considering that the analogy that we've tried to draw -- or at least identify is that there are important national security reasons for the President to travel to other countries that have what we would describe at best as checkered human rights records.

The President did, as we discussed yesterday, travel recently to both China and Burma. These are countries where the President has urged the leadership of those countries to do a better job of respecting universal human rights. The President traveled to those countries both because he believed it was in our national security interest, but also because he viewed it as an important opportunity to raise concerns about those nations' human rights records; that having an open relationship in which the President engages with the leaders of other countries can actually serve as a useful way to shine a spotlight on the shortcomings of other countries' records as it relates to human rights.

He did that when he was in China. He did that when he was standing next to the Chinese President. And that did provoke a, as many of you will recall, pretty memorable exchange between the Chinese President and an American journalist. That kind of exchange that attracted that kind of attention would not have occurred if the President refused to visit the country, or if we refused to visit with that country because we had objections to their human rights record.

Q You're not ruling it out?

MR. EARNEST: I guess the point is that the President has had the leaders of both Burma and China to the United States, and for that reason I wouldn't rule out a visit from President Castro.

Q Last question, I'm going to sneak it in -- is the President feeling more liberated after these midterm elections? There's been some discussion about that -- Cuba, immigration, climate. What's next?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I noticed that there was a cover headline in a local media outlet describing the President in that fashion but using the Spanish version of that word. (Laughter.)

What I'll say is, as a general matter -- here we are in what is likely to be my last press briefing of the year -- that there has been a tremendous amount that the President has accomplished --

Q Had me hanging there for a second. (Laughter.)

MR. EARNEST: I don't have any personnel announcements to make, Jim, so don't get too excited.

Q Earnest libre. (Laughter.)

MR. EARNEST: Exactly. I will say that it has been -- in many ways, it has been a rather consequential year in this administration -- in this President's tenure in office; that if you review the substantial accomplishments that we've racked up here, particularly in the last few weeks, from the historic climate deal with China to finally taking action to address some of the broken aspects of our immigration system, to obviously this substantial historic announcement on Cuba -- that the President is pleased with the kind of progress that we have made; that we began this year suggesting that this would -- that 2014 would be a year of action and here in the last couple of weeks of the year, I think, looking back, we can say that, by any measure, that goal has been accomplished.

But there is a lot more that needs to get done, and the President has a long list of things that he is looking forward to tackling in the new year after a couple weeks with his family over the holidays.

Jon.

Q In light of what you just said to Jim about engaging with Cuba, I'd like to follow up on a question from yesterday that Ed asked you. So if engagement works when you're dealing with a country with a bad human rights record, or a country that behaves poorly, why not North Korea? Can you explain the difference? Because you answered very directly yesterday -- you said, no, the President is not considering normalizing relations with North Korea. He wouldn't welcome Kim Jong Un to the White House. He wouldn't visit Kim Jong Un.

MR. EARNEST: All of that is correct.

Q But can you explain why, given what you just said about how you think that kind of engagement is what works?

MR. EARNEST: Well, because the principal concern that's been raised about Cuba is about the deplorable human rights record that the Castro regime has. And for 50 years -- more than 50 years -- for five decades, there was in place a policy to try to compel the Castro regime to change that record by isolating them. And the fact is, that policy failed, because the Castro regime remained in power and continued to take steps that oppressed their people.

Q But the Kim family has been in power a long time.

MR. EARNEST: They have. And the point is that policy had failed and it's time for us to try a new strategy to get the Castro regime to better implement policies that don't oppress the basic universal human rights of their people.

Our concerns about North Korea's behavior certainly include their deplorable human rights record, but they also include other things, too. It includes significant concerns with their nuclear program. It concerns the threatening statements that they have made about their neighbors who happen to be strong allies of the United States of America.

So our concerns with the regime in North Korea are different than the concerns that we have with Cuba. There is no concern that the Cuban regime is, for example, developing a nuclear weapon or testing long-range missile technology. That was, frankly, from a previous era. That era has closed, and that is why we believe that the policy needs to be changed to reflect the fact that that era no long exists.

Q But do you think this policy of isolation is ultimately going to work with North Korea? I understand that the transgressions of North Korea are in many ways qualitatively different than Cuba, but I'm talking about the approach. Because all the same things could be said -- this has been a long time and there's certainly been no progress in changing North Korean behavior.

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think there has been. I mean, at the end of the previous administration there was a move to begin to relax some sanctions in exchange for the North Koreans to take some steps to come into compliance with the international community's concerns about their nuclear weapons program. The North Korean regime walked back from those commitments.

So there have been some attempts to at least consider changing our policy towards North Korea. But there's no doubt that the problem of North Korea poses a rather vexing policy challenge to the United States but also to the broader international community, particularly our allies that are much closer to North Korea. And the United States continues to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Republic of Korea and Japan as they confront the threat that's posed by North Korea.

Q And on the Sony hack, what does the President think of the decision of Sony Pictures to pull the movie, to basically give in to the blackmail?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, this is a decision that Sony should make. This is a private company, these are artists who have created a film and it should be their decision about how and whether to release it. This is not a decision --

Q This was a decision made under duress. This was a decision that was made as the result of a direct threat. They clearly didn't want to pull this movie, but they were forced to.

MR. EARNEST: It's a decision that they should make -- a decision that they should make, not one that the federal government should be making. But I can say again, as a general matter, the United States stands squarely on the side of artists and companies that want to express themselves, and we believe that that kind of artistic expression is worthy of protection and is not something that should be subjected to intimidation just because you happen to disagree with the views.

Q But the intimidators won here, whether or not it's North Korea -- and I guess we'll find out officially soon, but regardless of who it was, they won. They succeeded. They wanted this movie pulled; the movie was pulled. I understand the government is not going to force Sony to go forward with the movie, but what do you make of that? This was a direct threat. This was an act of cyberterrorism, or whatever you want to call it. It worked. It succeeded.

MR. EARNEST: What we have seen, Jon, is we have seen that there has been destructive activity with malicious intent. And the administration believes that that activity merits an appropriate response from the United States. And that is -- this is something that is being investigated, and the appropriate response is something that is being carefully considered by members of the President's national security team.

Major.

Q So in part, this is a detective story. Is it fair to say that North Korea is a nation of interest in the investigation of the Sony hack?

MR. EARNEST: I'd refer you to the FBI and the Department of Justice on that question.

Q It's not even within your range to say that?

MR. EARNEST: I don't want to say anything that would be perceived by anybody as interfering in any way with their investigation. What I'm prepared to say at this point is to confirm that the National Security Division of the Department of Justice is working with the FBI to determine what happened and to determine who's responsible for it. And what I can

tell you is that investigation is progressing, but I don't have any more that I can say about it than that.

Q Is part of the problem that this could be somewhat murky and that the direct responsibility might not be a national -- nation state actor, but someone contracted or affiliated or financed through various means by a nation state actor, but the direct responsibility may lie elsewhere?

MR. EARNEST: I wouldn't want to speculate on this other than to confirm what I think is the premise of your question, which is that these kinds of investigations are extraordinarily complex because the issues at play here are necessarily murky, as you describe them. I would agree that that's an appropriate description of the circumstances here.

And that is why -- we've got a team of experts that's very focused on this. That's why I'm reluctant to get out ahead of what they're learning over the course of their investigation. And it's also why some of the senior members of the President's national security team have been meeting on a daily basis here at the White House to consider this matter and to consider the range of appropriate responses.

Q How would you describe the direct level of participation of the President in these meetings so far?

MR. EARNEST: So far, I can tell you that the President has -- is understandably interested in the conversations that are underway, and this is something that he's monitoring very closely himself.

Q Is he participating in these meetings, or has he to date?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have any presidential participation to read out at this point, but I can assure you this is something that has taken up some time on the President's schedule on a daily basis over the last several days at least.

Q To follow up on Jon's question, do you believe, as some in the artistic community have suggested, and it may be a larger corporate-culture conversation, that there could be broader repercussions from Sony's decision and what this illustrates the vulnerabilities are and the potential corporate consequences of a cyber attack?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I'm sympathetic to the very difficult decision that they had to make, and there are a lot of equities that they had to balance, both in terms of the way to release this movie, the way that it could be shown. I know that there was a reluctance from some of the movie theaters to commit to showing the film, and that certainly weighed on the decision that Sony had to make. So I'm sympathetic to that. But ultimately this is a decision that they had to make based on their own best interests and based on the freedom that they have to express themselves as artists.

And I can tell you that this administration and this President stand squarely on the side of a right to free expression, even when the expression of those views by some is considered to be offensive.

Q And I may be dense, but you described this as a national security matter. Can you flesh that out a little bit? Because to many of us -- maybe just me -- it looks like principally an economic security matter, or a matter of economics, commerce, artistic freedom, things like that. What is the broadly defined national security component of this from your perspective?

MR. EARNEST: Certainly, those elements apply here, that there is a financial impact of this activity. But what we saw here that is maybe not unprecedented but is certainly unique is that the activity that we've seen here is destructive with clear malicious intent. And it was carried out by, all appearances, a sophisticated actor. And that is something that, in the mind of the President, elevates this to the level of being a legitimate national security matter, and it's being investigated as such by the FBI and the Department of Justice. And that's why you've seen members of the President's national security team assembled to consider a range of responses that we believe at this point is appropriate.

Q Just to clear up one thing from yesterday -- you made mention of it. There was blowback from the Hill about this -- funding for an embassy. But there is an Interest Section building in Havana currently; rather large, somewhat spacious. Does the United States even need to construct a new embassy in Havana to facilitate the opening of diplomatic relations? You mentioned yesterday you're going to need appropriations for a new building, suggesting you might still need one. I'm just trying to figure out -- this is a rather large building there now. Can we do all the business that we intend to do there, and this is kind of a non-issue entirely?

MR. EARNEST: This is something that we'll have to evaluate as we begin the process of normalizing relations with Cuba. But as I mentioned yesterday and as you're pointing out now, there is already a substantial American diplomatic presence in Cuba and it resides at a significant structure that essentially is the American Interests Section there in Cuba, and there is business done on a daily basis with Cuban citizens. And obviously the range of engagement that American diplomats have with Cuban government officials will expand as a result of this decision and as a result of our efforts to begin to normalize relations with Cuba.

One of the leading proponents of this strategy of shutting off funding for the construction of an embassy and the appointment of an ambassador to Cuba is Senator Rubio of course. In thinking about this, it occurs to me that it seems odd that Senator Rubio would be reluctant and, in fact, actively seeking to block the appointment of an ambassador to Cuba when earlier this year he voted to confirm the ambassador to China that the President nominated his former colleague, Max Baucus -- who's

doing an excellent job representing the United States in China, I might add.

The other thing that I noticed is that in the context of those hearings, Senator Rubio said something that this administration wholeheartedly agrees with. Let me read it to you. (Laughter.) All right? Isn't this good?

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. EARNEST: I know. Be careful what you ask for.

Senator Rubio said, and I quote, "I think you'll find broad consensus on this committee and I hope in the administration" -- he does -- "that our embassy, the American embassy, should be viewed as an ally of those within the Chinese society that are looking to express their fundamental rights to speak out and to worship freely." We think the exact same thing can be said of the new American embassy in Cuba.

Q Last question. Since you intimated that this is your last briefing of the year, can I put on my calendar that President Obama will be the briefer tomorrow?

MR. EARNEST: You can put on your calendar that the President will convene his traditional end-of-the-year news conference tomorrow.

Q Very good.

Q Time?

MR. EARNEST: I believe it will be in the afternoon. We'll get some more details on the timing to you before the end of the day.

Q Glad I asked.

MR. EARNEST: There you go.

Mr. Dorning.

Q News you can use. Afternoon.

MR. EARNEST: There you go.

Q On the Russia sanctions, two questions. First, today, President Hollande of France is publicly raising the idea of easing up the sanctions. Is there some distance opening between the U.S. on these sanctions and European partners, or do we agree with him that maybe we should think about easing up on the sanctions?

MR. EARNEST: I'll say a couple things about that, Mike. The first is that we have said from the very beginning that the success of the sanctions regime depends upon the effective coordination and cooperation

of the United States with other members of the international community, including France, and we have worked very effectively with France and other countries to maximize the impact of this sanctions regime on ~~China~~ [Russia] and to focus the costs on the Russian economy without disadvantaging American businesses.

The second thing that I will point out is that after the latest ratcheting up of the sanctions regime that was announced at the NATO meeting earlier this fall, the President convened a news conference at the end of the NATO meeting and said that if Russia were to begin to live up to the commitments that they signed onto in Minsk and were to begin showing tangible evidence of their commitment to respecting the territorial integrity of a nation like Ukraine, that the President would be prepared to begin rolling back our sanctions regime.

So I didn't see the entirety of President Hollande's remarks, but based on the way that you described them, it sounds consistent with the sentiment that the President expressed earlier this fall.

Q Separately, a day before the President end-of-the-year news conference President Putin had his end-of-the-year news conference today. And he didn't sound like he was giving in. He was saying, we have to be ready in Russia for two years of economic downturn, and he compared what the U.S. is trying to do to Russia with the sanctions to trying to chain a bear and then rip out its teeth and claws. Is that what we're trying to do? And what do you read from his comments? It doesn't sound like someone who's giving in easily.

MR. EARNEST: Well, we're certainly aware of President Putin's comments. I can tell you that President Putin has repeatedly attempted to shift blame for the conflict in Ukraine and the internal problems that Russia is experiencing away from his own policies, both in his speeches and in the government-funded propaganda that is disseminated not only inside Russia but beyond its borders. The revisionist narrative of the crisis in Ukraine is deeply troubling but utterly unconvincing.

The United States has made clear repeatedly that it's the choices of Russian leaders and actions that Russian leaders have taken with respect to Eastern Ukraine that has caused this conflict in the first place. And it is in response to those destabilizing actions that the United States and the broader international community has imposed sanctions.

The other thing that I would point you to is what I said in response to the question about whether or not the President would sign the sanctions bill that's on his desk. What I noted is that we do believe that a diplomatic solution is one that will provide a lasting resolution to the conflict and help to promote growth and stability in Ukraine and in Russia. And I think that is pretty clear evidence about what our aims are here.

I don't think that President Putin's rather colorful imagery is at all an accurate description of either the situation or our goals. The

goal of the international community is to resolve this conflict in Eastern Ukraine. President Putin has repeatedly refused to take steps that even he has committed to, to try to resolve this conflict. And that is why the international community has acted to send a clear signal to President Putin that there will be economic consequences for his failure to respect basic international norms, including the territorial integrity of a neighboring country.

So the person with the most influence for resolving this situation is actually, and maybe even somewhat ironically, President Putin. If he lives up to these commitments and if he lives up to the international norms that are generally accepted across the globe, he can have some influence over the international community in terms of prompting the international community to start to roll back the sanctions regime that's been in place.

Q And logistically, when you say the President will sign the sanctions bill, is he going to do that today, do you know?

MR. EARNEST: I anticipate that that will be today, but we will let you know through the usual process of sending a pro forma notification.

Mr. Viquiera.

Q Thanks. If I could reframe Major's question -- how did the Sony case go from a case of corporate espionage to a national security threat?

MR. EARNEST: Again, because of the destructive activity with malicious intent that is evident from this situation. I know there have been reports about the substantial number of computers and other equipment that have been destroyed as a result of this attack. I think that's an indication that the intent of whatever this sophisticated actor is went beyond what you described, and it ventures into the territory of being destructive. And the President believes that that kind of behavior is consistent with a national security matter.

Q Was there one revelation, piece of evidence, discovery that led to this sort of escalation in rhetoric here? And does it go beyond Sony? Is that the implication? Is that what you've found?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, in terms of what's been found, I'm going to let the Department of Justice and the FBI speak to that.

Q Does it go beyond Sony?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, I'd refer you to the FBI and the Department of Justice. They're looking into -- among the other things that they're looking into is the scope of this activity. So you can ask them about that.

Q And finally, the 2:00 p.m. meeting the President has scheduled, is this on the agenda, this issue?

MR. EARNEST: This issue? No, I don't believe it is.

Chris.

Q I'm going to rephrase another question if I can, Josh. Sony -- and let's -- if we call this terrorism, whether it's something state-sponsored or it's cyber terror -- and I don't want to draw a direct analogy, but in the way that you've said many times from the podium that the U.S. is against ransom in the case of kidnappings because it encourages other kidnappings, is there a concern that Sony, in withdrawing "The Interview," might encourage further similar activity?

MR. EARNEST: Well, you did draw one analogy that I do think is appropriate, and I do think -- well, and I can actually say that it has influenced the way that we here at the White House and the way that this administration responds to these specific incidents.

Within the last year, Lisa Monaco, who's the President's top counterterrorism advisor, has stood up something called the Cyber Response Group. And she did that based on the recognition that our administration, and the U.S. government more generally, even predating this administration, has learned a lot about the appropriate way for us to respond to acts of terror and incidents of terrorism, or even threats of terrorism.

And Lisa identified something I think that is appropriate, which is that for a long time the risk of cyber-attacks was sort of siloed in a compartment of individuals that had extensive expertise as it relates to information technology and computer networks and the like. And what Lisa found is that it's useful for us to pool our knowledge in the same way that we pool the knowledge of a variety of agencies when responding to terror threats. And so what that allows for is it allows for different agencies to come together and sit around the table, literally -- these are members of intelligence community, military leaders, diplomatic leaders, law enforcement officials and homeland security officials -- to sit down and evaluate a problem.

This will allow us to have the kind of agile defense and response that's necessary when dealing with a threat like a cyber-attack. And this is consistent with the kind of response that this administration and, again, even the previous administration has honed in responding to threats from terror; that what's required is a quick evaluation of the problem and an effective, prompt, coordinated response. And so that's something that we have tried to deploy over the course of the last year to these specific situations.

Q But given the global economic reach of the movie industry, is there concern that giving the terrorists, the criminals what they wanted just encourages others to do the same?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think the truth is, Chris, I'm not sure exactly what this sophisticated actor was trying to accomplish. What's clear is that --

Q Well, they didn't want the movie shown.

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, I'm not in a position to identify who the sophisticated actor is, so it would be hard for me to ascribe any motive to an individual whom I do not know. What is clear, however, is that they did carry out destructive activity with malicious intent. And that is something that this administration takes very seriously. We view it as a legitimate national security matter. It's being investigated accordingly. And an appropriate response will be attendant as well.

Q A couple quick questions on the Secret Service report that's coming out. Jeh Johnson said today that already the Acting Director has made some changes, which we all know about, and that he's encouraging him to continue with those changes. Is there any urgency to name a permanent new director?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I suspect that the interim director probably feels some of that urgency.

Q Does the President or the White House feel the urgency?

MR. EARNEST: Well, certainly this is a very important job. And as I have said on a number of occasions, the President, the First Lady, and everybody here at the White House is appreciative of the commitment that Mr. Clancy has made in leaving his private sector job temporarily to come over here and to assume this very important responsibility at a really important time for the agency.

So his brief tenure so far has been characterized by the kind of professionalism and confidence that, frankly, is exactly what we all expected. So he is somebody that has a sterling reputation and he's lived up to it in the confines of his current role.

What I'll say is that we certainly do believe that having a permanent director in place is important, and that's why you've seen this independent panel that was stood up take very seriously their responsibilities. We'll be sure that their recommendations are carefully reviewed. But I don't have any update for you in terms of timing about when a new director would be appointed.

Q Last question. Secretary Johnson also said that -- obviously he's seen the report, reviewed the report -- that there are fundamental systemic issues with the Secret Service. Does the President feel he and his family are safe in the interim while these changes are going to be made?

MR. EARNEST: Well, as I mentioned earlier and on a number of occasions in briefings earlier this fall, the President does have confidence in the men and women of the Secret Service. These are

dedicated professionals with a lot of expertise who are willing to put their lives on the line to protect the President and his family. They also work hard to protect all of us, and that's certainly something that we're grateful for.

It is clear that some changes are needed. As you pointed out, Mr. Clancy is putting in place some of those changes, and we'll consider the recommendations from this independent panel of experts about additional changes that be necessary.

Ed.

Q Josh, given your transparency to Major about the news conference, any sense on early next year when the President would like to do a State of the Union?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have a date yet. I don't believe that the President has been invited yet by the Speaker of the House, who traditionally does that. I can tell you that there have already been some conversations about this. But we'll let you know as soon -- well, I guess the Speaker's office will let you know as soon as they have made a decision. But there's obviously a lot of coordination that goes on behind the scenes to make sure that we choose a date that's appropriate for the President's schedule but also appropriate for the schedule of the members of Congress who will be in attendance as well.

Q I want to go back to Sony. I know you said the White House does not want to dictate to Sony about what they should or shouldn't do. But the Daily Beast has gotten some emails that show that at least two Obama administration officials screened a rough cut of this movie, "The Interview," some months ago -- I believe back in June -- including the final scene that allegedly shows the dictator's head explode. And essentially, these administration officials felt, despite the sensitivity, it was okay to move forward. Can you, first of all, tell us what involvement the Obama administration had months ago in this film, and why you even got involved? Was it because you were concerned that this would become a big deal?

MR. EARNEST: No, Ed, there is no policy at the administration for screening films before they are released.

Q So that didn't happen?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I can tell you that there's no policy in place that requires this. I wouldn't be surprised, however -- and I think this is apparent in the emails that were released -- that administration officials were consulted about the film prior to its release at the request of officials from the company that was producing the movie.

Q I'm not suggesting you were dictating to them, but I'm saying you had an involvement months ago in this. So did this administration underestimate the impact this was going to have?

MR. EARNEST: No, because we would not have been in a position of dictating an outcome or dictating changes to a film.

Q Why get involved at all?

MR. EARNEST: We did so at the request of the company. So again, you had this private company that had come to administration officials seeking their input, and that was -- presumably that input was shared. But certainly nothing was dictated. And changes that were made to the film were made by the film's creators themselves; certainly nothing that was created by the administration.

Q And you make an important distinction that the President can't tell Sony, do this or don't this. But given the fact that they were twisting in the wind, the company, for several days about what to do, why didn't the company and other senior officials here speak out and say, look, whatever decision you make, you're an American company, we've got your back?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think the President was asked something along these lines in the interview he did with Jon's network just yesterday.

Q About theaters. And he said people should go to theaters. But what about the fact that --

MR. EARNEST: I think that is a pretty strong show of support for the artists who are making films these days.

Q I thought the context of the question was about the concern about terror threats out there.

MR. EARNEST: It was. But I think it was also a show of support for artists and others who are making films, including the artists who made this film, that they have a right to be able to express themselves and produce these kinds of movies, even if some people happen to find their brand of humor offensive.

Q Okay. I want to go to a last subject. On executive orders, executive actions. USA Today has taken a look, and you'll remember some months ago the President claimed that he was using executive orders "at the lowest rate in more than a hundred years." And then USA Today looked at the fine print and, yes, 195 executive orders less than Democratic and Republican predecessors. But when you add on 198 presidential memoranda, it actually turns out he's using a lot more executive action than his predecessors, right?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think there's no doubt that the President has sought to use his executive authority to move this country forward within the confines of the law, oftentimes in the face of congressional inaction. That I wouldn't disagree with.

Q But why did he make this public claim that there's this criticism that I'm acting on executive basis, and I'm doing that less -- the lowest level in a hundred years? That wasn't really true, right?

MR. EARNEST: It was true, because the level -- the number of executive orders that this President has issued is lower, as you pointed out, than executive orders that have been issues by many of his previous predecessors.

Q Presidential memoranda have essentially the same effect. It's called something different. But the fact of the matter is that he's taking a lot more executive action. Why would he --

MR. EARNEST: There is an important difference between executive orders and presidential memorandums. But I would not -- but I would grant the premise that the President has used every element at his disposal to try to move the country forward. And he has done that in a way that is consistent with the law, that is consistent with precedent, and is often carried out in the face of pretty rigid congressional obstruction.

Q And last one. What do you see as that distinction? I understand there are legal distinctions. But, big picture, what is the difference? Because both -- it's still executive action. So what is the big difference according to you or the President?

MR. EARNEST: Generally speaking, presidential memorandums -- presidential memoranda are associated with more technical issues and are often directives that are related to a subset of agencies. Executive orders, therefore, are more sweeping and often more impactful. But again, I would readily concede that this President has, using executive orders and presidential memoranda, used his executive authority to try to move the country forward as much as he possibly can.

And whether it's taking action on climate change, fixing -- adding some accountability to our broken immigration system, or even relaxing some of the failed trade restriction policies as it relates to Cuba, the President has taken a number of steps, using his executive authority, to move the country forward. And I recognize that this was something that was done over the objection of many members of Congress, but frankly, a lot of this was done because Congress was refusing to act.

Q But you just said executive orders usually are more sweeping, but in the case of immigration, which you would acknowledge was pretty sweeping, it was a presidential memorandum, not an executive order.

MR. EARNEST: That's correct.

Q So, by your definition -- I'm slightly confused. You said that executive orders are quite sweeping; the immigration one, which you acknowledged was sweeping, actually was not. So doesn't that make the point USA Today was trying to make, that no matter what you call it, he was kind of misleading people about how often he's using executive action?

MR. EARNEST: No, I think the President was being specific about the fact that his predecessors have issued far more executive orders than he has. I don't think anybody has ever made the case from here about this President, that he is not willing to use his executive authority to move the country forward. In fact, he has, and I think the numbers that you cite demonstrate a commitment to doing exactly that.

Thank you, Ed.

Mark.

Q Josh, yesterday President Obama issued another batch of pardons, and yet six years into his presidency he's issued far fewer pardons than nearly all of his predecessors over the last half-century. And I wonder if he feels that he's stingy with pardons, as some of his critics have said.

MR. EARNEST: The President and his administration take this issue very seriously. And we have had the opportunity to talk quite a bit about criminal justice reform over the last few months, and this is something that the President believes is critically important. One of the things that the President has done is sign into law the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. This was a bill that would address the unjust disparity between penalties for crack and powder cocaine, and this reflected some improvements in the way that the law is being carried out and the way that it's enforced.

What we have also seen is we have also seen some changes to the sentencing guidelines that have freed up judges to use more discretion when applying sentences and penalties. So we certainly have made some important progress in trying to address some of the current concerns that the President has identified about criminal justice reform. But the President believes that there is more work that can and should be done.

The good news is that there are some Republicans who believe that there is more work that can and should be done. And this would be one area where we would hope we could work with Republicans in the new year to make some progress on an issue that both Democrats and Republicans have identified. But I would anticipate the President will continue to use the clemency authority that he is granted under the Constitution to try to address some of these problems as well.

But I think ideally what we would try to do is try to fix some of these problems statutorily so we could fix them on the front end, and future Presidents won't have to resort to using their clemency authority to try to address some of these disparities that we see in the law.

Q Can you describe what his criteria are for granting pardons?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I'm sure there's a pretty legal description related to this that I wouldn't want to venture into.

Q Like he's President, he can grant a pardon to anyone he likes. (Laughter.)

MR. EARNEST: Well, as a factual matter, that is true. Let me follow up with you to see if I have some more specific guidance I can share with you about how these kinds of decisions are reached.

Q Perhaps I could ask him this tomorrow.

MR. EARNEST: Perhaps you could. (Laughter.)

Juliet.

Q Josh, buried in the spending bill was one provision affecting the consideration of the sage grouse and a couple of other grassland birds. The federal government is involved in extensive negotiation with 11 governors out West about what to do. Could you comment on how the White House views that provision and how it will affect what could be a very significant decision regarding endangered species?

MR. EARNEST: Once again, Juliet, this highlights the fact that the omnibus legislation that the President signed earlier this week is a genuinely compromise proposal. It includes some riders, like this one, that would essentially prohibit the Fish and Wildlife Service from issuing an endangered species act rule related to the sage grouse. That's not a rider that we believe is the right policy and certainly wasn't appropriate to include on a piece of legislation like this.

That said, this rider does nothing to stop the administration from continuing bipartisan work with the governors that you cited to put conservation measures in place with the aim of avoiding the need to list the greater sage grouse as threatened or endangered in the first place; that we can take some of these steps as it relates to conservation that would prevent them from reaching the point where they are threatened or endangered in the first place and that would obviously make it so that the Fish and Wildlife Service didn't have to issue this endangered species act rule.

In fact -- and this is where the good news comes in -- the bill contains funding that will enable the Department of Interior and the United States Department of Agriculture to continue their work to continue sage grouse habitat. The Fish and Wildlife Service will still be able to do the critical data collection and analysis work that's required to meet a court-ordered deadline to decide whether a listing is warranted under the Endangered Species Act.

So we certainly do not agree with this provision, but the bill does contain funding for the kinds of conservation measures that we believe will be important to protecting the sage grouse and hopefully preventing the need for any sort of Endangered Species Act rule to be implemented.

Olivier.

Q Josh, a couple for you. Under what circumstances would the President showcase his support for artists by screening this movie at the White House?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have any announcements about that now. As I think you know, the President is preparing to leave tomorrow night with his family to go to their traditional Hawaii holiday vacation trip. I know that he's looking forward to getting that time away. So I guess the point is I don't think we're going to be showing the film here anytime soon. But I wouldn't rule it out necessarily in the future.

Q And then -- and I apologize, I missed your briefing yesterday, so if this is well-trod ground just say so. But how will we know in six months, in a year, in 18 months, whether the President's overtures to Cuba have worked? Based on your own internal guidelines and your own internal criteria, are there very specific concrete deliverables? Can I look at the news out of Cuba in six months and say they've let those 53 released prisoners stay and continue their activities? Can I look at they've freed up the resort workers to keep more of the money they make in resorts that cater to Western European tourists, say? Are there things I can look at in six months, in a year, in a year and a half, to make that judgment?

MR. EARNEST: Well, the first thing I'll point out, and I think you're alluding to this in your question, is that the President acknowledged pretty directly that we're not going to see changes overnight in Cuba, that these kinds of broader social and political changes take time.

And that said, we certainly should have seen a lot more progress over the last 53 or 54 years since the embargo was put in place than we did see. And I think that is a reflection of the fact that that policy failed. That's why the President is advocating a different approach, one that emphasizes openness and engagement, and that focuses on empowering the Cuban people to assert more authority and to take more control over their daily lives and to try to bring about the kinds of political and social and economic changes that they would like to see in their own country. Ultimately, it should be their decision.

But I do think it's appropriate -- I do think it would be appropriate for us to evaluate the progress of the Castro regime when it comes to respecting basic human rights by watching how they treat political prisoners, particularly those who have recently been granted their release or soon will be released. There was talk, as the President mentioned yesterday, of the Cuban government taking steps that would allow their citizens greater access to the Internet and greater access to the kind of information that has in many other societies, including this one, succeeded in empowering citizens and individuals to take greater control over their own lives.

We saw specific commitments from the Castro regime to engage more deeply with both the United Nations and the International Committee for the Red Cross. The engagement and cooperation with those international institutions that champion human rights I think would be another legitimate way for us to evaluate their progress.

Now, the other thing that I'm confident the President would be quick to point out -- and maybe you'll have the opportunity to probe him on this tomorrow -- is that when we see this kind of change, it doesn't occur in a straight line. It wouldn't be uncommon for us to see a step forward, a step back, two steps forward, another step back. What we're looking at is over the longer term. And certainly we do anticipate that because of the strategy change, we will see the Cuban people become more empowered.

And we will also see that the U.S. policy toward Cuba will no longer be a distraction, and that our partners and allies in the Western Hemisphere who've previously come to us complaining about our policy toward Cuba can now spend more time talking to us about the Cuba government's policy toward its own people. That would be a welcome development. That would shine a light on the situation and put more pressure on the Castro regime to protect and advance the kind of basic human values that we have long championed in this country.

Mara.

Q Would you argue that the same thing has happened in China and Vietnam?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I certainly -- I think there is a clearer story to be told about Vietnam, that the progress that they have made has been important -- certainly not complete, and certainly not a long a straight a line, as I was describing to Olivier -- but we continue to believe that the progress, the economic progress that we've seen in Vietnam will lead to the kind of political and social progress that we have seen.

Again, this should be about the people of an individual country realizing their aspirations and having some say over how their country and their society is run. And it is the philosophy of this administration, as it has been of previous administrations, that greater openness, that greater engagement, that deeper economic ties facilitates the kinds of economic changes that often lead to the political and social changes that we believe are important, that reflects the kinds of values that we believe should take priority.

Q I know you think they will do it. I'm just wondering, in our experience so far, has that happened in China? I mean, to date.

MR. EARNEST: I mean, I think there are people who are probably better equipped to evaluate this than I am, but I do -- so I'll let somebody else pass judgment on that. I will say that I believe that the strategy that the President has pursued to engage them is clearly in our national security interest. That goes without saying. And I do think it

serves to put more pressure on the Chinese leadership to respect those basic universal human rights.

Again, as a result of the President's trip there, there was extensive coverage and debate about this that would not have occurred had the President not traveled to China. And again, there are a variety of ways to evaluate how much progress has been made and whether that progress is lasting. And I think, again, we're not going to see that kind of progress travel along a straight line, but the President does retain a lot of confidence in the strategy that it's worked in many other places too.

Justin.

Q A couple of Sony. The first is, I know you mentioned the cybersecurity legislation. Back in 2012, the administration was pretty active in lobbying for this up on Capitol Hill. There was a series of classified briefings for lawmakers. Since then, kind of overtly, you guys have said that you've shifted towards kind of trying to handle it administratively. But since you mentioned it to Christi, as much as I'm sure you've had great success calling for Congress to do things from behind the podium, I'm wondering if there's additional work that you're going to do on this issue with Congress in the new session, nd also if Congress is being briefed right now on kind of the developments of the investigation.

MR. EARNEST: Justin, we do retain hope that advancing cybersecurity legislation in the new year can be a bipartisan pursuit. As I mentioned earlier, there's no reason that there should be divisions along party lines when it comes to an issue that's important.

I can understand given the complexity of the issue that there might be differences of opinion on this, but they shouldn't break down along partisan lines. We shouldn't allow partisan differences to interfere with our ability to tackle something that's this complex, but yet at the same time, that's this important to the country. So I certainly would hope that we would see some bipartisan movement on this in the new year.

The steps that we have taken on our own using the President's executive authority were done out of necessity. And there is also a need for Congress to act here, and we hope that they will recognize that and take action in the new year.

As it relates to your other question, it is not uncommon at all for the administration to work closely with Congress as we confront these kinds of situations related to cyber-attacks. So I don't know of any specific conversations that have occurred, but that is part of the standard operating procedure when it comes to these matters.

Q And since you've mentioned differences of opinion, I know it will shock you to hear that Senator John McCain has been critical of the administration's response to the cyber hack. He said that because you guys haven't responded so far that you're effectively yielding to the

hackers, and that you also kind of created the window by not responding sooner for Sony to have to make a decision on pulling the movie. So I'm wondering if you could respond to that, but also if there's any concern that by maybe slow-walking this investigation to some extent that this window has been --

MR. EARNEST: I don't think there's any evidence to suggest that this investigation has not moved at the pace that is appropriate. This is a matter that the President takes very seriously. This is a matter that the National Security Division of the Department of Justice and the FBI take very seriously, and they've been conducting the kind of investigation that you would expect them to do in light of the fact that this is considered by the administration to be a serious national security matter.

And it would be inappropriate to get ahead of that investigation to start publicly discussing what our response is going to be, particularly in light of the fact that I'm confident that at least some of the measures that will be considered as a response are the kinds of things we wouldn't want to telegraph in advance. So what you have seen is a very professional approach to dealing with this situation, and that reflects the seriousness with which we believe this issues should be confronted.

Zeke, I'm going to put a lot of pressure on you, man, and give you the last question of the year. (Laughter.) So make it a good one.

Q I got to rethink this now. So, still on Sony. You said that White House officials are contemplating a response and that response needs to be proportional. How do they -- who are they contemplating responses against? Is there an array of potential perpetrators that we're working off of? Are they sort of shooting blindly from the hip who is behind it, or do you actually have a culprit in mind and you're just not telling us?

MR. EARNEST: You're asking a very good question, and it illustrates why it's necessary for us to allow the investigation to make some more progress before we start talking publicly about the range of options that are being considered.

Q Then why do you keep talking about the range of options that are being considered? Isn't that then premature, what you've just before in that if you're not comfortable talking about who's behind it, why are you talking about the response?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I guess because I'm not talking -- I think I've been pretty candid about the fact that I'm not talking in a lot of detail about what our response is going to be.

What I am suggesting, though -- and I think this is because of the activity that we have seen -- is that we believe an appropriate response is warranted. And that is why we have begun the process of considering the range of appropriate responses. But any more information about the range of appropriate responses will not be provided until more information about the investigation has been nailed down.

Q And just in terms of having a counterattack, that's not something that you would do normally when there's a criminal ring behind this. Is that an indication that, when you say significant actor, that is something larger than what we've seen, very large cyber-attacks at -- whether the American businesses that have seen large numbers of credit card numbers stolen or other intellectual property stolen before -- that this is a step beyond that? This is not -- you're not going to go carry out counter-cyber-attacks against a band of cybercriminals somewhere overseas? This is different. Are you indicating that this a larger actor here?

MR. EARNEST: Well, let me try to answer your question as best I can. I think the direct answer to your question is, no. What I -- I described him as a sophisticated actor, which does not necessarily describe their size, but it does describe their level of, well, sophistication. (Laughter.) And so that is what we're focused on.

And the other thing -- the other line that I would draw here is that you cited previous incidents in which we saw other sophisticated actors take actions related to cyber theft. And you've seen public reports that some people believe that acts of cyber theft have been committed by both state actors as well as more conventional criminal rings. I'm not going to speculate at this point about which category this one falls into, other than to say cyber theft is treated differently by this administration than something that is -- than an activity that is destructive with a malicious intent. And because of that, that destructive activity with malicious intent that we've seen, we consider this to be a serious national security matter.

So, Alexis, I'll give you the last one.

Q Can I just follow on that? Zeke was asking something that struck me, and that is, last night the NSC's statement talked about the government working hard to bring "the perpetrators to justice." That is not what you're saying here today. You're saying that you're looking for a range of options proportional to what has occurred. So just to follow on what Zeke was saying, did something happen between the statement last night and the knowledge today that left justice, which reflects crime, out of your commentary?

MR. EARNEST: Well, no. I think you might be over-reading the statement a little bit. I don't think that justice necessarily only refers to crime. After all, it's the National Security Division of the Department of Justice that is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to review this matter. So I wouldn't suggest any sort of change in policy or perspective based on last night's statements and my extensive statements here today.

Q -- more facts, a set of facts?

MR. EARNEST: Correct.

Q Okay.

MR. EARNEST: Okay. Thanks, everybody. Happy New Year, everybody.

END 2:15 P.M. EST

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release June 15, 2014

BACKGROUND CONFERENCE CALL

ON THE VICE PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING TRIP

TO BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Via Telephone

4:30 P.M. EDT

MS. PIETRANTON: Good afternoon, everyone. Thanks for joining us on Father's Day. This conference call is to discuss the Vice President's trip to Brazil, Colombia and the Dominican Republic. The call is on background and our speakers should be referred to as senior administration officials. They'll speak for a few minutes, and then take some questions.

With that, I'll turn it over to our first speaker.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thank you, everyone, for joining us on Father's Day, to the fathers out there. I'll just take a few minutes to walk through the context and the stops on the trip, and then we'd be happy to take a few of your questions.

The Vice President's trip, which starts tomorrow morning, will take him to Brazil, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. And we've now added a fourth stop in Guatemala on June 20th at the end of the trip, which I'll talk more about during these comments.

This will be the Vice President's second visit to the region this year, his eighth visit since 2009. And it's part of what has been one of the most sustained periods of high-level activity in the Western

Hemisphere by any administration in recent memory -- a period that has included the President's February 19th visit to Mexico for the North American Leaders Summit, a May 12th Oval Office meeting with Uruguayan President José Mujica, and the Vice President's March trip to Chile for the inauguration of President Michelle Bachelet, as well as a number of calls and meetings between the Vice President and regional leaders.

You've all seen our stepped-up pace of engagement, but I think it's really worth underscoring the unprecedented nature and level of engagement by this administration to advance our relationships with our friends and partners in the region, and also to underscore the active pace of engagement behind the scenes that the Vice President and President had been undertaking.

Just this past week, the Vice President had his second meeting with members of Congress to consult on a range of issues related to the region, both ongoing challenges as well as the enormous opportunities that the region presents for advancing the shared agenda. And whether it's consulting with the President of Chile, Mexico, and Peru to work to conclude the Transpacific Partnership negotiations, or working with the Cabinet to advance the agenda of the U.S.-Mexico high-level economic dialogue, the Vice President, the President, and a range of senior officials at the White House have been deeply engaged in trying to pursue a very ambitious agenda related to Latin America and the Caribbean. And that is fundamentally because the President and the Vice President believe that we have to be centrally committed to the project in building a hemisphere that is middle class, secure and democratic, from Canada to Chile and everywhere in between.

So just to walk through each of the stops on this trip -- on June 16th, tomorrow, the Vice President will make his second visit to Brazil in as many years. He will fly to Natal to watch the U.S.-Ghana match, and I suppose everybody can probably guess which side he will be rooting for. He will then fly on to Brasilia, where, on June 17th, he will meet with President Dilma Rousseff and Vice President Temer. The Vice President and President Rousseff last met in Chile in March, and spoke by phone on May 8th. He has great respect for both President Rousseff and Vice President Temer, and looks forward to the meeting.

The Vice President sees this as an important opportunity to consult on the full range of issues on our bilateral agenda on everything from energy and economics, to science and technology, to regional and global issues. And the fact that he is making this trip at this time is a reflection of the importance that the President and the Vice President place on moving the U.S.-Brazil relationship forward. They both see -- both the President and the Vice President see a great opportunity to continue building a global partnership between two strong, diverse democracies, and it will be a full agenda when he arrives in Brasilia on Tuesday. And we'll look forward to reading out those meetings after they take place.

We'll arrive in Bogota, Colombia on the evening of June 17th, two days after the June 15th presidential run-off election. The Vice President wanted to do this to demonstrate to the Colombian government and to the people of Colombia that the United States will always be first in line to support their aspirations. He looks forward to following up on his numerous discussions with President Santos on finding new ways to advance the bilateral partnership, whether it's on economic or security matters, on energy cooperation, and the range of other issues that Colombia and the United States are (inaudible.)

This will be the Vice President's first trip to the Dominican Republic, and while he is there, the Vice President and President Medina will have a number of issues to discuss both bilaterally and regionally. More than 1.5 million Dominicans and their descendants live in the United States. Over 250,000 U.S. citizens live in the Dominican Republic. And about a million and a half U.S. tourists visit every year. And as a signatory of the Central American Dominican Republic FTA, we enjoy close trade ties with the DR.

The Dominican Republic is a Caribbean country, but it also currently holds the presidency of SICA, the Central American Integration System, which provides an opportunity for the Vice President to discuss issues of a regional character, whether it's energy security or our joint efforts to combat transnational crime. And during his visit there, he'll place special emphasis on the energy security throughout the Caribbean, bringing with him some new ideas on how the United States can contribute to advancing the -- or improving the energy picture across the Caribbean.

And then finally, on Friday, the Vice President will travel to Guatemala where he will meet with President Pérez Molina, and he will also meet with President Sánchez Cerén of El Salvador and the senior representative of the Honduran government, Coordinator General Jorge Ramón Hernández Alcerro, to address the rise and flow of unaccompanied children to the United States, to discuss our security and economic support for the countries of Central America, and more generally, to increase our cooperation in the region.

And on the issue of unaccompanied children, let me just say a few words. The surge of unaccompanied Central American children crossing the U.S.-Mexican border is an issue of great concern to us. The children making this long journey are some of the most vulnerable individuals, and many become victims of violent crime and sexual abuse. We're seeing growing numbers of children under 12 and girls in the latest surge. Our top priority is to manage this urgent humanitarian situation.

The entire U.S. administration is engaged in addressing the situation and making sure these children are housed, fed and receive necessary medical treatment. But at the same time, we also realize that crucial importance of stemming the tide of migration. And here we see two primary factors -- first, the sustained violence in Central America, and the lack of economic opportunities there, second.

There are also then some reports about the misperception of U.S. immigration policy. As Secretary Johnson made clear yesterday, these migrant children are not eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, what's called the DACA process, or pending immigration legislation. We ask families and communities to think twice before sending their children on this very dangerous journey. This is an important factor in thinking about how to address this problem.

The Vice President will be making this trip to Guatemala to discuss both the violence and economic opportunity side, and the misperceptions of the U.S. immigration policy. We're looking for ways to enhance our existing work with those countries to address some of the root causes (inaudible.) And while we provide humanitarian relief to these children in the short term, unaccompanied immigrant minors are still going through removal proceedings just like anyone that crosses the border without proper documentation. Each case is evaluated individually and handled on a case-by-case basis.

So while he's there in Guatemala, he will emphasize that illegal immigration is not safe; that putting your child in the hands of a criminal smuggling organization is not safe. And he will make clear that the recently arriving children are not eligible for DACA or earned citizenship provisions in current immigration reform legislation. The bottom line is that it's not worth subjecting children to a perilous journey when, at the end of the day, there is no light at the end of the tunnel.

So with that, let me open it up for questions. And I will ask my colleagues to jump in to help provide comprehensive answers. Thank you.

Q Just wondering if you guys know the percentage of people who are coming across the border or unaccompanied children versus families with adults.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm sorry, I didn't understand the question. Could you repeat that question?

Q The question is, the administration is talking about unaccompanied minors, unaccompanied children crossing the border, but various reports suggest that the flow of unaccompanied minors are mostly older teenagers, and they're only one-third of the new flow coming across the border. Do you know what percentage of people coming across the border these days are adults rather than unaccompanied minors? These are the people coming from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't have the precise numbers in front of me on that, and you'll have to go to the Department of Homeland Security and others to get an answer to that. So I'd refer you to them unless one of my other colleagues has something they'd like to add at this point.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think the Department of Homeland Security is the best place to have those precise statistics. Thanks.

Q If you could just go over again the name of the speaker and the rules for attribution on this. I'm dialing in on this a little bit late.

And my question was, will Cuba come up in this visit with several countries near Cuba, including the Dominican Republic? And is the administration considering changing U.S. policy or opening up some trade with Cuba? Thanks.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Just on that first issue, this call is on background, sourced to senior administration officials. And in answer to the question on Cuba, let me turn it to my colleague.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thanks. Cuba comes up very much as part of our dialogue with countries throughout the Americas, so we anticipate that it will be a subject of discussion in all of our stops -- probably less so in Central America, where we're going to be more focused on an ongoing crisis involving the movement of children through the region.

But in the case of Cuba I think it's important to say from the outside that the United States has made clear that we're interested in having a more constructive relationship with the Cuban government. We remained very concerned about the lack of respect to democracy and human rights that Cuba has demonstrated this week through the arrest of a large number of dissidents and other figures. But at the same time, it's been very clear that what is going to promote positive change in Cuba is empowering the Cuban people to have access to more resources and information. U.S. policy from the beginning of the President -- of Obama's administration has been focused on doing exactly that.

In the case of our work in the region, certainly there is a desire to have Cuba more fully included in the Inter-American system. We share that desire. We want Cuba to be able to be part of the Inter-American system as a democratic country. And we are working with countries that do have a core commitment to democracy to ensure that they are also doing what they can to promote reform and increase respect for human rights in Cuba.

Q So I was trying to clarify -- can you tell us again the name of the Honduran official who the Vice President is going to be meeting with? And also, what is he bringing to these countries as part of any sort of plan to deal with the unaccompanied minor issue? Is the U.S. offering money, grants, assistance, law enforcement assistance -- any sort of carrot?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: On the issue of what he's bringing, we'll have more information to provide over the course of the next few days. So stay tuned on that front.

This is fundamentally meant in a cooperative spirit, where the United States wants to do its part to address some of the root causes of both the violence and the lack of economic opportunity. And that would build on the Central American Regional Security Initiative and the various economic initiatives that we have been pursuing.

Q So there will a source of aid, but just -- you're not ready to announce it yet at this point?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think you can anticipate that the Vice President will talk about the ways that the United States can enhance its support to these countries. But I don't want to get into more details now. We will provide more details as the week goes on. So that's number one.

Q I just wanted to ask you -- I know this call is about this visit, but while he's on the visit, since he'll be in the public eye, will he be making any remarks about the situation in Iraq? And does he have any new comments -- now about the situation in Iraq and any steps the U.S. is prepared to take?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Nothing for me to share on this call, but I think you can anticipate as the week unfolds that he'll be speaking to this issue -- to the Iraq issue.

In terms of the name of the Honduran official, it is their Coordinator General, Jorge Ramón Hernández. The President of Honduras will actually be in Brazil for the World Cup matches. In fact, I think as we speak right now Honduras is playing one of its matches and will have another one later in the week.

Let me turn it to my colleague.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So just a little further on Central America -- so the President was in Costa Rica last year, in May of 2013, to meet with the leaders of Central America. And there, a great deal of the focus was on ways for -- to take on a competitiveness in Central America. And as my colleague said at the top of the call, there's a variety of factors involved here. A major one is the very low economic growth the unfortunately has been a factor in the region.

So certainly we're looking at what we can do to cooperate as partners with this particular issue, but also what we can do to address the long-term development of Central America. And that's a subject of great interest not only on the part of the administration, but also on the part of the U.S. Congress and of other governments in the region with which we've worked to address matters like infrastructure, energy costs in Central America and so forth. So there is both the immediate issue and then the long-term process that we want to start moving towards.

And in addition to the security and economic side, it is important to underscore, as I did in my opening comments, that another element to this

is addressing this perception about U.S. immigration policy, which the Vice President will also do.

Q How is the Vice President going to address the unaccompanied minor issue when he's in Guatemala? Is he going to be making any public appearances or statements? Or will there just be press conferences? How is he going to tell parents in Latin America not to send their kids?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So the Vice President will obviously have intensive consultations with the leaders to discuss the crisis and to engage on ways forward to dealing with it. And while he's there, we anticipate he will have the opportunity to speak publicly to the issue, but I don't want to get in front of him with his statements.

I would just say that some of the observations and comments I made in my opening remarks will be consistent with the kind of messages you'll hear from him while he is there; that in addition to issues related to security and economics and misperceptions about U.S. immigration policy, there's simply the fundamental issue that illegal immigration is not safe. Putting your child in the hands of a criminal smuggling organization is not safe, and it is not worth subjecting children to a perilous journey when there is no light at the end of the tunnel. But at the same time, the United States wants to work very closely with the governments of the region to try to make life better for these families and children in all of the countries of Central America.

Q I had a couple of questions. One is -- so it sounds like -- I believe there are three countries that are considered primarily responsible for the current surge: Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Is there something planned with regard to El Salvador? Is there a reason he's not visiting if, in fact, he's not visiting on this trip? And also, can you say if any of these actions are in any in response to some requests from Congress, including a letter that was sent out last week to the President asking that he and other high-level administration officials send a clearer message that these children that are coming across the border are not eligible for any exceptional relief? Thanks.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: As I said in my opening remarks, the President of El Salvador, President Sanchez Cerén, will actually be in Guatemala for these meetings, along with the senior representative of the Honduran government, the Coordinator General, who is very close with the Honduran President and will come in his stead, because the President of Honduras will be in Brazil. So you will have senior representatives, leaders from all three countries be able to sit around the table with the Vice President to deal with these issues.

And then with respect to members of Congress, the Vice President, as a former member, he takes what they have to say very seriously. And we've had intensive consultations with Congress over the last several days, and consider dealing with this challenge a partnership with Congress. So we certainly consider their role important in all of this. The Vice

President had the chance to speak directly to a number of both senators and representatives here at the White House. And I anticipate that as he heads down to Guatemala, and then after he returns, he will continue intensive engagement with folks on the Hill.

I don't know if my colleague wants to add anything.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I just wanted to say this is only the latest of the highest level of engagement with the leaders of those countries on this topic. We've had very high-level interaction with the Presidents from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala for more than two months on this particular issue. Leaders in Central America have also, in their dealing with their own populations, have mentioned that they view this as a very serious problem, and have warned against this dangerous illegal migration as well in their own work.

We have also ensured that the Secretary of Homeland Security and -- has also engaged with the leaders of Mexico, which is working very closely with us to address this issue. So this is only the latest, and it's a clear sign of the importance that we place on this and our determination to find a solution that will prevent this dangerous travel.

END 4:55 P.M. EDT

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 2/4/2016 8:13:55 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: 4:15PM EST TODAY: Senior Administration Officials to Host Press Call to Discuss New Plan for Building a 21st Century Clean Transportation System

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
February 4, 2016

4:15PM EST TODAY: Senior Administration Officials to Host Press Call to Discuss New Plan for Building a 21st Century Clean Transportation System

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Thursday, February 4th, at 4:15PM EST, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and Director of the National Economic Council Jeff Zients will host a press call to discuss the President's new plan for building a 21st Century Clean Transportation System. The President's plan would increase American investments in clean transportation infrastructure by roughly 50 percent above current levels while reforming the investments we already make to help reduce carbon pollution, cut oil consumption, and create new jobs. The plan will also encourage American innovation and leadership in clean technologies to help reshape our transportation landscape for the decades ahead, while reducing our reliance on oil, cutting carbon pollution, and strengthening our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

This call will be on-the-record and with no embargo.

WHO: Secretary Anthony Foxx, Department of Transportation
Jeff Zients, Director of the National Economic Council

WHAT: On-the-record press call with no embargo

WHEN: Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 4:15PM EST

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 288-8974 and ask for the "White House Call." International participants should dial (612) 288-0340. No passcode necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 11/9/2015 4:03:04 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: 3PM EST TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
November 9, 2015

3PM EST TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Monday, November 9, at 3PM EST, the White House will hold a press call to discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge." The "Healthy Communities Challenge" seeks to engage key communities with large numbers or high percentages of uninsured in states across the country where strong federal, state and community collaboration can have a meaningful impact on reaching the uninsured.

This call is on the record and without embargo.

WHO: Kristie Canegallo, White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation
Jerry Abramson, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honorable Bob Buckhorn, Mayor of Tampa, FL
The Honorable Clay Jenkins, Dallas County Judge

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

WHEN: Today, Monday, November 9 at 3PM EST

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 553-0273 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Media Affairs Office [whitehouse-noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 11/6/2015 4:12:42 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: POSTPONED: White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

POSTPONED: This call will be rescheduled for next week.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
November 6, 2015

White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Friday, November 6, at 11:30AM EST, the White House will hold a press call to discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge." The "Healthy Communities Challenge" seeks to engage key communities with large numbers or high percentages of uninsured in states across the country where strong federal, state and community collaboration can have a meaningful impact on reaching the uninsured.

This call is on the record and without embargo.

WHO: **Kristie Canegallo, White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation**

Jerry Abramson, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Bob Buckhorn, Mayor of Tampa, FL

The Honorable Clay Jenkins, Dallas County Judge

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

WHEN: Today, Friday, November 6 at 11:30AM EST

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1093 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 11/6/2015 1:04:41 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: 11:30AM EST TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
November 6, 2015

11:30AM EST TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge"

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Friday, November 6, at 11:30AM EST, the White House will hold a press call to discuss the "Healthy Communities Challenge." The "Healthy Communities Challenge" seeks to engage key communities with large numbers or high percentages of uninsured in states across the country where strong federal, state and community collaboration can have a meaningful impact on reaching the uninsured.

This call is on the record and without embargo.

WHO: Kristie Canegallo, White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation
Jerry Abramson, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honorable Bob Buckhorn, Mayor of Tampa, FL
The Honorable Clay Jenkins, Dallas County Judge

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

WHEN: Today, Friday, November 6 at 11:30AM EST

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1093 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 12/29/2016 11:21:34 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: Press Call on the Administration Response to Russian Malicious Cyber Activity and Harassment

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 29, 2016

PRESS CALL
ON THE ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE
TO RUSSIAN MALICIOUS CYBER ACTIVITY AND HARASSMENT

Via Conference Call

2:42 P.M EST

MR. STROH: Thank you very much and, everyone, thanks for joining our call this afternoon. This will be a background press conference call on the administration response to Russian malicious cyber activity and harassment. I will introduce the senior administration officials that we have here on the call, but as a reminder, they'll be referred to on background as senior administration officials. And secondly, we'll embargo the content of this call until the call concludes, so please no tweeting or filing while the call is ongoing.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thanks, everybody. I'll just make some brief comments and then turn it over to my other colleagues.

So today's actions were all approved by President Obama as a package of steps that is in response to very disturbing Russian threats to U.S. national security. And we're responding here to a pattern of Russian behavior that has been evident over some time.

First of all, as you are all aware, in October, we took the very unique step of publicly attributing efforts to interfere in the U.S. election to Russia. And as you know, we've continued to refine and develop our assessment of those Russian efforts and, as President Obama has directed, there will be a report issued summarizing what we know with respect to those efforts. And we can talk about that later in the Q&A.

In addition, as my State colleague can speak to, we've seen other Russian actions that aim to directly interfere with the conduct of U.S. foreign policy, particularly a pattern of harassment of our diplomats inside of Russia. So the range of actions announced today are in response to those Russian provocations and actions. They include a set of sanctions that my colleague from Treasury can speak to, include some important efforts that we're taking with respect to cybersecurity and

attribution, and include some actions against some of the Russian personnel and facilities here in the United States. And, again, each of my colleagues will speak to the unique actions taken.

I would just add this is not the sum total of everything that we are doing in response to Russia's actions, including its malicious cyber activities and its interference in our election. As President Obama and others have said, some of those actions will be public and some of them will not. And today, we are announcing a series of the public measures that we're taking, but that should not be mistaken for the sum total of our response.

I'd also note that this should come as no surprise to the Russian government, given that we have warned publicly and privately, including directly from President Obama to President Putin, that there would be a response for these Russian actions. So, again, we've been very clear about our intent here.

The only other thing I'd say by way of an introduction is that this really serves two purposes. One, there has to be a cost and a consequence for what Russia has done. It is an extraordinary step for them to interfere in the democratic process here in the United States of America, and there needs to be a price for that. They need to be held accountable for that. And we believe that this should be of concern to all Americans, as the President said in his statement and to members of Congress from both parties, because this was an attack on our democratic system, and we're responding in kind.

Secondly, we also believe that these steps are important because Russia is not going to stop. We have every indication that they will continue to interfere in democratic elections in other countries, including some of our European allies. There's no reason to believe that they will not try to interfere in future American elections, be they state and local elections, midterm elections, or future presidential elections. And so we also need to publicize what we know about who is responsible, demonstrate that there's a cost, try to reveal what we know about how Russia operates in this space. And, again, more of that information will be in the report that the President has directed be prepared, but some of that is embedded in the response that we're taking today.

With that, I'll turn it over to my colleague to talk through the sanctions in particular.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thank you. The number of significant actions that the President took and that Treasury has taken today -- first, I wanted to note that the President has amended the Cyber Executive Order, and that's an executive order that he issued originally in April of last year, which was meant to target malicious cyber activity by state or non-state actors anywhere in the world who were tampering with the infrastructure, who were disrupting the ability of networks of computers -- for example, through DDoS attacks -- or who were

misappropriating funds -- basically cyber -- or cyber theft of intellectual property for commercial gain.

The single prong that the President has added today makes clear that we will -- future administrations will have the authority to go after those who are tampering with or misappropriating through cyber means with the purpose or effect of interfering with election processes. And that's basically the progress the President is -- on with the actions today.

Under this new authority, the President has sanctioned nine entities and individuals. First and foremost, two Russian intelligence services -- the GRU and the FSB -- four individual officers of the GRU who are the senior-most ranking leaders of the GRU, as well as three companies -- Russian companies that have provided material support to the GRU's cyber operation. Those companies are the Special Technology Center St. Petersburg, Zorsecurity, and the Autonomous Noncommercial Organization, which is often known by its acronym, ANO PO KSI -- all of which have provided cyber services and training to the GRU.

In addition to the actions taken by the President under the -- executive order, Treasury is targeting two Russian individuals, Evgeniy Bogachev and Aleksey Belan, under the preexisting cyber EO. In both cases, they're notorious cyber criminals who have been responsible for major (inaudible) and havoc in the international financial system, including against American companies.

Bogachev and the cyber criminals associated have been responsible for the theft of over $100 million -- U.S. financial institutions, as well as Fortune 500 (audio drop) universities and government agencies. And Belan has been responsible for compromising at least three major e-commerce companies and misappropriating the data, including private identifying data, from those companies.

As all of these actions make clear, we will not tolerate the abuse of our systems, including our election systems, by foreign actors. And these authorities are standing authorities that can be drawn upon in the future, as well.

I'll now turn it over to my colleague.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thank you. I wanted to talk with you all about the Joint Analysis Report that we issued today along with the FBI. As you know, on October 7th of this year, DHS and the DNI issued a joint statement that attributed the compromise of emails from U.S. persons and institutions, including a U.S. political organization, and the subsequent disclosure of those emails to the Russian government.

So today, with this Joint Analysis Report, we are expanding on that statement and providing details on the tools and the infrastructure used by the Russian military and civilian intelligence services to compromise and exploit networks and endpoints associated with the recent election,

and -- to include state-owned voter registration databases, as well as a range U.S. government political and private sector entities.

And a key objective in the release of this information today, of course, is to -- particularly the technical124 information is to better help network defenders in the United States and abroad to identify, detect and disrupt Russia's global campaign of malicious cyber activities.

The establishment of the attributions back to the Russian intelligence service is based on a U.S. government assessment that incorporates the technical information that's included in this JAR, the Joint Analysis Report, as well as the intelligence information and collection. Russia's civilian and military intelligence services have been engaged in aggressive and sophisticated cyber-enabled operations targeting the U.S. government and its citizens for a number of years. We are referring to this set of malicious cyber activity as GRIZZLY STEPPE -- and that's S-T-E-P-P-E -- and that becomes relevant for things like finding this JAR on the -- on our website. You can find it at US-CERT -- that's C-E-R-T -- .gov/grizzlysteppe. So again, that's G-R-I-Z-Z-L-Y-S-T-E-P-P-E, all one word.

These operations that we're describing in the JAR included spear-phishing campaigns, which have targeted government organizations, political infrastructure entities, think tanks, universities, political organizations, and corporations. Theft of information from these organizations and, specifically, recently, the public release of that information in operation of targeting other countries, including U.S. allies and partners -- Russian intelligence services have undertaken damaging or disruptive cyberattacks, including on critical infrastructure, in some cases, masquerading as a third parties or hiding behind false online personas which are designed to cause the victim to misattribute the source of the attack.

The JAR itself provides technical indicators that are related to many of these operations. Importantly, it lays out in an extended section of the JAR recommended mitigations, and, equally important, information on how to report incidents or detection of malicious indicators or activities to the U.S. government.

The JAR does recognize that some really excellent work has been done already by security companies and the private sector networks' owners or operators themselves. And some of this information is -- they have provided previously. But we are also providing new indicators of compromised malicious infrastructure identified during our own course of investigations and incident response, along with the Bureau. Again, we're focused on providing network defenders with the tools they need to identify and detect and disrupt Russian malicious activity targeting our country's networks.

So again, in the JAR itself, we have provided some descriptions of approaches that Russian intelligence services used, as well as some of the technical indicators, including Internet protocol addresses, the set of

numbers that basically serves as an address for each computer in their use to transmit data to and between computers. These IT addresses are -- reflect infrastructure that the Russian intelligence services are using, and oftentimes it's other people's networks without the owner's knowledge. And they do that, obviously, to hide their malicious activity, but that means that these addresses also host, oftentimes, legitimate websites and other Internet services. And so we are providing this information for network defenders, network administrators to be able to use to try to detect and put on their watch list so that they can be alert to potential malicious activity.

We've also released -- it's not included in the JAR, but separately we've released two malware samples that Russian intelligence services use to broadly conduct their malicious activities, and we've given those to antivirus vendors so that they can be used to help, again, both private sector and government folks defend their networks.

We've provided a subseries of questions that companies need to be asking themselves, as well as a list of steps that they can take, some basic cyber hygiene practices that are really important and can actually stop 85 percent of the malicious activity that we see. We're going to continue our NCCIC, our National Cybersecurity Communications Integration Center, to look at the research and analysis, and we will continue to issue subsequent updates to the JAR if and when additional information becomes available.

And so we really urge that folks out there continue to check the US-CERT website and, again, both implement these recommended mitigations, but also provide information to the government to help fill in the bigger picture. What we're asking the companies to do is to take this technical information, go back through their logs and see if they see indications of this malicious activity in the past. Because knowledge of these historical incidents -- even if the bad actors are no longer active in your system -- it's important for the government to know about it and understand it. It helps to fill in the bigger picture, provides greater insight into the scope and scale of Russian activity, and helps all the network defenders.

DHS has added these indicators to the automated information sharing that we have implemented this year, which provides them to companies that sign up at machine speed. And so we encourage companies to continue to sign up to receive those indicators.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thanks, I'm here at State. You all saw the statement that we put out earlier today with the other interagency statements on the President's decisions. We implemented two of his decisions. We declared persona non grata 35 Russian officials operating in the U.S. who were acting in a manner inconsistent with their diplomatic and consular duties. And we also have denied Russian personnel access to two Russian-owned compounds in the United States. And this is part of the comprehensive response to their interference in our elections and a pattern of harassment. I have some details on the harassment, as well,

but maybe I'll stop there. I've got details on the harassment for later in the conversation.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Great. Any of you guys want to say -- before we open to questions?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I would just add that the actions inconsistent with their responsibilities and duties that my colleague referred to were intelligence activities. And the two facilities which the Russians are now denied access to were used for intelligence collection activities, as well.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And I would just add that from our view, the purpose of the indicator release is really twofold. One is to put the weight of the U.S. government behind the attribution of a lot of this activity to the Russian government and their intelligence services so that network defenders should prioritize fixing those issues and identifying that, because that is sponsored by a government that is carrying out malicious aggressive activity against us. And two, to cause them some operational friction and inhibit their ability, at least for a little while, to carry out their activities and to cause them some problems.

Q Hi, thanks very much. Can you comment broadly on how difficult it would be or easy it might be for President-elect Trump to undo some of the things that you've been announcing today? And specifically how difficult or easy would it be for him to allow some of the officials back into the country who are being asked to leave?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'll start and see if any of my colleagues want to weigh in.

First of all, we're taking these actions consistent with our assessment of what Russia has done. To be very clear here, they have been interfering in both the American democratic process and in the conduct of American diplomacy. And so this should be of concern to all Americans -- again, to members of both parties, members of Congress from both parties. This has been a sustained effort to both harass our diplomatic personnel and interfere in our democratic process. And as I said, we have no reason to believe that Russia's activities will cease.

They have been engaged in malicious cyber activity for some time now. They have interfered in democratic elections not just here in the United States, but other countries. So one reason why I think that it is necessary to sustain these actions is because there's every reason to believe that Russia will interfere in future U.S. elections and future elections around the world.

That said, to your question, these are executive actions. So if a future President decided that he wanted to allow in a large tranche of Russian intelligence agents, presumably a future President could invite that action. We think it would be inadvisable. As my colleague just

said, these diplomatic compounds were being used for intelligence purposes. That is a direct challenge to U.S. national security, and I don't think it would make much sense to reopen Russian intelligence compounds.

Secondly, the officials who have been PNGed are Russian intelligence agents. So I don't think it would make much sense to invite back in Russian intelligence agents. The officials who were sanctioned were participating in malicious cyberattacks on U.S. critical infrastructure and interfering in our democratic process. So, again, hypothetically you could reverse those sanctions, but it wouldn't make a lot of sense.

I don't know if any of my colleagues have anything they want to add to that.

Q You've made reference at several points to attacks on critical infrastructure in the U.S., and I was wondering does that include the campaign against U.S. companies in 2014, U.S. energy companies? And does it also include other things that you could identify?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Certainly, so I think in broad terms we know that the Russian government has targeted critical infrastructure around the world, and it is part of their normal operating procedures. And if you look at the list of malware and other kinds of activity that are listed in the JAR as being tied to the Russian intelligence services, you would see some of those that are aimed at critical infrastructure, such as BlackEnergy and Havex. So that's the kind of activity that we're talking about.

Q Thank you for doing the call. First of all, I was wondering if you could talk about the chronology of the way you're doing this. Russia has been saying for weeks now if you guys really have evidence that we were behind this, prove it, show us what you have. And so why are you doing the announcement of these retaliatory actions before you're releasing this report that the President has promised that ostensibly would back up the accusations that you've made?

And then for State, you guys are saying that the actions to kick out the diplomats and shutter these compounds are related to harassment, which is kind of a separate issue, but you're rolling it out as part of this big package. So is it fair to say that the decision to move forward with those penalties now is part of your attempt to be tougher on Russia over the cyber actions? Thanks.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, let me just start on that. On your second question, I think for the -- we've been looking at the issue of how to respond to the harassment of our diplomats for some time, but the fact is it's hard for us to separate that from the context of a foreign power also interfering in our democratic election.

So it's fair to say that President Obama's direction was that we should look at these actions as interconnected, and that the same hostile

posture and the same flagrant violation of basic norms of international behavior that guided their harassment of our diplomatic personnel are also seen in the interference in our election. So again, that's why we looked at this as a package. And, frankly, if you look at the actions taken with respect to the diplomatic personnel and facilities, they were also related to an intelligence purpose. So just as it was a Russian intelligence effort that was tied to the interference in our election, we see a nexus to Russian intelligence and the actions taken by the State Department today in addition to the response of the harassment of our diplomats. And my State colleague can speak to the harassment of diplomats.

On your first question, look, we don't -- we actually, as you know, publicly put out the assessment that Russia was interfering in our election in early October. So we have been public with that assessment for some time now. Frankly, if you look at who is designated and what entities are designated and what's in the JAR, you begin to get a sense of our assessment of how Russia approached those issues. And what we'll be doing in the report that the President asked for is look comprehensively at the information that we have and the analysis that flows from that information.

This is not in question, though. There's no debate in the U.S. administration about the fact -- and it is a fact -- that Russia interfered in our democratic election. We've established that clearly to our satisfaction. I would never expect Russia to come out with their hands up and acknowledge what they did. They don't do that. They didn't do that -- they still deny that they are intervening in eastern Ukraine. And, frankly, I'd say to journalists, let's look at what they say and what they do. This is a country that has intervened in a sovereign country and denied that they did it, even though everybody could see that they were doing it, with respect to Ukraine; that has bombed civilians in Syria while denying that they were doing it.

So we don't see this as a he said, she said situation, we see this as, there are facts and then there are things that Russia says.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I would also add, and maybe my colleague can speak to this more directly, but the process of putting together sanctions packages is extremely onerous and requires evidence that can stand up in court. So this is a very intense, elaborate process with a lot of input from agencies across the board.

We don't need to tell the Russian government what it's been doing. It knows what it's doing. We owe it to the American people to explain what the Russian government is doing, and the President's instruction for the U.S. government to do a report on what happened is exactly directed at explaining to the American people what happened. But we don't need to make the case to the Russians, for all the reasons that my colleague has laid out.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: State, you may want to talk about the harassments.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, the pattern of harassment over several years is really disturbing, and we felt -- and were pleased with the President's decision to do something about it.

They have -- you saw the YouTube video of the June 6th incident where our diplomat was assaulted by a Russian police officer. Embassy officials have been harassed and detained on their routine diplomatic travels around the country. Russian state-owned television has put some of our diplomats at risk by putting personal details about them on TV. They've blocked our ability to make our consulate general in St. Petersburg safe, in terms of the perimeter of security and new construction. They've closed 28 American Corners around the country and the American Center, which is making it impossible for us to do our job in terms of culture, education, and people-to-people ties.

So a whole series of pattern of actions over a number over years is what triggered this part of the decision.

Q Hi, thanks for doing this. Just to be clear here, the Russians that are being expelled from here and denied access to these -- you called them recreational compounds -- are you saying, one, these very intelligence officers are involved, or is that something they -- out of Moscow? And two, are you talking about a compound within the embassy compound or someplace else, say in Washington?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can speak to that, but I believe my colleague would be best positioned to do so.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The compounds are not part -- are not contiguous with the embassy. One is in Maryland and one is in New York. They are compounds that the Russian government owns and that they use for multiple purposes -- as described by my colleague, intelligence, but also recreational, as well. And under the Foreign Missions Act, we have the authority to restrict their access to these properties based on their pattern of behavior.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And just to be absolutely clear, there are 35 Russian diplomats -- actually intelligence officers -- who were PNGed by State. The denial of access to the two compounds is all Russian personnel. The Russian missions in Washington, in New York -- all Russian personnel will be denied access to those two compounds beginning at noon tomorrow, or December 30th. And those who were PNGed have 72 hours from the moment of having been informed to leave. So they should be gone, by my calculation, that would be Sunday -- by noon on Sunday. And for the Russian speakers among you, I will wish you s novym godom.

Q Thanks very much. First of all, President-elect Trump said on Wednesday that we ought to "get on with our lives" when asked about sanctioning Russia. So there have been reports that some of the other actions, the not-public actions that were to be taken against Russia was going to be left to the next administration. Is that the case? Or are

there other non-public actions that are already being taken? And is your decision -- will your decision in any way change based on the signals coming from the President-elect that he does not believe that this is a matter that should be pursued, the election matter itself?

And would you describe the harassment against our diplomats in Moscow as unusual, or -- are you focused on the normal pattern of behavior, or is this unusual between us and the Russians in terms of what you've seen, as you just described?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So on your first question, as you've heard us say many times, our approach is that there's one President at a time, and that President Obama is going to execute the duties of his office until January 20th. And he is acting in what he believes to be the best interest of the United States.

I'd say a couple of things. One is, there are any number of actions that we're taking -- some we announce, some we don't -- that will be in process as the next administration takes office. So again, there may be things that commence while we're in office in addition to what we're saying today. When the new administration takes office, it's entirely their judgment as to whether or not they continue down the course that we have set in a number of different areas.

I guess what I'd suggest is that the Russian actions have been sustained over an extended period of time, and by any definition are against the national interests of the United States, not the interests of President Obama. The harassment of our diplomats -- which is not in line, frankly, with the way things have been in the past; it's been escalating steadily for some time -- is a direct threat to the ability of the United States of America to conduct diplomacy. And I would think that that would be of concern to future administrations.

The interference in our election is a pattern that we see in other Western democracies, including some of our closest allies. And I think future administrations would find it concerning if there are efforts to undermine the democracies of our closest allies in the world.

What we've seen in general with their malicious cyber activity has targeted our critical infrastructure beyond even our election process. So I would think that the malicious cyber-targeting of American critical infrastructure would be of concern to future administrations. I'd note, from our own consultations, that this is an issue of great concern to American business, and so I would expect that future administrations would be concerned about the threat to the American economy from malicious Russian cyber activity.

So again, as I said earlier, some of the actions we're taking have to do with Russian intelligence efforts, which, again, are aimed at harming the national security of the United States. I would think that future administrations would be concerned about those efforts. If they aren't, then they should explain why, and they'll have the opportunity to explain

why. But I think clearly we're taking these actions because of what has been a pattern of behavior over an extended period of time that we've seen replicated in other countries, and we believe it's the right approach to take.

I don't know if my colleagues want to comment on the kind of historical perspective of harassment.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, my understanding -- and I'll leave it to my colleague -- but my understanding is the State Department assesses that the pattern of Russian harassment of our diplomatic mission in Russia is unprecedented for the post-Cold War era, that this really was a change in behavior in the last two or so years.

But I'll turn it over to my colleague for the authoritative comment.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Just to agree with you and my colleague, nothing to add from here. Exactly right.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I just want to emphasize that, of course, the Joint Analytic Report contains information also that does go beyond just the election's malicious cyber activity, and again, to highlight activity aimed at critical infrastructure but also other non-governmental organizations, really a broad campaign. And the list of actors and actor sets, and of malware, et cetera, including BlackEnergy and Havex, is an indication of how broad this campaign is and how serious it is.

Q Thanks very much. Can you explain to us why these activities come -- why these actions come at the time that they do? There was obviously a debate about taking each of the steps that you've announced today prior to the election. There was -- there's obviously been concern about retaliation by the -- and escalation by the Russians. Can you say whether or not you believe in retrospect that you wish you had acted earlier? And can you also on just one factual issue tell us whether or not the facilities that you've closed in New York and Maryland you believe were just generally intelligence facilities, or whether they were used as part of the DNC and other hacking activity here?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Your second question obviously kind of gets pretty precise on intelligence equities, so I don't think we can speak to that.

On the timing question, look, I'd say there are a range of factors here. Number one, each one of these steps takes a different amount of time to prepare. As you know -- and my colleague can speak if he wants to -- sanctions packages are time consuming, as you're establishing both the basis for the action and then refining the target list. The JAR itself is a complex procedure, as we are putting together the information that we can share publicly that provides the best possible guidance about what we know. And then obviously, the response to the harassment is something we've been focused on for some time.

So a number of points. First of all, with respect to how this fit around the election, I think our first priority was to publicly disclose the information. So before we were going to take an action, the most important thing was to make public what we knew, and we did that on October 7th. And that was a fairly unique, if not unprecedented, step to come out with a common view of the U.S. intelligence community that a foreign power, Russia, was interfering in our election. So point one is getting out that information.

We also wanted to give a warning directly to the Russians accompanying that public message and also in private, which he did at numerous times, about the fact that we knew what they were doing, and that we would be preparing a response. And we therefore wanted to have them absorb that message and have that effect -- see how that affected their behavior.

We also, frankly, in the run-up to the election were very focused on securing the election itself. And we have no indication at all that the efforts included tampering with the vote. And so in terms of a priority for a lot of our cybersecurity efforts, we wanted to make sure that our election was secure. And the warning to Russia combined with our efforts to secure the voting process I think was a priority.

Let's also bear in mind that even as we have made this disclosure and were preparing these steps, material had been hacked and was being released. So it's not as if that genie could be put back into the bottle. We were putting this together and preparing a response in the context in which this information had been shared with other parities and was being publicly released and widely reported on by our news media. So what we wanted to do then is methodically work through these different elements: What could we do on sanctions? How are we going to deal with Russia's diplomatic presence here in the United States? What are we doing with the JAR? And how are we preparing other elements? And that takes some amount of time to put together. And we also wanted to, again, do some of this as a package.

So I think the President has been very deliberate: Let's gather the information; when we had enough confidence to put it out, we released it publicly. We issued a warning. We worked to secure our election. We worked to develop these responses. When the responses were complete, we aligned them so that we would be doing this as a package. And that I think explains the nature of the timeline.

I don't know if anybody wants to speak to individual components of that process in terms of how they were put together.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think I can just add that from the very start of when, even going back some time, we have been engaging diplomatically with the Russians and raising our concerns about their activity -- even if not all of that became public -- whenever we learn about or detect intrusions into companies or organizations, we do

notifications to those companies, and we go and we tell them. DHS began ramping up its coordination, as my colleague was talking about, in order to make sure that we doing everything possible to secure the electoral infrastructure. We started that back in the summer.

All this has been building for some period of time. So it's not like all of these actions sort of popped in kind of right now out of the blue, they are really part of a long-term effort that we've been building over time to push back on this kind of Russian behavior, and they're setting the stage for the fact that we will have to continue to deter and push back on this kind of behavior going into the future.

MR. STROH: All right. Thank you very much for participating in today's call and, as of now, the call is concluded and the embargo is lifted. Thanks, everyone. Have a nice day.

END 3:27 P.M. EST

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 10/21/2015 10:17:19 AM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: REMINDER -- 10:00AM EDT TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Preview the President's Trip to Charleston, WV

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
October 21, 2015

10:00AM EDT TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Preview the President's Trip to Charleston, WV

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the White House will hold a press call to discuss the President's travel to Charleston, West Virginia where he will host a community forum on the prescription drug abuse and heroin epidemic. Communities in West Virginia and in states across the country have been developing and implementing responses to the issue that involve all sectors of their communities. The President will discuss local, state and federal efforts as well as private sector initiatives with those who are addressing the epidemic on a daily basis.

This call is on the record with no embargo.

WHO: Cecilia Muñoz, White House Domestic Policy Council Director
Michael Botticelli, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director
Marcia Lee Taylor, President and CEO, Partnership for Drug-Free Kids

WHAT: On-the-record press call with no embargo

WHEN: Wednesday, October 21 at 10:00 AM EDT

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (877) 531-2986 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 10/20/2015 11:35:45 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: 10:00AM EDT TOMORROW: White House to Host Press Call to Preview the President's Trip to Charleston, WV

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
October 20, 2015

10:00AM EDT TOMORROW: White House to Host Press Call to Preview the President's Trip to Charleston, WV

WASHINGTON, DC – On Wednesday, the White House will hold a press call to discuss the President's travel to Charleston, West Virginia where he will host a community forum on the prescription drug abuse and heroin epidemic. Communities in West Virginia and in states across the country have been developing and implementing responses to the issue that involve all sectors of their communities. The President will discuss local, state and federal efforts as well as private sector initiatives with those who are addressing the epidemic on a daily basis.

This call is on the record with no embargo.

WHO: Cecilia Muñoz, White House Domestic Policy Council Director
Michael Botticelli, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director
Marcia Lee Taylor, President and CEO, Partnership for Drug-Free Kids

WHAT: On-the-record press call with no embargo

WHEN: Wednesday, October 21 at 10:00 AM EDT

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (877) 531-2986 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 9/14/2015 12:52:14 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: 9:15AM EDT TODAY: Secretary Arne Duncan and Cecilia Muñoz to Hold Press Call to Discuss New FAFSA Initiative

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
September 14, 2015

9:15AM EDT TODAY: Secretary Arne Duncan and Cecilia Muñoz to Hold Press Call to Discuss New FAFSA Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Monday, September 14 at 9:15AM EDT, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Muñoz will host an on-the-record press call to preview the President's travel to Iowa, where the President will announce a new initiative to allow students and families to apply for financial aid starting in October as the college application process gets underway rather than in January. Moving up the FAFSA application start date will mean that more students and families will have more time to apply for financial aid and evaluate their aid offers.

This call is on the record with no embargo.

WHO: Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education
Cecilia Muñoz, White House Domestic Policy Council Director

WHAT: On-the-record press call with no embargo

WHEN: Monday, September 14 at 9:15AM EDT

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1085 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 9/13/2015 9:28:19 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: 9:15AM EDT TOMORROW: Secretary Arne Duncan and Cecilia Muñoz to Hold Press Call to Discuss New FAFSA Initiative

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
September 13, 2015

9:15AM EDT TOMORROW: Secretary Arne Duncan and Cecilia Muñoz to Hold Press Call to Discuss New FAFSA Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC – Tomorrow, Monday, September 14 at 9:15AM EDT, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Muñoz will host an on-the-record press call to preview the President's travel to Iowa, where the President will announce a new initiative to allow students and families to apply for financial aid starting in October as the college application process gets underway rather than in January. Moving up the FAFSA application start date will mean that more students and families will have more time to apply for financial aid and evaluate their aid offers.

This call is on the record with no embargo.

WHO: Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education
Cecilia Muñoz, White House Domestic Policy Council Director

WHAT: On-the-record press call with no embargo

WHEN: Monday, September 14 at 9:15AM EDT

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1085 and ask for the "White House Call." No passcode is necessary.

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 10/17/2016 10:02:49 AM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: REMINDER: 9:30AM TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Highlight Progress in Education Under the Obama Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
October 16, 2016

9:30AM TODAY: White House to Host Press Call to Highlight Progress in Education Under the Obama Administration

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Monday, October 17, the White House will host an on-the-record press call to preview the President's visit to Benjamin Banneker Academic High School and highlight the progress the Obama Administration has made over the last eight years to improve education across the country.

This call will be on-the-record and without embargo.

WHO: Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council
Secretary John King, U.S. Department of Education
June Atkinson, State Superintendent, North Carolina
Richard Ognibene, Chemistry and Physics Teacher at Fairport High School (NY) and 2015 inductee into the National Teachers Hall of Fame

WHEN: Today, Monday, October 17 at 9:30 AM EDT

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1093 and ask for the "White House Call."

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 10/16/2016 8:08:58 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: 9:30AM TOMORROW: White House to Host Press Call to Highlight Progress in Education Under the Obama Administration

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
October 16, 2016

9:30AM TOMORROW: White House to Host Press Call to Highlight Progress in Education Under the Obama Administration

WASHINGTON, DC – On Monday, October 17, the White House will host an on-the-record press call to preview the President's visit to Benjamin Banneker Academic High School and highlight the progress the Obama Administration has made over the last eight years to improve education across the country.

This call will be on-the-record and without embargo.

WHO: Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council
Secretary John King, U.S. Department of Education
June Atkinson, State Superintendent, North Carolina
Richard Ognibene, Chemistry and Physics Teacher at Fairport High School (NY) and 2015 inductee into the National Teachers Hall of Fame

WHEN: Tomorrow, Monday, October 17 at 9:30 AM EDT

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

RSVP: Members of the media who wish to join this call should dial (800) 230-1093 and ask for the "White House Call."

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 10/7/2016 8:10:38 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Travel pool 9

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Stanton <john.stanton@buzzfeed.com<mailto:john.stanton@buzzfeed.com>>
Date: October 7, 2016 at 3:06:40 PM CDT
To: "Allen, Jessica L. EOP/ Who"
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) <mailto: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Subject: Travel pool 9

POTUS motorcade arrived at the DNC fundraiser shortly before 3 pm local time.

Below are details from a Clinton aide with helpful attribution notices. The pool is holding in the vans, which are remarkably comfortable.

Let's go Cubs!

BACKGROUND (CLINTON AIDE)

* President Barack Obama is attending a Hillary Victory Fund (HVF) event today in IL.
* The HVF is a joint fundraising committee between HFA, the DNC and state parties across the country that was established to ensure the DNC and state parties across the country have the resources they need to help the Democrats up and down the ballot win in November.
* Funds raised through the HVF are now being used to fund and staff organizing programs in states across the country that register voters, recruit volunteers and organize Democrats to turn out and support candidates up and down the ballot. The coordinated campaigns are being run by the DNC and state parties and coordinate with local, state and federal Democratic campaigns to work to elect progressives across the country.

DEEP BACKGROUND (CLINTON AIDE/NO QUOTE)

Event (HVF)
Location: Home of J.B. and M.K. Pritzker
Chicago, IL
Attendees: Approximately 30 attendees.
Cost: Attendees contributed $33,400 to attend. Co-hosts contributed or raised $100,000.

Sent from my iPhone

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/24/2015 9:56:35 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: On-The-Record Conference Call on the Upcoming State Visit of Prime Minister Abe of Japan

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 24, 2015

ON-THE-RECORD CONFERENCE CALL
BY DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, BEN RHODES
DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, CAROLINE ATKINSON
AND NSC SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS, EVAN MEDEIROS
ON THE UPCOMING STATE VISIT OF
PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE OF JAPAN

Via Telephone

*Please see below for a correction, marked with an asterisk.

1:41 P.M. EDT

MS. MEEHAN: Good afternoon, everybody. This is Bernadette at the National Security Council. Thank you for joining us for this call to preview the official visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. This call is on the record, which means you can quote all of our senior officials by name and title. We will embargo this call until the conclusion of the call.

Our three senior administration officials are, first, Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications, Ben Rhodes. Second, Deputy National Security for Asian Affairs -- excuse me -- National Security Council Senior Director for Asian Affairs, Evan Medeiros. And third, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics, Caroline Atkinson.

And with that, I will turn it over to Ben.

MR. RHODES: Thanks, everybody, for joining the call. I'll just be brief and then turn it over to Evan to go over the highlights of the bilateral agenda, and then Caroline to go over some of the economic and global issues.

I'd just say, first, that we really look at this visit in the context of our broader efforts to continue to rebalance the Asia Pacific region. This has been one of our core foreign policy priorities throughout President Obama's time in office. And we recently concluded

some important business in the last calendar year with respect to our Asia rebalance on the President's trip to the Asia Pacific region in November, where we reached an historic climate change agreement with China; where we also were able to visit Australia, a country with whom we concluded an important defense agreement last year.

And again, we continue to deepen our engagement with Southeast Asia through our attendance at ASEAN and a number of agreements reached last year, including a defense agreement with the Philippines and the comprehensive partnership that was forged with Malaysia.

As we looked at this year, we obviously have a very small number of official visits and state dinners that we can host over the course of a year and we wanted to prioritize our engagement with Asia Pacific through those visits. And so we will be having Prime Minister Abe here for an official visit and state dinner, and later this year we will be hosting President Xi Jinping of China for a state visit, as well.

As a general matter, we've always made the case that the cornerstone of our Asia rebalance is the relationship between the United States and our traditional allies in the region, and the U.S.-Japan alliance is clearly at the center of our network of allies and partners in the Asia Pacific region. So this visit reinforces both the U.S.-Japan alliance, but also the U.S. commitment to the security and stability of the Asia Pacific region more broadly. And again, Japan is also a country we cooperate with not just in the region but globally.

So this helps set the tone for a year of very active engagement between the United States and the Asia Pacific region that will include, as I mentioned, President Xi Jinping's state visit, also a visit from President Widodo of Indonesia, and the President's attendance at the ASEAN and EAS and APEC summits later this year.

With that, I will turn it over to Evan to go through the bilateral agenda.

MR. MEDEIROS: Thank you very much, Ben. Thanks, everybody, for joining us today. It's my pleasure today to talk about Prime Minister Abe's visit to Washington. This is going to be a historic visit for this administration. It's the first time in this administration that we have had an official visit of the head of ~~state~~ *government of Japan, and the first time in the United States -- the first time since 2006 that we've had such an official visit. This visit affirms the centrality of Japan to our Asia policy, and confirms Japan's enduring contributions to security and prosperity in Asia and globally.

Let me run through very briefly the schedule of Prime Minister Abe's visit to the United States, highlight a few themes, talk about the policy issues that are going to be discussed, and then pass it over to Caroline to talk about some of the economic and global issues.

In terms of the schedule, Prime Minister Abe will be making four stops in the United States. His visit begins in Boston, then he arrives in Washington for the official bilateral portion of his visit. Then he will go to San Francisco and Los Angeles.

In Washington, the bilateral portion of the visit includes the following: An arrival ceremony on the South Lawn, a meeting in the Oval Office, a press conference with President Obama, a lunch at the State Department hosted by the Vice President and Secretary of State Kerry, and then of course a state dinner at the White House with nearly 300 guests.

Also, let me add that on Monday in New York City, there will be a historic two-plus-two meeting with Secretaries Carter and Kerry that will announce some historic changes to the way the U.S.-Japan alliance operates.

In terms of the themes for the visit, let me highlight a few important ones. First, given the fact that 2015 is the 70th anniversary year of the end of World War II, we believe that the current state of the U.S.-Japan relationship highlights the power and the possibility of reconciliation between former adversaries. The U.S.-Japan relationship has traversed -- has changed a lot over the last 70 years, and it's arrived at a point of a very close alliance in which we cooperate regionally and globally.

A second major theme of the visit is the transformation of the U.S.-Japan relationship on both economic and security issues, and the breadth and depth of our cooperation in terms of our defense relationship and on economic issues -- and Caroline will talk about TPP -- is at historic levels.

A third major theme to highlight is the fact that the U.S-Japan relationship is very active in Asia, but it also has a very active global agenda. We work together on a variety of global challenges including climate change, health security, and a variety of other issues. These themes and messages are going to be reflected in a joint vision statement and a bilateral factsheet that we will release on Tuesday during the day of the official visit.

During the meeting in the Oval Office, the two leaders will discuss a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues. Bilaterally, they will discuss recent changes to our alliance, and specifically, our defense guidelines, and the importance of continued progress on our force posture realignment related to Okinawa, and in particular, the importance of keeping to existing agreements on Okinawa and elsewhere on track.

Regionally, they'll talk about issues like North Korea, Southeast Asia, maritime security and regional economic affairs. On North Korea, we will -- the President will stress the importance of sustaining a unified approach aimed at denuclearizing North Korea and deterring provocation.

Globally, they will talk about the challenges posed by Russia, Iran's nuclear activities, climate change, global health security, nuclear

security, the empowerment of women and girls -- especially through recent collaboration on girls' education, which was highlighted during the First Lady's visit last month to Japan.

Now let me turn it over to Caroline to talk about some of the economic issues and other global areas of cooperation.

MS. ATKINSON: Thank you very much, Evan. So the key economic issue that we expect the leaders will discuss concerns our trade relations in the context of the Transpacific Partnership, the TPP, which, as you know, is a very large, complex and important trade agreement that is currently being negotiated with 11 other countries, including Japan.

We are not expecting to reach any formal announcement during the visit. We do hope that the leaders will be able to have a constructive conversation that reflects the substantial progress that has been made in negotiations, which has narrowed the important differences that there were between the United States and Japan.

We're not there yet, to a final deal, and more work is needed. In fact, we expect our negotiators to continue their work as they have been doing over many months now. But there is -- Ambassador Froman was just recently in Tokyo. He had good discussions, constructive discussions, and made substantial progress. And we think that this meeting will be a good opportunity for the leaders to review that progress. And of course, this progress between the United States and Japan is a critical element for taking forward the broader discussions on TPP.

I would just comment that the backdrop of action, positive momentum on Capitol Hill for trade promotion authority is very positive. We have had bipartisan and bicameral support in the last two days for the trade promotion authority 2015, which is the way that Congress can set out the negotiating objectives for the administration in a way that will allow us to go forward and eventually close out broader trade agreements.

The other issues I'll just touch on briefly. Of course, we work with Japan in the G7 and in the G20 on a number of global issues, importantly, the progress in the global economy. As you know, the United States' economy is recovering solidly. Of course, we still have further to go, but we're clearly in the midst of recovery. Japan is not in the same position, and we will discuss -- I expect the leaders to discuss how to promote stronger global growth based on domestic demand.

We also work with Japan on such issues, as Evan mentioned, as global health, energy efficiency and climate. Just a word on climate -- as he always does, we would expect President Obama to raise this important global issue, which is very high on his agenda, with Prime Minister Abe. We work and have worked very closely with Japan in climate negotiations. The United States recognizes that we have a critical role to play in combatting global climate change, and we have been leading the international effort with our domestic work here and also with the

international work partnering with China last year, working also with India, with Mexico, which has also announced its climate targets.

So this visit will provide an opportunity for the two leaders to further their cooperation, and to help build momentum towards a successful and ambitious climate agreement in Paris in December.

Thanks very much.

MR. RHODES: I'd just say one more thing before we go to questions.

On this issue of U.S.-Japan cooperation on global challenges, I'd also note that we were able to generate significant momentum for the effort to reach a global climate agreement later this year in Paris through the China agreement that I mentioned, but also the United States and Japan both making their commitment to the Green Climate Fund during the G20 in Australia last year.

So Japan has been a good partner in stepping forward with a commitment in that respect. And as we head into Paris, clearly both the United States and Japan will have a leadership role to play in helping to bring about a successful conclusion to those discussions.

Similarly, in the context of the broader Asia Pacific policy that I referenced at the beginning, President Obama had a good trip to India earlier this year, an historic visit, as the Chief Guest at Republic Day, where he discussed, obviously, the climate change effort, but also deepening our own relationship and partnership with India in the Asia Pacific. This of course is an area that Prime Minister Abe has also discussed with Prime Minister Modi in terms of their collaboration in the region, as well.

So many of the different partnerships that we're forging across the region have been mutually reinforcing, and we believe can contribute to the stability and prosperity of the broader region.

And with that, I think we're happy to move to questions.

Q Thanks, all of you, for doing the call. I wanted to ask about the trade issue, so perhaps Caroline can help me out here. First of all, would you all have preferred to already have the trade promotion authority in advance of this meeting? Would it have, in essence, helped to close the remaining issues pending in the talks with Japan? I wondered if, leading up to this, whether there has been some significant narrowing of the gap on issues regarding U.S. tariffs on autos and Japanese tariffs on beef, which seem to be the main outstanding issues.

And I wanted to ask also -- we've heard the President yesterday and today strongly push back against criticism from Democrats on fast-track, and does that suggest that despite the victories that you mentioned in committee that the prospects, from your estimate, remain very much in doubt that you can get fast-track in the end? Thanks.

MR. RHODES: Well, Jim, I'll start and then turn it over to Caroline if she can add, as well.

First of all, we've been clear that the trade promotion authority and then an agreement like TPP would be very important for American businesses and workers for the simple reason that over the course of the last six years, as we've pursued this Asia rebalance, we've made clear that part of the focus on this region is the fact that this is the largest emerging region in the world; that U.S. growth and job creation is going to have to be supported by our ability to access these markets and our ability to have rules of the road that level the playing field and allow for U.S. businesses to be competitive. And that's what the TPP process has been all about.

And the case that President Obama has been making in recent days to some of his strongest supporters is that the United States cannot be closed out of these markets, and that the type of economic growth that we all support depends upon these types of high-standards trade agreements. And if we're not writing the rules, they're going to be written without us, and we risk being closed out of these markets.

Now, that's the context for the ongoing debate over trade promotion authority. We believe that this is a very important tool in ensuring that there are clear objectives that are set for our trade agreements, and there's a clear signal about the United States' commitment to conclude high-standards trade agreements.

And that ultimately puts us in a stronger position at the negotiating table to make progress on the issues that count to us, such as having high labor and environmental standards, and making clear that U.S. businesses are going to have the type of market access that can lead to job creation here in the United States.

So the progress that's been made on TPA already has been important and has been bipartisan. And we do believe that if we continue to make the case, both Republicans and Democrats will support trade promotion authority. And at the end of the day, that is going to allow us to secure the best possible trade agreement that we can in the context of TPP for our economic interests.

With respect to the specific market issues that you addressed, obviously there have been -- as you get towards the end of a negotiation and you're dealing with very important sectors like autos and agriculture, there are very sensitive issues for all the countries involved, and that's certainly the case for the United States and Japan.

What we've been able to do is close out many issues and then focus on the sensitive issues, and make progress in finding solutions that can allow for us to reach, ultimately, a bilateral understanding, which we're still working towards. And that of course is important to our ability to

work with the other 10 TPP countries to pursue a conclusion of an agreement.

Q Hi, yes. Thank you. Maybe for Evan or Ben, or both -- the Prime Minister, the day after visiting the White House, will of course go to Capitol Hill for a joint session speech. I wondered, President Obama has been very active in trying to broker better communication and dialogue between Prime Minister Abe and President Park of Korea. Korean diplomats in D.C. are suggesting that they expect the Prime Minister in his speech to Congress to at least take some time to address the historical issues that have caused some of this friction, specifically about comfort women.

I wondered if the administration has asked the Prime Minister and his staff to find room to address that issue, if you suggested specific kind of wording and how far to go. And if you -- either way, whether you've done that or not, whether you expect the Prime Minister to do so and think it would be a good idea.

MR. RHODES: I'll turn that over to Evan. I would say that we, as you know, have encouraged dialogue between the Republic of Korea and Japan, two of our closest allies in the region and the world. I'd note that we're also going to be hosting President Park here at the White House later this year as well to continue our dialogue with our Asian allies. And we encourage Prime Minister Abe to constructively address historical issues consistent with Japan in the past, statements on these issues, and in fostering better cooperation on anything of tensions in the region. But I'll hand this over to Evan to build on that.

MR. MEDEIROS: Hi, David. This is Evan. Thanks for a great question. From my perspective, our alliance system in Northeast Asia is one of our unique assets. And we have been very engaged from the beginning of this administration in modernizing that alliance structure and making sure that our allies themselves have a good relationship.

And the President has been very actively involved in encouraging a more productive relationship between Japan and the ROK in the past several years. You may recall that in March of last year, in the Hague, he hosted a very unique trilateral meeting with Prime Minister Abe and President Park to talk about nuclear security in North Korea in particular, but that provided a venue for all three leaders to get together.

In those kinds of settings, we have discussed history issues with leaders throughout Asia, both in Japan and South Korea. And we always stress that it's important to address history questions in an honest, constructive and forthright manner that promotes healing, but also in a way that reaches a final resolution.

So we're very supportive of diplomatic efforts between Japan and the ROK to improve their relationship. And we think that all sides should address history issues from that perspective of being constructive and focusing on the future, and reaching final resolutions.

Q Hey, guys. Thanks for having the call. I was wondering, first, if you could talk anymore -- or preview any more of the announcement with Carter and Kerry up in New York. And then also, just on the issue, I know -- of comfort women and the historical differences that we just brought up, I know that you've been encouraging honest and constructive dialogue, but it seems like the situation has been deteriorating. There's been a lot of frustrations, I think, voiced by South Korea recently. And so I'm wondering if there's any fear or -- that this is an issue that could complicate the President's pivot towards Asia and sort of setting up a deeper collaboration, bilaterally, between the two, between South Korea and Japan.

MR. MEDEIROS: Thanks. Great question. On the Carter-Kerry meeting, I don't want to get ahead of my colleagues at the DOD. I would just say at the meeting we are going to have a major announcement about a revision of our defense guidelines, a revision that would significantly expand Japan's role in the alliance and provide for -- which provides the mechanism for Japan to provide a wider range of support to U.S. forces. But I think my DOD colleagues will have more to say on this at a briefing on Monday.

Regarding Japan-ROK, I don't have a lot more to add to my previous question, which is just simply we believe that a better, closer, more constructive relationship between Japan and the ROK contributes to peace and security in Northeast Asia. It's an issue that we have been actively involved in. I referenced the trilateral meeting last year. We know that there is progress -- there is discussions and diplomacy going on, in particular at the DG level. We encourage that, we support that. And we think that approaches to the history questions should be ones that are honest and forthright and focused on the future.

Q Hi. Thanks for doing the call. I was wondering -- I know you mentioned the Okinawa base relocation, but I was wondering if you could give us a little more specifics on what the U.S. would be expecting from Japan in terms of reviewing the alliance*2359 in the defense guidelines? And also, in terms of Okinawa specifically, how is the U.S. going to avoid the perception that it's interfering in domestic Japanese politics when it comes to the base relocation? Thank you.

MR. MEDEIROS: Thanks for the question. On the issue of Okinawa, I would say that the issue is being well-handled. The agreements are on track. We appreciate Prime Minister Abe and his administration's leadership on this issue. And we think that the configuration we've outlined for the disposition of U.S. Marines related to Okinawa and throughout the region is a very important part of our broader force structure in the Asia Pacific, and we think it's being well-implemented. And both leaders will talk about the importance of both sides fulfilling their commitment.

Q Hi. Just a quick question on the -- I know you don't want to get into specifics about the reform of the defense guidelines, but could you speak more broadly about whether the President might offer some

support for Abe's efforts on Article 9? And also, on a kind of separate point, have you guys seen any substantive impact from the creation of the Japanese NSC? Is there a chance of a relationship in any way? Are you seeing a more strategic focus from Tokyo?

MR. MEDEIROS: Thanks for the question. When the President was in Tokyo last year, he expressed support for the Cabinet decision on collective self-defense. We think it's an important decision that opens the -- opened the pathway for us to begin to revise the defense guidelines, which we're going to realize next week.

So from our perspective, we think it's an important step and one that will enable the U.S.-Japan alliance to be more active in East Asia and even globally.

MR. MEEHAN: Andrew, would you mind repeating the question about the NSC?

Q I think it was a couple of years ago that the Japanese created their version of the NSC, with help from you guys, as I understand it. And I was just wondering if you've seen -- if that's led to any substantive change in the way the relationship is managed, or if you're seeing more strategic focus from Tokyo these days? A willingness to play a bigger role in the region?

MR. MEDEIROS: The Japanese NSC has been an important renovation in their national security decision making. It's opened up a more direct channel between our NSC and the Japanese NSC. Susan Rice has developed a very productive and very constructive relationship with her Japanese counterpart in which they are in I would say regular consultation about the major issues in the overall relationship.

And like any NSC, the key function of the institution is interagency coordination. And I think the Japanese NSC has allowed us to sort of broaden the scope of the regional and global issues that we work on because it's facilitating more efficient interagency consultation.

MR. RHODES: I would just say as a general matter, too, when you look at Prime Minister Abe's approach, their NSC and some of the changes that he has made, we very much welcome the fact that Japan is looking to play a more constructive role in promoting peace and stability in the broader Asia Pacific region.

And so for instance, he has pursued, deepened cooperation with a number of ASEAN countries just as he's pursued deeper cooperation with countries like Australia and India. We believe that this is a very welcome step forward for Japan.

Part of what the United States wants is for our allies to have better relations and our partners to be cooperating. Because if you look at the different challenges in the Asia Pacific -- whether or not you're talking about counter-piracy, or disaster response, or maritime security -- the

cooperation between the different countries in the region is going to be critical to finding solutions and creating the environment for stability in the region generally.

That's the approach the United States has taken in terms of deepening our relationships with ASEAN, obviously strengthening and modernizing our alliances, and also having constructive relations with China, including deeper military-to-military relations.

So the type of outreach that Prime Minister Abe is doing has been strategic in deepening an important set of relationships. And we believe that that dovetails very nicely with the U.S. rebalance of Asia Pacific in terms of having a network of alliances and partnerships that can contribute to a more secure, stable, and prosperous region.

Q Hi. Thanks very much for doing the call. I just wanted to clarify on the TPP, Ms. Atkinson and Ambassador Froman have both said that there's not going to be a final deal that's announced after the meeting. But do you expect that Prime Minister Abe and President Obama could reach some sort of agreement in principle during their meeting, or will this mostly be focused on trying to translate the progress that's been made in the bilateral talks toward the full 12-party talks?

MS. ATKINSON: Thank you very much. Look, as it's been clear, I think we have made substantial progress. There are a number of difficult issues that the negotiators have been working on bilaterally for a long period of time; somebody mentioned, correctly, autos and a number of agricultural products.

We expect the leaders to review the progress and to have the opportunity to discuss what should be the next steps together, but we do not expect any announcement of a final deal. We still have some work to do. Thank you very much.

MR. RHODES: And I have to say, look, clearly this is an important milestone along the way towards a potential conclusion of TPP. And what we want the leaders to do is to continue the momentum that we've had in recent discussions as we work towards the U.S. and Japan being able to reach bilateral understandings. But we also want the U.S. and Japan to be able to work with the other TPP countries to close out remaining issues as we head forward in the coming weeks.

So it's an important meeting for the two leaders to get together and review that progress and to look forward both towards how we are addressing the bilateral issues, but also towards how we are working with the other 10 TPP countries.

And look, the perspective of the United States is we're going to want to make sure that we're not just working towards a conclusion of an agreement, but we're working towards the conclusion of an agreement that has the type of standards that we are seeking, both in terms of how our businesses and workers are positioned in the Asia Pacific region, but also

how we're looking at a range of issues on labor and in the environment and other issues that we believe have to be dealt with in ways that go beyond past trade agreements and set new high standards as we look forward to a host of efforts in the 21st century to strengthen trade relations, not just in this region, but globally.

Q Thank you. My question is, since Prime Minister Abe met with President Xi Jinping in Beijing late last year, have you seen any kind of qualitative impact on the Japan-China relationship since then?

MR. MEDEIROS: What we've seen is a gradual improvement in the relationship in which they've opened up new channels of dialogue on both maritime issues broadly characterized, as well as military-to-military discussions, including addressing issues like crisis management. And then you may have seen that just earlier this week, when both Xi Jinping and Abe were at the Bandung Conference in Indonesia, they met on the sidelines and had about a 30-minute meeting.

So the United States warmly welcomes these efforts. We appreciate Prime Minister Abe's leadership in pursuing a diplomatic approach to improving the relationship and addressing their differences on maritime issues, especially related to the islands. And I think that this is an area where the U.S. has helped to create the conditions in Asia for a diplomatic -- or an improvement in diplomatic relations between Japan and China.

And this is an example of where when the United States is clear about its security commitments, when the United States is clear about its desire to see diplomacy pursued, that eventually, over time, both sides come to understand that diplomacy is the best way to approach an improvement in relations.

MS. MEEHAN: Great. Thank you, everybody. This concludes the call. As a reminder, this call was on the record and is no longer under embargo. Thanks, and have a great afternoon.

END 2:15 P.M. EDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
June 23, 2016

White House to Host Press Call to Announce Winner of Smart City Challenge

WASHINGTON, DC - On Thursday, June 23, 2016 the White House will hold an on-the-record press call to announce the winning city of the Smart City Challenge. The winner, out of 78 cities that accepted the challenge, will receive up to $40 million from the Department of Transportation to prototype the future of transportation as part of the Obama Administration's efforts to accelerate game-changing technologies from self-driving cars to smart traffic lights to vehicle-to-vehicle communications.

WHO: Jeff Zients, Director of the National Economic Council
Secretary Anthony Foxx, Department of Transportation
Mayor Andrew Ginther, Columbus, Ohio
Barbara Bennett, President and Chief Operating Officer of Vulcan, Inc.

WHAT: On-the-record press call without embargo

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Subject: On-the-Record Conference Call on the GCC Summit

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release May 11, 2015

ON-THE-RECORD CONFERENCE CALL
BY BEN RHODES, DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS,
COLIN KAHL, THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR TO THE VICE PRESIDENT,
AND ROB MALLEY, NSC COORDINATOR FOR THE
MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA AND THE GULF REGION
PREVIEWING THE GCC SUMMIT

Via Telephone

4:25 P.M. EDT

MS. MEEHAN: Good afternoon and thank you for joining us, everybody, for this call to preview the visit of leaders and delegations from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries -- that's Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates -- to the White House on May 13th and Camp David on May 14th. This call will be on the record and under embargo until the conclusion of the call. We have two senior officials with us today. The first is Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications Ben Rhodes, and the second is Colin Kahl, the National Security Advisor to the Vice President.

So with that, I will turn it over to Ben Rhodes. Once he and Colin give a brief laydown, we'll open it up to your questions.

MR. RHODES: Thanks, everybody, for joining the call. So the President is convening this important meeting at Camp David at a critical moment in the history of the Middle East. Clearly, we face a range of challenges in the region -- from the ongoing conflicts with ISIL, the situations in Syria and Iraq related to that effort; the current situation in Yemen; the ongoing negotiations with Iran among a range of other issues.

And the purpose of this meeting is to sit down with some of our key partners in the region and to review U.S. policy and GCC policies related to the situation in the region, and to determine ways in which we can strengthen our partnership and our security cooperation going forward.

First of all, I'd note that all of these countries have joined us in the counter-ISIL coalition, and are playing an important role in our efforts to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIL across the region. Clearly, there is significant interest in the GCC about Iran's destabilizing actions in the region, and this will be an opportunity both to review the status of negotiations with respect to Iran's nuclear program but also to review our efforts to counter those destabilizing actions in different countries across the region.

We'll also be discussing our commitment to strengthening the security of our Gulf partners and our cooperation on behalf of our mutual security interests in countering terrorism and promoting a more stable region. This will include a discussion about the types of cooperation we have on military security and counterterrorism issues, as well as the capabilities that we're developing jointly with our partners in the Gulf to deal with a range of current threats and contingencies going forward.

I'd just make the point that this is a discussion about what we can do together -- the United States and the GCC -- in dealing with these challenges. So we'll both be discussing U.S. policies and our approaches, but also GCC policies and approaches, and how we can align those efforts on areas of mutual interest. And we do share many interests in the region, including, again, our interest in countering terrorist activity and promoting stability in places like Yemen and Syria, and, of course, in seeking political efforts to resolve the many different conflicts that are presenting challenges across the region.

Just quickly in terms of what to expect with regard to the meetings themselves. The leaders will be arriving here on Wednesday. Wednesday night there will be a dinner that the President will host here at the White House for the leaders, where they'll have an opportunity to step back and review the current situation in the region.

Then, Thursday there will be a range of sessions out at Camp David. That will cover the different terrorist threats in the region; the current security picture broadly in the region; some of the specific conflicts in the region, including the situations in Iraq and Syria, the situation in Yemen, and the situation in Libya; as well as Iran -- nuclear negotiations, as well as our efforts to deal with Iran's destabilizing actions across the region.

In addition to the President, the U.S. will be represented at a very high level across our Cabinet, given the various areas of partnership that we have with the Gulf. That will include Secretary Kerry, Secretary Carter, Secretary Lew, Secretary Moniz, Director Brennan, and Nick Rasmussen, the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center.

And then the last thing I'd just say before we turn to questions is the President was able to speak this afternoon on the phone with King Salman of Saudi Arabia to discuss our ongoing preparations for the summit. And we, of course, look forward to welcoming a substantial Saudi

delegation, including the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef and the Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as well as other senior Saudi officials. And we'll have a more formal readout of that call later this afternoon, given that it only recently was completed.

I'd also just note that in addition to myself and Colin Kahl, we are joined by Rob Malley, who is our coordinator for the broader Middle East and North Africa here at the National Security Council.

Q Hi, thanks very much. My question, Ben, is can you give any details about how these security guarantees that you'll be discussing will manifest themselves? Will there be a written document? Will there be something that the United States shows specifically that they can hold on to? And can you speak, as well, about any potential weapons deals that may be resulting from the meeting?

MR. RHODES: Sure, I'll say a few words, and if my colleagues want to add. I obviously don't want to get ahead of the substance of the summit too much. I'd say in the first instance that the President outlined America's core interests in the Middle East at the U.N. General Assembly in 2013. He made very clear that we have a core interest in the security and sovereignty of our partners. That would obviously include the GCC countries. And we are prepared to use all elements of our power to back up our commitment to that core interest. And I think at the summit they'll be discussing ways in which we can continue to make it clear not just to our partners, but to the world what America's commitment is with respect to the security of the GCC countries.

Your second question is an important one because this is not simply about what the United States says; it's about what we collectively do in the face of regional threats. And so we will be reviewing with our partners what types of capabilities are necessary to deal with the current challenges we face. We obviously have longstanding military and security relationships with the GCC. We have a substantial presence in the region. But we also want to look going forward at what types of specific capabilities will meet the threats that we face today.

And so there will be a discussion of a range of capabilities with respect to ballistic missile defense, with respect to cyber capabilities, with respect to countering terrorism, and the types of asymmetric threats that countries in the region are facing. So what we want to do is essentially have a game plan for how we can cooperate and work jointly with our GCC partners, not just in providing them with reassurance as to their security in the face of external threats, but also in terms of developing the capabilities that will better prepare them to deal with the evolving situation in the region.

But Colin may want to add something.

MR. KAHL: I mean, I think as many of you on the line know, we already have an extraordinarily deep and wide defense cooperation with the countries in the GCC. On any given day, we have about 35,000 U.S. forces

in the Gulf region. As I speak, the USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group is there. The USS Normandy Guided Missile Cruiser, the USS Milius Aegis ballistic missile defense destroyer, and a number of other naval assets are in the region. We have 10 Patriot batteries deployed to the Gulf region and Jordan, as well as AN/TPY-2 radar, which is an extraordinarily powerful radar to be able to track missiles fired basically from anywhere in the region.

And the mission of all of these forces is to defend our partners, to deter aggression, to maintain freedom of navigation, and to combat terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

So we're doing a lot with our partners in the Gulf every day, and we will continue to do so. But I think what the summit meeting is an opportunity to do is explore ways in which we can act collectively and in a more effective manner. So, for example, in addition to all the ballistic missile assets that we already have in the region, all of our partners in the Gulf are also investing in Patriot systems and THAAD and other advanced ballistic missile defense assets. But frankly, the ability of any country in the region to defend against a missile threat pales in comparison to the ability of the GCC as a whole, as a collective, to defend against this threat if their systems were better integrated.

So one of the things that we'll talk about is what more can we do with our partners in the GCC to share early warning, and to integrate air and missile defenses. We'll also look at ways in which we can improve maritime security, improve critical infrastructure protection and cyber defenses, and expand intelligence and other actions aimed at countering foreign fighters and the terrorist threat in the region.

And all of this comes wrapped together with more training and exercises, ways in which we can streamline the process of our partners getting equipment to carry out these missions. So we do a lot already. There’s more that we can do together, and this is a great vehicle to achieve those common objectives.

MR. MALLEY: This is Rob. Just to build on what Ben said -- I mean, a lot of this was discussed in Paris on Friday when Secretary Kerry met with all the GCC foreign ministers, and the whole concept was to work together with them to see what more we could do in terms of assurances and what more they could do in terms of meeting together to assess the challenges they face.

And there was consensus on two points -- again, echoing what Ben said, but this was with the GCC ministers. First, that the U.S. has a track record of standing up and of helping GCC countries whenever they’re threatened. And that was true when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, and it's true when we allied with them against ISIL in the recent months, and it's true again with regards to Yemen. And they came out quite satisfied, the GCC countries, with the level of assurance that we were discussing with them in regards to Camp David.

And the second point that we all discussed and there was broad consensus was that we need to be more creative in terms of adjusting what kind of cooperation, security cooperation, takes place. The conventional weapons sales is something that many people focus on, but they're really not adapted to either the terrorist threat or some of the other threats that the region faces today. And so we work together on what kind of other means the GCC could get with us and enhancing their own capability to meet the threats that conventional weapons simply are not best equipped to confront.

Q Hi, thanks for doing the call. I just wondered if you could go through who was representing each of the countries, or at least just tell us which top leaders will be there. I know a couple of them have been ill and I know they are not coming, but there's been a little conflict about some of the other countries.

MR. RHODES: Sure. Well, Anita, obviously, ultimately the countries themselves will confirm the level of their participation. I will tell you who we are obviously certain are planning to travel. That would include the Kuwaiti Emir. That would include for Oman, the Deputy Prime Minister, Sayyid Fahd Mahmoud Al Said. That would include the Emir of Qatar. That would include for Saudi Arabia, as we discussed, the Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Nayef and the Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman -- again, very unique for both of them to be attending a meeting like this. For the United Arab Emirates, that would be Mohammed bin Zayed, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, who, as you know, regularly represents the UAE at international meetings. With respect to Bahrain, we are certainly anticipating the attendance of the Crown Prince, who also regularly represents Bahrain here in Washington and at other international meetings. So that would -- oh, and sorry, with respect to the GCC more broadly, the Secretary General of the GCC will be in attendance.

So this is a very -- I know there's been a lot of focus on this, but the fact of the matter is these are the interlocutors who we work on these issues with on a daily basis. And so we very much feel that we have the right group of people around the table to have a very substantive discussion. These are the people responsible for the security portfolios in each of these respective countries. They are very well known figures to the United States. And, again, it is not at all uncommon for a number of these heads of state to not travel internationally for meetings of this nature but rather to have the individuals who are representing them at this type of meeting.

So, again, recognizing there's been a lot of focus on this, we're very pleased and feel like we have the exact right people around the table to have this discussion. These are going to be the people who will be carrying out these various strategies, and we're very pleased with the level of participation.

Q Thanks very much. I appreciate your points there, but I wonder if you could reflect a little bit further on the relationship with Saudi Arabia today and where you feel it's at. I mean, after 9/11 there was a

lot of cooperation on intelligence, a lot of shared mission in terms of terrorists and al Qaeda. But today, it feels like we're on somewhat different pages when it comes to, obviously, ISIS; when it comes to the Arab Spring in Egypt; when it comes to Iran. Obviously the oil prices have changed, the power dynamic to some extent. I wonder if you could reflect on where we are today with Saudi Arabia.

MR. RHODES: Sure, Peter. Look, I think that fundamentally this is a relationship that has been rooted for years, if not decades, on a set of common interests. We share an interest in the stability of the region. We share an interest in the free flow of commerce, including energy from the region. We share an interest in countering terrorism. And I will tell you that today we are cooperating as closely with Saudi Arabia on those issues as at any point certainly in the six and a half years that I've been here, given the fact that Saudi Arabia has joined us in this counter-ISIL campaign.

That is a new step for them, frankly, to be flying missions alongside the United States and other GCC countries in Syria as part of that counter-ISIL campaign. We've worked with them very closely to counter AQAP in Yemen, and in the current context have provided support to their ongoing efforts inside of Yemen, and most recently with Secretary Kerry working in support of also the effort to establish this five-day ceasefire to see if we can improve the humanitarian situation and facilitate a political dialogue.

That's not to say that we have not had occasional differences with Saudi Arabia and other members of the GCC over the last several years. But that's to be expected. Nobody would anticipate a uniform agreement.

I'd say, Peter, given your own reporting on this over the years -- as you know, there were concerns in Saudi Arabia about aspects of our Iraq policy under the previous administration, and there were deep misgivings under the previous administration about the Iraqi government. And one of the difficult challenges in the region for many years was the inability of Saudi Arabia to work with the Maliki-led government inside of Iraq. That's improved substantially in recent months since Prime Minister Abadi took office. And we've seen the leader -- the Prime Minister of Iraq sit down with the President of the United States and Saudi officials at the U.N. General Assembly, and continue to have the type of dialogue with Saudi Arabia that could not have been envisioned under Prime Minister Maliki.

So all that is to say that I think we have a very robust agenda that we share with the Saudis that's manifested in the issues that we're working on with them. There have been disagreements under this administration and under the previous administration about certain policies and developments in the Middle East. But I think on a set of core interests, we continue to have a common view about what we aim to achieve.

What this meeting is about, frankly, is how do we develop strategies and capabilities that can better serve those interests. So it's in Saudi Arabia's interest to counter terrorism, to counter ISIL, and to have a more stable situation in its neighborhood. We want to sit down and have a very broad conversation with them about what types of strategies and capabilities can meet those objectives.

And again, I think what we've seen since the transition of power in Saudi Arabia certainly is the fact that Mohammed bin Nayef and Mohammed bin Salman have been key figures in setting that security policy for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and key interlocutors for us.

Q I wanted to just get your take on something that Marc Ginsberg had written about earlier today. He says that he believes that the Saudi leaders, the Gulf leaders were led to believe that there would be progress, if not agreements, on a mutual defense agreement, a ballistic missiles agreement, and the transfer of F-35 jets. And when they found out that there wasn't going to be something substantial, that they decided it was not worth their time to send their top people to this summit. I wanted to get your reaction to that.

And also, something that John McCain said earlier today, which is that --

MS. MEEHAN: Kristen, you cut out. Are you still there?

Q Sorry, guys, can you hear me now?

MR. RHODES: Yes, we lost you on McCain.

Q Oh, sorry. So something that John McCain said on the Andrea Mitchell Report today, that he thinks that basically Kerry said something that was miscommunicated in Friday's meeting with the Saudis. The exact quote is, "Sometimes he interprets things as he wants them to be rather than what they really are." If I could just get your reaction to that.

MR. RHODES: Well, with respect to the second question, I think the President spoke to this in Panama. We expect there to be differences over policy. But this type of repeated questioning of the credibility of the Secretary of State of the United States of America who served many years in the United States Senate and the United States military is not in keeping with longstanding practice with respect to U.S. national security.

Secretary Kerry had good meetings in both Saudi Arabia and Paris, and Rob can speak to that in a moment. And the President is very pleased with the progress he was able to make.

On the first point, look, the Saudis are sending the people in their system who are responsible for these portfolios. So again, anybody will tell you that, in the current context, Mohammed bin Nayef and Mohammed bin Salman are the key actors as it relates to Saudi security policy.

Clearly, the King sets the direction. And President Obama spoke to King Salman today. They've had several conversations and will have an ongoing dialogue about the broader strategic direction here. But it's, we believe, the right degree of representation for them to have essentially all of the people in their system who have the responsibility for these portfolios at the table at Camp David.

And I'd add, we expect it will go beyond just those two individuals to include other key members of the Saudi national security team.

We do not and never anticipated this to be a summit that only focused on one capability, like the F-35, for instance. What we're focused on is the capabilities that are most relevant to the current security challenges that the GCC faces. We have had a robust relationship with the Saudis and other GCC members with respect to aircraft. But as Colin said, we need to be looking at maritime, at cyber, at counterterrorism, at ballistic missile defenses. We need to be looking at the interoperability of the GCC countries and their capacity to operate jointly alongside us, as well.

So I think it would be a mistake to say that there was some list of very finite capabilities that were the only things on the table here. And frankly, we'll continue to have discussion with them about aircraft in the context of their security needs. But we're actually looking at a much broader menu of capabilities that are going to be necessary to meet the evolving threats in the region.

And with respect to our security assurances, look, clearly we have a set of arrangements that are very painstakingly negotiated with respect to our NATO allies, for instance. But I think we've demonstrated our willingness and capacity to come to the defense of GCC partners when they do face an external threat. We'll be exploring ways to strengthen that assurance at the Camp David summit. And again, we'll also be importantly looking -- not just at those assurances, but at the capabilities that undergird them.

Rob, anything you want to add on Paris?

MR. MALLEY: Yes, just we were in Paris and we went through -- as I said earlier -- together everything that we thought we should work on in a common fashion. This was not a case -- we never saw this, and I think they understood this is not a case of the GCC countries coming with a shopping list and we'd have to tick off those of the items that they wanted that we would agree on. It was a mutual, joint venture. We are in this together to see how we could together strengthen the security and stability of the Gulf. And that's the spirit in which they came to Paris.

I think it's fair to say, as Ben mentioned, there's one issue they have. Some of them wanted a formal treaty, and that's something we told them weeks ago was not possible. I think whether they were disappointed or not, they got it, they understood that. And we've been working since then. And in Paris, the Secretary went through in some detail what our

thinking was. He wanted to hear what their thinking was. And we didn't hear any dissatisfaction. Again, one of them reminded us that they would have liked a treaty, but beyond that there was no hint of dissatisfaction. And we agreed that in the days between Paris and Camp David, we'd keep working to make sure that we were aligned on the set of things that we both wanted to see coming out of Camp David.

I think a number of you may have spoken to Foreign Minister al-Jubeir. He just reiterated that point in a press encounter. And King Salman and President Obama just had a conversation along exactly these lines. So I know the story is out there, but it's a fact that in this meeting in Paris there was no hint of dissatisfaction, and rather a willingness to try to continue to refine whatever it was we'd come up with in Camp David. And the proof will be at Camp David when we come out with the GCC countries with a set of steps that we're going to take together.

MR. KAHL: So this is Colin. I would just add on the arms piece. This administration has worked extraordinarily closely with the Gulf states to make sure that they had access to state-of-the-art armaments. I mean, just to give you -- you mentioned the F-35, but keep in mind under this administration we moved forward on a package for the Saudis that will provide them the most advanced F-15 aircraft in the region. The Emiratis fly the most advanced F-16s in the world. They're more advanced than the ones our Air Force flies. Taken as a whole, the GCC last year spent nearly $135 billion on their defense. The Saudis spent more than $80 billion. Taken in comparison, the Iranians spent something like $15 billion on their defense.

These countries have access to extraordinarily advanced weapons systems. But there's two things to keep in mind here. One is, the threats that they really face are frequently in areas like terrorism, cyber-attacks, maritime security, threats to critical energy infrastructure. And these are the types of capabilities I think that are probably most germane to addressing the challenges that most concern them at the moment.

And the second thing is, the key right now is figuring out ways for the Gulf states to work collectively and to work with us in a more integrated and interoperable fashion, because the whole can really be greater than the sum of its parts when you're talking about the ability to make the most use of advanced air defense systems, ballistic missile defense systems, maritime capabilities, et cetera.

So much of the summit is oriented around ensuring that the GCC states have the access to the capabilities they need, but also using the capabilities they already have more effectively.

Q I actually have two questions. The first one is sort of taking another stab at Jeff's question at the beginning. In terms of what we should expect out of this meeting, are we expecting a written statement? Is there going to be sort of a doctrine that comes out of this? And you'd mentioned a lot of the different issues that are going to

be covered. Whatever comes out of this in terms of a written statement, will it likely cover all of those different issues from the battle against ISIS, to what's happening in Libya, to what's happening in Syria and Iraq, as well as with Iran? Should we expect something that's broad enough to cover all of those issues?

And then the second one is, to what extent will human rights be a part of this conversation? The President said that tough conversations are needed to be had about internal policies and politics within these countries. Is that something that you expect to play a major role in these discussions?

MR. RHODES: So, yes, my apologies for not being more specific in response to Jeff's question. I would certainly anticipate that there will be some form of a statement emerging from the summit that reflects the common positions of the United States and the GCC on a range of issues. The United States, of course, will be speaking for ourselves, in addition -- and providing some additional detail. And I think we'll be discussing -- part of this I think we'll be able to communicate clearly what our approach is on all of the regional issues. I think we'll be able to specify the types of capabilities that we're going to be enhancing together; the types of assurances that the United States has made to the GCC, as well as the commitments the GCC is making going forward on these various issues.

So I think there will both be a sense of the shared position of the United States and the GCC, as well as the respective positions of the United States and various GCC members, as well as the collective.

On human rights, this is a regular topic of discussion with the GCC countries. This summit is clearly focused on the regional security picture and how we can deepen our security cooperation across the region. At the same time, I think the United States has made clear and will continue to make clear our support for a set of universal values, but also the fact that the pursuit of inclusive governance, the promotion of reconciliation within societies is a part of promoting lasting security. So in that regard, when you look across the region, we believe that certain approaches that foster inclusivity in the long run are going to be helpful to our efforts to promote security.

Q Hi, thanks very much for the call. I just wanted to ask if you think you'll be in a position to actually announce anything on ballistic missile defense, given the disagreements that have existed within the GCC about what installations go where and so on. And also whether there will be anything specific on joint exercises or training in maritime security.

MR. KAHL: I don't want to get ahead of our announcements, but we will have some specific announcements as it relates to better integrating the GCC ballistic missile defense architecture. So stay tuned on that. There are things that we can do not just bilaterally with the countries, but collectively with them. And we'll have details on that in the next couple of days.

We'll also be announcing additional military exercises that are pegged to increase the proficiency and the ability of the GCC states to act interoperably -- that is together, among themselves and with us to address asymmetric challenges, and in the maritime domain and counterterrorism, as well as in air and missile defense. But anyway, we'll have more details obviously in the next couple of days.

Q Thank you for taking my question. The administration has said a number of times that the nuclear negotiations and Iran's interference in the region are two separate issues. I was wondering at the summit, will the administration present these topics as separate issues and discuss them as separate issues? And would you say that the GCC and the U.S. are in conflict over these two issues?

MR. RHODES: Thanks, they're good questions. We will be discussing both the ongoing nuclear negotiations, as well as other regional activities that Iran has engaged in. We have made clear that the issues are separate in the sense that the United States is negotiating very specifically a nuclear deal with Iran. But at the same time that we are negotiating that deal, our concerns over Iran's other destabilizing actions in the region will remain constant.

Where they are related is in our strong belief that an Iran armed with a nuclear weapon, or the capability to amass enough material for a nuclear weapon would pose a much greater risk to the region than an Iran that is without one.

So simply put, if you imagine what Iran is doing today, and then you consider Iran undertaking those activities with a nuclear umbrella, the situation would be much more unstable and much more threatening to our partners. That's why we believe that the nuclear deal is profoundly in the interest of not just the United States and our P5+1 partners, but also the region more generally. Because, again, if you can diplomatically and peacefully resolve the nuclear issue in a way that prevents Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, we believe that will lead to a much more stable region than a situation in which Iran is essentially at the doorstep of having enough material to produce a nuclear weapon.

We addressed these issues in Paris. We'll be addressing them at Camp David. Secretary Moniz is participating in the meetings precisely because of his expertise and involvement in the negotiations.

But I don't know, Rob, if you have anything you want you add.

MR. MALLEY: And Secretary Lew will participate because they're also looking at issues having to do with financing of Iranian-affiliated organizations. So I think, again, as was clear in Paris, we are looking at the Iranian problem as a whole, all of the aspects of it -- the nuclear one -- and for the reasons Ben mentioned we think are critical. But that doesn't mean that we're not looking at what else we need to do to counter Iran's destabilizing activities and to get to the point where we can try

to resolve some of those regional conflicts in which Iran obviously has a hand and is going to have to at some point be at the table and play a more constructive role.

Q Hi, guys. Thanks for doing the call. I know you mentioned several times that cybersecurity will be a part of these conversations later this week. I was wondering if you could detail a bit more kind of the cyber-threats that you see in the region, how you think that will play into the discussion, and what exactly the type of cooperation or relations, or joint agreements that might come out from a cyber perspective, what types of things might you guys agree to do moving forward, particularly to address the type of cyber threats that you're seeing in the region.

MR. KAHL: The President has repeatedly made clear that cyber-threats pose one of the greatest national security challenges to the United States, but it also poses an increasing challenge to countries in the region. Obviously, in recent years, you've seen attacks on the Saudi Aramco network -- computer network. For example, attacks that at least the media attributed to the Iranians. There are concerns that this is a vulnerability across the Gulf states to critical infrastructure.

For years, we worked closely with the Gulf states to improve the protection of critical infrastructure, especially in the energy domain. And I think we are looking for opportunities to expand that cooperation and deepen that cooperation through exchanges between our agencies and departments and theirs -- sharing lessons learned on how we have attempted to harden our own government and private-sector infrastructure against outside hackers and cyber intrusions, and to share those lessons more fully with our Gulf partners.

So that's really what we're talking about here. I think there's also an opportunity, as we think about crafting military exercises, that aim not just at conventional challenges but at these asymmetric challenges to include a cyber dimension -- a more fulsome cyber dimension to those as well. So we'll be talking about those types of things.

MR. RHODES: Just very quickly, we've also seen a nascent effort from ISIL to pose a challenge in this space. And so in addition to state-sponsored cyber threats, there's also the terrorist threat. I'd just take the opportunity to add that these GCC partners are also with us in the effort to counter the ISIL ideology more broadly, which is often propagated online and through social media. And many countries have stepped up, particularly Saudi Arabia and UAE in particular, in working cooperatively to counter that ideology. And, indeed, the UAE has hosted a number of events with the express purpose of mobilizing voices from within the Muslim community to counter ISIL's efforts to recruit and radicalize young people.

MS. MEEHAN: Operator, I think we have time for one more question please.

Q Rob and Colin in particular, how good a sense do you have of what the Saudis and the other Gulf countries are looking for here? Colin, you went through quite a list of sort of what the U.S. wanted to address, and I'm just wondering how clear it is to you what they're looking for -- in particular on this whole question of what to do about an Iran unbound by sanctions that would be freer, and richer, and more capable of continuing its destabilizing actions in the region through its proxies.

MR. KAHL: Thanks, Margaret. I'm going to have Rob chime in here, too, because of course he just met with the GCC foreign ministers along with Secretary Kerry in Paris, so he'll have some real-time insight to provide for you.

Look, I think that this is an uncertain time across the Middle East, and I think the GCC countries are looking to us to reaffirm the commitment, frankly, that goes back to the end of World War II, as it relates to the Saudis and was part of the Nixon doctrine and part of the Carter doctrine, and was reaffirmed by the President in 2013 at the U.N. General Assembly about our commitment to the external defense of our partners in this part of the world who include the Gulf. So they're looking to us at this moment of uncertainty in the region to reaffirm that commitment, and my sense is that they'll be pleased with what they hear.

I know that there's a lot of talk about Iran being unbound or unshackled by this agreement to somehow create more mischief in the region. I think it's important to keep in mind that the sanctions that we're talking about suspending and eventually lifting in the context of a nuclear agreement were put in place precisely to achieve meaningful and verifiable constraints on Iran's nuclear program. They were never an end in and of themselves, they were always a means to achieve a nuclear agreement along the lines of the one we're negotiating now. And as Ben mentioned earlier, the worst thing for the region would be a nuclear-armed Iran that could hide behind a nuclear deterrent to engage even more openly in terrorism and subversion and support militancy, et cetera.

So a truly unshackled Iran would be one that had incredibly robust nuclear weapons capabilities, and therefore felt emboldened to create even more mischief in the region. So obviously the deal that we're negotiating with the Iranians and the P5+1 is meant to directly address that threat, which we think is quite considerable, and our allies do, as well.

I think it's also important to keep in mind that much of Iran's perceived success in recent years has happened despite sanctions. That is, keeping sanctions in place is not a recipe for preventing Iran from causing mischief. And the reason for that is much of Iran's perceived success is not a consequence of their strength but, frankly, the weakness of a lot of the states in this part of the world. When you look at places like Yemen or Syria or Iraq or elsewhere, you have a weakening of state institutions, which has provided the ability for Iran to expand their influence. So, much of the solution is not necessarily a weaker Iran but, frankly, stronger partners.

And one of the things that we'll be focused on intensely with our Gulf State partners is how do we strengthen our partnerships with them, but also our partnerships in places like Yemen and Iraq and elsewhere, and also how do we promote power-sharing arrangements and more inclusive political institutions in places like Yemen and Iraq and Syria in ways, frankly, that help those states stabilize and over the long term help push back against nefarious influences of all kinds.

MR. MALLEY: I think Colin covered most of it, Margaret. I'll just add -- just my sense from meeting with the GCC representatives last week and then again in Paris on Friday. I think there are two dimensions to sort of what they're looking for.

One is, there's just this sort of amorphous sense they want to make sure that the U.S. is there -- will be with them. All these stories about the U.S. pivoting or sort of being fatigued with the problems in the Middle East. And I think that was -- if our engagement in the fight against ISIL, if our very robust engagements with the GCC didn't convince them, I think Camp David and everything that they've heard from us so far should have persuaded them that that concern is unfounded. But I think that's part of it. They just want to hear that we're there and that we care. And I think that was part of what -- that's what Camp David is actually going to do.

The second is what Colin spoke about, which is more specific, which is Iran. And there you have a whole slew of concerns they have about whether once we have a deal, we're going to turn our back on our traditional allies; whether we'll normalize with Iran; whether the deal is going to empower Iran; whether we are assuming that a deal will lead to moderation, which they think is not the case. And again, these are points that the President has made time and again, and these points were made again by Secretary Kerry and by Secretary Moniz and by a representative from the Department of the Treasury in Paris. None of that is the case.

First of all, again, as Colin said, it's precisely because we think Iran has engaged in destabilizing behavior that we don't want to see them acquire a nuclear bomb. And the President's bet is not a bet on moderation. It's a bet that assumes the worst; hopes that maybe Iran will change its behavior. But this is a deal that's supposed to be as solid and as good -- if Iran doesn't change as if it does change.

And in terms of the sanctions, which is one of their concerns, we obviously make the point the sanctions are not going to be removed all at once. Not all of them are going to be removed. A lot of them are going to stay in place. And we have snapback -- if we get a deal, that is -- on sanctions and of the U.N. sanctions.

A lot of this I think the foreign ministers hadn't heard; I don't think the leaders will have heard. And so they need to better understand what our approach is towards Iran. I think it's one the President has been transparent about from day one. He also believes -- as was mentioned earlier, and as Colin just said -- part of this is to get the GCC States

in a position where they could deal with greater confidence and self-confidence and strength with Iran, not in order to perpetuate a never-ending conflict, but to engage Iran to try to resolve the problems of the region, which will only be resolved once the region itself comes together and tries to find security arrangements that will stabilize the situation in Syria, in Yemen, in Iraq and elsewhere.

And so that's sort of the paradigm under which this is taking place. The prism through which we look at this is how do we strengthen our cooperation with the GCC, how do we strengthen the GCC's own capacity so that the strategic balance in the region is such that you could finally get to the point where the GCC, Iran and other countries in the region could actually resolve the problems that are making the region as unstable and as dangerous as it is today.

MS. MEEHAN: Great. Thank you, everyone. That concludes our call. As a reminder, this call was on the record and is no longer under embargo. Thank you and have a good day.

END 5:13 P.M. EDT

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/1/2015 8:05:21 PM
To: Purchia, Liz [Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]
Subject: On-the-Record Press Call on the President's Executive Order, "Blocking the Property of Certain Persons Engaging in Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities"

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 1, 2015

ON-THE-RECORD CONFERENCE CALL
BY SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CYBERSECURITY COORDINATOR
MICHAEL DANIEL,
AND DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY ACTING DIRECTOR
FOR THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL JOHN SMITH
ON THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER,
"BLOCKING THE PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS ENGAGING IN SIGNIFICANT
MALICIOUS CYBER-ENABLED ACTIVITIES"

Via Telephone

10:05 A.M. EDT

MS. MEEHAN: Good morning, everyone, and thank you for joining this press call to discuss the President's executive order, "Blocking the Property of Certain Persons Engaging in Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities." It's a mouthful.

This call is on the record but will be embargoed until the end of the call, so please no social media until the call is over. On the record means obviously that you can quote the senior administration officials by name and title. They are Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator, Michael Daniel. And our second official is Department of the Treasury Acting Director for the Office of Foreign Assets Control, otherwise known as OFAC, John Smith.

So with that, I'll turn it over to our first official, Michael Daniel.

MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Bernadette. Thank you, everyone, for taking the time to talk with me today. As we are all very much aware in this day and age, cyber threats are some of the most serious national security and economic challenges facing the United States. And over the last few years, the administration has been pursuing a comprehensive strategy to confront this threat. And in particular, what I want to talk to you about

today is one new element of that strategy that we're rolling out -- a sanctions E.O. to respond to the most significant cyber threats.

In particular, we believe that we very much need the full range of tools across the spectrum in order to actually confront the cyber threats that we face. So diplomatic, law enforcement, economic, military, intelligence -- all of those tools are necessary in order to combat this threat.

So we have been over the past several years putting those tools into place and expanding our capabilities and abilities to confront this threat, and this sanctions E.O. is one particular piece of that.

So what this sanctions E.O. is really designed to do is it is designed to fill in a gap that we have identified where individuals carrying out significant malicious cyber activity are located in places that it's difficult for our diplomatic and law enforcement tools to reach, whether because they're behind the borders of a country that has weak cyber security laws, or the government is complicit in, or turning a blind eye to, the activity that's happening and we don't have good law enforcement relationships or other kinds of relationships.

So what we are doing is putting in place a tool that will enable us to impose costs on those actors. And in particular, what we are doing is we are focusing on those actors that pose a significant threat to the national security, the foreign policy, or the economic health or security of the United States as a whole, and that carry out one of four explicit kinds of harms through cyberspace: damaging attacks on our critical infrastructure; disrupting computer networks, say, through a widespread distributed denial of service attack; widespread or significant thefts of personal information, financial data, trade secrets or intellectual property; and the knowing use and receipt of those stolen goods.

So it's important to note that we very much intend this tool be one that is targeted and judicious in its use. It's not one that we are expecting to use every day. In most cases, our diplomatic and law enforcement and other tools will be the ones that we turn to first. But it's important that we have this capability in our toolbox in order to go after the threats that we face. We will not certainly be using this to target free speech or interfering with the free and open Internet, and we're not going to be going after the innocent victims of people whose computers were taken over and used by malicious actors. So it's a very targeted and limited authority.

So we know that sanctions are not a cure-all for this particular threat, but it is an important tool for us to have. The last thing I would say is we are not -- and Treasury can go into this in more detail -- we are not announcing any designations under this new authority today. We are putting in place the framework so that it's available for us to respond, if we needed to rapidly, to an emerging cyber threat. In the future, we will use this tool in a targeted and coordinated way against the worst of the worst, the most serious overseas malicious actors, the

ones that could actually threaten the national security, foreign policy, or economic health or financial stability of the United States.

So with that, I'll turn it over to John over at Treasury.

MR. SMITH: Good morning. This is John Smith from the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control. Thanks for joining us this morning. I'm going to briefly discuss some of the details of the new executive order. I should start by saying we are excited about this new tool that will allow us to expose and isolate those behind malicious cyber activity. The executive order allows us to put a name to those who go to great lengths to mask their identity, to expose our adversaries behind these attacks for the world and, of course, financial institutions to see.

As Michael noted, this new executive order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, to impose sanctions on individuals or entities that engage in significant malicious cyber-enabled activities that are reasonably likely to result in, or have materially contributed to, a significant threat to the national security, foreign policy, or economic health, or financial stability of the United States.

Since Michael went through some of the details of the executive order, I'll highlight a few points and I'm happy to take more detailed questions afterward about today's action. This authority is focused on significant threats, threats that endanger the national security or foreign policy of the United States, or our economic health and financial stability. It's also focused on protecting critical infrastructure. This action builds on efforts by the U.S. government and public-private partnerships to disrupt threats and hasten response-and-recovery efforts by punishing malicious cyber actors.

I think it's important to note that while this authority is powerful, it is a piece of the larger U.S. government response to enhancing cyber security. This means that we intend to use this tool judiciously and in extraordinary circumstances. It will not replace law enforcement mechanisms, and we intend to work closely with law enforcement in the careful application of this tool.

Finally, as Michael noted, this authority is not designed to police the Internet or stifle technological innovations. Just as we have a responsibility to protect the U.S. financial system from abuse by malicious actors, we have a responsibility to protect the United States from those who exploit our information technologies to threaten our critical infrastructure, our economic health and financial stability, and other core interests.

With that said, I'm happy to answer any questions.

Q I want to focus on the potential sanctions against companies that knowingly benefit from the fruits of cyber espionage. When the Justice Department indicted those five Chinese military hackers, FBI

Director James Comey said, "For too long, the Chinese government has blatantly sought to use cyber espionage to obtain economic advantage for its state-owned industries." From that, one presumes that the U.S. government has evidence that Chinese state-owned industries have knowingly benefitted. Can you talk about whether you do have that evidence and how far it extends? And what's the potential universe of companies here that could be sanctioned?

MR. DANIEL: Sure, so I'll start at the top and then I'll ask Treasury to sort of comment on kind of the standards of evidence that we use.

I'm certainly not in any position to speculate on the particulars of any given company and what we might have in terms of evidence. What I can say from a broad standpoint is that we know that in many cases, not just in any one country, but across a wide swath of the planet, actually, there are companies that hire hackers to steal intellectual property. And we don't want to just deter those that are actually with their fingers on the keyboard, but also those that are behind those groups and that are funding those groups and are enabling those groups to carry out their activity.

So that's why we felt it was important to have a broader tool that encompassed more than just kind of the individual hackers that are carrying out the activities, as important as that is to deter, but we also wanted to deter those who are paying for it.

John, do you want to add anything to that?

MR. SMITH: Sure, I agree with what you said, Michael. And I would just emphasize, as I think we've said, that this executive order is not targeted at any one country or region. As Michael noted, this is activity that we see coming from regions and countries and jurisdictions around the world. And we're focused on the activity and the threats that the activity poses to the U.S. and the U.S. financial system.

I can't talk about any evidence that we have or any targets that we may go after; that's something that we work very cooperatively with our interagency partners, including the Justice Department, on where we may go next. I can say that we will work aggressively to make sure that the U.S. government and our whole-of-government approach is able to go after the cyber threats that we face.

Q Hey, guys, thanks for doing the call. Tell me, how do these sanctions that were outlined here, how is it different from the sanctions that the President went ahead and ordered on the North Korean individuals and North Korean intelligence agency after the Sony attack? And would the Sony attack have qualified for these types -- in other words, would that attack meet the conditions that you're outlining here at justifying these sanctions?

MR. DANIEL: So I think in broad terms -- again, I'll let Treasury follow up and comment on the specific details. In my view, what sets this

executive order apart is that it is focused on malicious cyber activity. And it's the first of its kind in this space where we don't have to rely on a sanctions regime that is, in fact, targeted at a particular country or group of actors within a country, but is more broad-brushed than that.

At the same time, it's narrow in the sense that it's not just any malicious activity; it's specific activity that is of a significant level to affect the national security or the economic health of the United States, and that it is associated with one of those four really important harms that I was talking about.

It's very difficult to speculate whether or not we would have used this tool with respect to Sony. I can say that obviously we will now -- this will become one of the tools that we will have in our toolbox. And going forward, if we face similar incidents like that, it will certainly be something that we will consider, and we will consider whether we have the evidence in a form that we are willing to disclose publicly, that we would be willing consider using this tool.

John, do you want to add something from Treasury's perspective?

MR. SMITH: Sure. I think I agree once again, Michael, with much of what you've said in terms of how does a Sony attack differ and what would our response be. I look at sanctions programs as coming in two broad types, and we have sanctions programs that focus on jurisdictions like North Korea, Iran, other jurisdictions that are really in the news and that we have particular criteria that relate to those jurisdictions. And then we have some sanctions, executive orders that allow us to target activity wherever the attack activity that threatens the U.S. interests may occur, may arise from.

And this joins the ranks of our counterterrorism authorities, our narcotics authorities, our transnational and criminal organization authorities that allow us to go after activity and the threat that that activity poses to the United States wherever it may come up. So it wouldn't matter to me whether the next threats come from North Korea or anywhere else, if this gives us the tool in our toolbox to go after that activity. Whether or not that attack would qualify under this executive order isn't something that we've calculated. What I'm looking from the future is what can we do under this executive order, and that's what our focus will be.

Q Can you be more specific about how you define "malicious"? What would the tipping point be to trigger something like this? And also, do you have a sense of when you expect to name individuals or groups in this first round of sanctions, if that's already on your radar?

MR. DANIEL: So, I'll let John handle the first part of that question. The second half -- no, we don't have a particular timeline. We wanted this authority in place to deal with any emergent threat. Obviously, we have a robust -- very robust interagency process to

identify particular targets that we would consider. And we are going through that process, and we will see what comes out of it. But we certainly don't have any particular timeline on that at this point.

MR. SMITH: And I'll just add from the Treasury perspective. If you look at malicious cyber-enabled activities and kind of the title and the preamble to the executive order, how we define or characterize what "malicious" would be is really with respect to the harms that you see in sections 1(a)i and then A through D of the executive order, when the executive order has harming or compromising the provision of services by a computer or network of computers that support a critical infrastructure sector, or significantly compromising the provision of services by entities in that sector. Those would be what we would consider to be -- those are examples of some of what we would consider to be the malicious cyber-enabled activities.

Q I just want to follow up on Peter Baker's question if I can, and see if I can get a little more specificity, understanding you don't want to look back. But is there something about this executive order that would open up a new tool box in a case like Sony? Or is it really more about location as opposed to the types of sanctions, in that case? I'm just, for our own edification, trying to figure out would this have changed the game there and going forward, or no because of it being North Korea.

MR. DANIEL: So I think in my mind, the way that I look at this would be what we are trying to do is enable us to have a new way of both deterring and imposing costs on malicious cyber actors wherever they may be, and across a range of threats that we face, both to our critical infrastructure and to our intellectual property and personally identifiable information.

And in that realm, we wanted to separate out location from that, because obviously cyber incidents tend to flow very easily across international boundaries, and so trying to tie that to particular locations just didn't make sense sort of in the cyber area. So we had to look at the kinds of regimes, like John alluded to, of CT and narcotics and transnational crime where what you're focused on is the activity and the harm involved.

Certainly, our experience of looking at how to craft the proportional response that the President called for in response to the attack on Sony Pictures Entertainment, certainly that process informed us as we are finishing up this executive order and highlighted the need for us to have this capability and to have this tool. But I think that's really how I would frame up an answer to your question.

MR. SMITH: And this is John, and I'd just add in that we should emphasize that what we did with each one of the executive orders -- the North Korea authority versus the authority here -- the North Korea authority gave us the authority to designate officials of the government

of North Korea, officials of the Workers' Party, and those that materially assist or support the government or those officials.

And so we took the actions that we did in the beginning of January as a response to certain provocative activities in North Korea, including the Sony Pictures attack. But it wasn't directly a response in the executive order criteria to cyber-enabled activities -- malicious cyber-enabled activities of the government.

This allows us to have an executive order that actually focuses directly on the activities of concern, whether they arise in North Korea or another jurisdiction. And we can directly target those malicious cyber-enabled activities that are of concern, rather than targeting as a response to an attack -- officials of the government or other persons who meet our criteria.

Q Hi, thanks so much for taking my call. The order talks about interruption of computers and networks not just within the 16 critical sectors of infrastructure, but also organizations that support those sectors. If you look at the sectors, they're fairly wide-ranging. They include information technology; they include the financial services sector. I guess my question is, it seems that, in fact, any sector of the economy affected by a foreign attack would be potential fodder for a sanctions. Is that a correct reading of the order?

MR. SMITH: I think that in the short term, if it is something -- to answer your question, if it was an attack that actually rose to the level, or a disruption of service that rose to the level of posing a significant threat, or materially contributing to a threat to the national security, foreign policy, or the economic health or financial stability of the United States -- which is quite a mouthful to keep repeating -- but if it meets one of those tests, then we wanted to be sure that we could actually use this tool against it.

So, yes, if you were affecting a network of some entity in the -- some group of entities probably in the United States that rose to that level -- that it was actually posing a threat, for example, to our overall economic health -- then I think most people would say, yes, that's the kind of thing you would want the U.S. government to be combatting. And this is one way that we could do that.

But obviously we would have to be able to make the case that, in fact, that group of entities that were being affected by that disruption met that significance test.

Q Hi, thanks very much. Two questions. One is, attribution can be very hard. So what level of evidence would you need? Is it reasonable cause or (inaudible) standards? And separately, (inaudible) I'm still a little bit lost about what does this new executive order allow you to do that you couldn't already do in that --

MR. DANIEL: John, do you want to take the first part of that?

MR. SMITH: Sure, I can start off. The standard of evidence is reasonable basis to believe or reasonable cause to believe. It's the basic standard of evidence that administrative agencies across the government use under the Administrative Procedure Act, under which we operate. And so that's the standard of evidence that we use. When we do a designation or target someone under the authority we always do it publicly, we identify it publicly. And we put out a fact sheet or press release, outlining the unclassified aspects of the case so that the international community and the U.S. financial system know the reasons that we're taking the action.

In terms of what this authorizes us to do that we could not do before is, before we had country-specific executive orders that allowed us to designate. For example, with respect to North Korea, we had the authority under the executive order to designate officials -- if we chose -- to designate officials of the government, officials of the Workers' Party. We did not have the authority to designate based on the activities of threatening the U.S. through their malicious cyber-enabled activities. Now we have that authority based on the malicious cyber-enabled activities that they do that we can target directly those activities and not indirectly officials of a government where we may have a sanctions program. So this allows us to go much broader beyond those countries, beyond those areas where we have sanctions programs, and this allows us to target the activity itself wherever it arises.

Q So a couple questions. I'm just wondering, are there any past examples, recent examples in the last few years in which you think this authority would have been used, that you would have looked to this authority? For example, maybe the (inaudible) attacks against the banks. And then I'm also wondering, what would the sanctions actually look like? What kind of punishment would anybody who is designated under these sanctions actually face?

MR. DANIELS: I think that sort of speculating how we would have used this tool in the past is very difficult because the circumstances are going to vary, and we didn't have the benefit of having this tool when we went through the policy discussions. Certainly, I can say that the class of activities that are, again, something that has the potential to cause widespread disruption to our financial sector, obviously something that would meet the significance test for the financial stability of the United States if we felt that we could make the case, as John just laid out -- in the way that he laid out, that we would consider using this tool.

And also, keep in mind that some of our view here is that we want to have this tool available as a deterrent and through those that would consider carrying out some of these activities. So it's not just actually composing the sanctions where we hope to have the effect. So I think that certainly it's both targeted, in the sense it has to be very significant and meet those four harms, but it's also very broad in that those harms cut across a wide swath of activity.

John, do you want to follow up on that?

MR. SMITH: Sure. I agree again with what you said, Michael. I would say that, from our view, the past informs the present. And in terms of the examples that we've seen in the past helps us shape the executive order to make sure that we have the maximum flexibility of targeting so that we can go after the targets that are really of concern, while also demonstrating that those targets have engaged in the significant level of threat and activity to fall within the scope of the executive order.

In terms of what the punishment is, as you -- I think the word you used, what would the sanctions look like. What happens as a result of our sanctions authority is we freeze the assets -- anyone subject to U.S. jurisdiction would have their assets frozen. Also, it prevents U.S. persons from engaging in any transactions with those named under our executive order. So it basically freezes in place now any assets, and it also prevents future activity, future transactions; any further assets coming through the country would be frozen. And it also has a visa ban restriction that the State Department administers.

Q I know you said you don't want to target innocent victims. I just want to get into the question of, is there any due process involved if somebody feels they are wrongly targeted, wrongly sanctioned? Is there any judicial review, is there any process to appeal this?

MR. SMITH: The answer is, yes, there is due process involved. Anyone who is sanctioned under this authority has the ability to challenge their designation with OFAC. They can bring an administrative petition with us, or they can go -- at the same time, choose not to come to the agency and they can file suit in any federal district court in the country.

Q You said that part of the problem in cybersecurity is going after people who are in fairly obscure jurisdictions around the world where you don't have legal authority. How many of the people do you think that are engaged in cyber-attacks actually have assets in the U.S. or in places where you can get them? And how much money do you think there is in terms of assets held by cyber-attackers in the United States?

MR. DANIEL: So that's a good question. I think that that's a very difficult one to answer with any degree of specificity. But obviously, given the scope and breadth of the U.S. financial system and the fact that many, many actors try to convert their malicious -- what they steal through cyberspace and to launder it into open money, it means that a lot of that does wash through the U.S. financial system. And so I think that we do believe that there is an opportunity to impact those entities financially. It's I think very difficult to sort of get the scope and scale of it.

The other thing I would say is that we would also hope that some of our allies and aligned countries would consider joining us in creating these kinds of regimes so that it would not just be the United States that

would be able to impose these sanctions but other countries as well. And if we started building a coalition of those kinds of authorities you could really start to have a financial impact.

MR. SMITH: And I would add that the prevalence of the U.S. dollar in the international financial system means that many transactions come through the United States that, frankly, people did not intend. If you engage in a transaction in third countries, often the transaction may be -- the contract may be specified in U.S. dollars and may send transactions from their banks in countries that are far away from U.S. borders and they come through the U.S. financial system to be dollarized. So more often than you would expect, actors in third countries that attempt to engage in international transactions have their monies frozen when they run afoul of U.S. sanctions, even if they never knew that they had a U.S. footprint in their transactions before.

I'd also mention that the effect of the sanctions is a prohibition on dealings with U.S. persons. That means U.S. technology; that means U.S. goods. And when we're talking about the Internet and the use of the Internet and technologies around the world, many of these actors may try to rely on the sophistication of the U.S. technology sector, and this will also hinder them in that area as well.

The final piece that I would add, adding to Michael's point about hoping that other countries may join with us in a coalition -- we also don't have to wait for that to occur, because what we find with our sanctions authorities is that foreign financial institutions voluntarily comply with our sanctions list. They, frankly, do not want to deal with terrorists, narco-traffickers, transnational criminal organizations, or, after today, malicious cyber actors that we may put on our list. Foreign financial institutions voluntarily choose to comply, often close those accounts, and frequently freeze the assets as well.

We have much more cooperation offshore than many may expect. And that's been the strength of the U.S. sanctions authorities over recent years.

Q Can you speak a little bit about -- you're obviously going to have to have some pretty precise attribution to sanctioned individuals or entities who are responsible for this. So can you talk a little bit about how you think attribution has improved or why you think it's at the level that you can now use a precise tool like this? And related, are you concerned that you're going to have a lot of companies now coming to the administration and asking you to sanction people who are stealing their intellectual property, since we know that that is really a quite widespread problem, that a lot of companies are targeted?

MR. DANIEL: So I think that certainly our ability to do attribution has improved. You rightly note that it continues to be a challenge, and it was one that we will have to weigh very carefully when we consider designating a target about do we have the level of attribution that we are

confident in and that meets the test that John laid out, and that we would be willing to provide that evidence openly.

I feel that the investments that we have made in our capabilities over the last few years make that a more tenable prospect, but certainly one that is not a foregone conclusion; that we will always be able to use this tool in every instance because of that. But I do believe that we are getting better at that, and that is something that we are continuing to pursue, honing our skills and improving our ability to do that kind of attribution.

I think that, in broad terms, whether we would expect a whole flood of requests, I don't think so. But to the extent that it does encourage companies to come forward and work more closely with U.S. law enforcement and give us a better picture of how truly widespread that is -- as you note, we do believe, based on the evidence that we have, that it is incredibly widespread and we want to encourage companies to work with us in a way that we can try to use all the tools that we have available to us, not just this one, but all the tools that we have to go after those that are stealing our intellectual property. So I would hope that the addition of this tool shows the commitment of the administration to protecting U.S. intellectual property and support our efforts in that regard. And that it does encourage more companies to come forward.

But I should be clear that this tool is not meant to protect any one individual U.S. company. It is designed to -- where we have widespread theft of our intellection property on a scale that actually affects the economic health of the United States as a whole. There are other tools that we have to go after -- through law enforcement and other things -- to go after those that are related to just individual companies. But certainly to the extent that we see a pattern emerge of an actor that is stealing intellectual property left and right from numbers or scores of U.S. companies and that is certainly something that we would consider.

MR. SMITH: I'll just echo what Michael said. In terms of the -- on the second point on having companies come to us and do we have any concern with that, and the answer is absolutely not. Again, echoing what he said, I think the more information about trade secret theft, the better off we are -- not only is the Treasury Department, the Justice Department, and all agencies of the U.S. government. So we would welcome the input from the private sector and others that may have relevant information on trade secret theft that would be covered by the executive order.

Q I know you guys are looking forward in terms of future cases for these new sanctions authorities, but I was wondering if they could be applied to many of the open cases in which suspects have been named in unsealed indictments or through other methods, but the suspects are residing in countries like Russia or elsewhere, where it's difficult to extradite them or bring them to the U.S. through other means. Could you be looking at some of these open cases where there are still suspects who were out there who haven't been caught or arrested yet?

MR. SMITH: So what I would say from -- this is John from the Treasury Department. I would say that certainly we'll look at all of the relevant information that we receive, and we will aggressively work with our interagency colleagues to make sure that we target those that deserve to be targeted under this executive order.

So we're going to look at all of the information that we have, all of the information that we receive, to determine what the target sets should be. And this is a widespread cooperative effort that we'll engage in to make sure that we go after those that are engaging in the significant types of threats and activities that this executive order is intended to cover.

Q Actually, she just asked the question that I was going to ask. This is a point that I wanted to sort of combine two questions. One is, going after cases where we have suspects in Russia. Currently, when you can't reach those, you often wait until they go on vacation in Thailand or some other place where you can nab them. And so I'm wondering if this is sort of another tool to go after those that you can't get in those -- or that you've waited in the past.

But I wanted to talk to the attribution questions that came from NPR. We had questions with the North Korea hack where the government did come out with some level of evidence that it had toward attribution. And I'm wondering what will be the threshold for what's publicly disclosed in terms of attributions to back a case, to make a case. You keep on talking about how you will make a case and whether you will have evidence for a case. But I'm wondering to what degree will that be publicly available for someone to either bring a case to dispute or for others to judge it on the merit.

MR. SMITH: I think the answer to the first question that you asked is I think this authority is intended to complement our existing authorities. We intend to work with other law enforcement and other agencies within the U.S. government to make the most of this authority. And so I think we will make a decision within the U.S. government as to how to best target any particular actor that we may be concerned about falling in with the scope of this executive order.

It may be to simply pursue the Justice Department criminal remedies that can be very powerful. It may also be for us to engage, because the sanctions tool would be seen to be a better fit and we may decide to wait until the moment is right. And you gave an example of when the moment could be right for certain actions. There are many, many moments in an investigation when it may be right for us to take action, when it may be the most beneficial, the most advantageous to our cases, and we will work those with the interagency to make sure that we strike when we should, when it's the most opportune moment.

In terms of what's publicly disclosed, with each and every designation action that we take under every one of our sanctions authorities, what we do is, to the extent that we're relying on classified

information, we go through a rigorous process before that time to see -- before the designation is announced to see what we can declassify or what we can announce at the time so that with each and every designation we have some declassified information that can be included to explain the basis for our designation.

Sometimes we have more, sometimes it's more highly classified and there may be less that we can share publicly. But we do endeavor with each and every designation to go out with a public press release that outlines the reason we're taking the action.

Q Hi there. Thank you very much. My question is pretty simple. Would the enactment of CISA, if that happens, assist you guys in identifying parties that could be targeted with sanctions? And related, have there been any conversation with lawmakers about this framework?

MR. DANIEL: So certainly from my perspective, the enacting information-sharing legislation would, obviously to the extent that it increases the information flow between the government and the private sector, would certainly enable us to do a better job of amassing evidence, in identifying targets, and basically building the cases that we would need to use this tool. So, yes, it would certainly work in concert.

And, yes, we did do consultations with the Hill, as we do with all executive orders, as we were getting ready to roll this out. So there were definitely consultations with the appropriate congressional staff.

MODERATOR: Thank you very much. That will conclude this morning's call. I would like to thank very much Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator Michael Daniel, and Department of Treasury Acting Director for the Office of Foreign Assets Control John Smith.

As a reminder, this call was on the record, and you can quote the two officials I just cited by name. And since the call is now over, the embargo is now lifted.

Thanks very much, everyone, for your attention and participation.

END 10:47 A.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 18, 2014

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY JOSH EARNEST

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:04 P.M. EST

MR. EARNEST: Good afternoon, everybody. Nice to see you. Sorry we're running a little behind today. Let's go straight to questions.

Nedra, do you want to get us started?

Q Does the White House believe that North Korea is behind the hack at Sony Pictures?

MR. EARNEST: Nedra, this is a matter that is still under investigation both by the FBI and the National Security Division of the Department of Justice. I, for I think pretty obvious reasons, am not going to get ahead of that investigation or any announcements that they may make about that investigation. But I can tell you that, consistent with the President's previous statements about how we will protect against, monitor, and respond to cyber incidents, this is something that's being treated as a serious national security matter.

There is evidence to indicate that we have seen destructive activity with malicious intent that was initiated by a sophisticated actor. And it is being treated by those investigative agencies, both at the FBI and the Department of Justice, as seriously as you would expect. It has also been the subject of a number of daily meetings that have been convened here at the White House that have been led by both the President's Homeland Security Advisor and occasionally by his cyber coordinator. This includes senior members of our intelligence community and homeland security officials, military, diplomatic, and law enforcement officials as well.

Q What is the United States going to do about it?

MR. EARNEST: Well, before we start publicly speculating about a response, it's appropriate that we allow the investigation to move forward. I do understand that the investigation is progressing, and that as the members of the national security team meet to discuss this matter, they are considering a range of options.

As they do so, though, they're mindful of the need for a couple of things. First of all, as we would be in any scenario, sort of strategic scenario like this, they would be mindful of the fact that we need a proportional response, and also mindful of the fact that sophisticated actors, when they carry out actions like this, are oftentimes -- they're not always but often seeking to provoke a response from the United States of America. They may believe that a response from us in one fashion or another would be advantageous so them. And so we want to be mindful of that, too. And the President's national security team is mindful of those two important strategic considerations as they consider a range of available responses.

Q There's been a big debate over Sony cancelling "The Interview." What has the President said? Or is he expressing opinion about a movie that depicts the assassination of a sitting head of state?

MR. EARNEST: I haven't talked to him about that. What I can say as a general matter is that the President and the administration stands squarely on the side of the artists and other private citizens who seek to freely express their views. Sometimes those views can be laced with criticism, or are sometimes intended to provoke either some kind of comedic response or one that is intended to be some element of some pretty biting social commentary. All that is appropriate and well within the rights of private citizens to express their views.

And the President has certainly been on the receiving end of some expressions like that. And while we may not agree with the content of every single thing that is produced, we certainly stand squarely on the side of the right of private individuals to express themselves. And that is a view that is strongly held by this administration, as it has been throughout the history of our country.

Q And then quickly on one other matter. The EU announced a ban on businesses doing investments in Crimea today. Is the United States planning to take similar action? And can you give us an update on the President's plan to sign the Russia sanctions bill -- and also NDAA while you're at it?

MR. EARNEST: Let me first begin with the Russia sanctions bill as it relates to Ukraine. The President does intend to sign H.R. 5859 into law. Signing the legislations does not, however, signal a change in the administration's sanctions policy, which we have carefully calibrated in accordance with developments on the ground and coordinated with our allies and partners, principally in Europe.

At this time, the administration does not intend to impose sanctions under this law, but the act gives the administration additional authorities that could be utilized if circumstances warrant it. This administration will continue to work closely with allies and partners in Europe and internationally to respond to developments in Ukraine, and we'll continue to review and calibrate our sanctions to respond to Russia's actions.

The United States again calls on Russia to end its occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea, cease support for separatists in eastern Ukraine, and implement the obligations that it signed up to commit to under the Minsk Agreements. As the President has said many times, our goal is to promote a diplomatic solution that provides a lasting resolution to the conflict, and helps promote growth and stability in Ukraine and regionally, including in Russia.

In this context, the United States continues to call on Russia's leadership to implement the Minsk Agreements and to reach a lasting and comprehensive resolution to the conflict which respects Ukraine's sovereignty and territory integrity. The United States, if Russia acts accordingly, remains prepared to roll back sanctions should Russia take the necessary steps.

I don't have an update at this point as it related to the NDAA bill. The President does intend to sign it. It does include some riders that we have expressed concern about in the past that interfere with the administration to carry out the necessary steps to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay. The President has long believed that that prison should be closed. But there are important pieces of this legislation that, in our view, inappropriately interfere with our ability to take the necessary steps to accomplish that goal.

Q So should we expect a signing statement with that?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have anything to preview along those lines. I know that in previous occasions when the President signed the bill it has been accompanied by a statement. I don't know whether or not that will be the case this time. I wouldn't be surprised if it does, though.
Jeff.

Q Josh, back on Sony. If it is determined that a nation state was behind this attack, does that affect the degree to which the United States would want to respond?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Jeff, I don't want to get ahead of any investigation that's being conducted both by the National Security Division of the Department of Justice and the FBI, who are both looking into this matter cooperatively. I can tell you that regardless of who is found to be responsible for this, that the President considers it to be a serious national security matter, and it's being treated as such both in

the course of the investigation but also by leading members of the President's national security team here at the White House.

Q Is it fair to say that investigators are closing in on who's responsible?

MR. EARNEST: It's fair to say that the investigation is progressing. This is something they've been looking into for quite some time and I know that there is significant investigative resources that have been committed to this effort, and they've been making progress. But I don't have any update that's more specific than that.

Q Okay. And on yesterday's big news, is the White House concerned with regard to Cuba about Republicans stopping Treasury and Commerce from changing their regulations to allow expanded trade, particularly in telecoms, which the President mentioned yesterday?

MR. EARNEST: Not particularly. Primarily because the steps that the President announced are steps that are well within his executive authority as President of the United States and he's directed the agencies that are responsible for implementing those regulations to make the kinds of changes that are needed to reflect what the President believes is a more effective strategy for dealing with Cuba.

That said, we certainly would welcome the kind of legislative action, specifically repealing Helms-Burton, that would roll back even more of the restrictions that are currently in place that limit some economic activity between the United States and Cuba. The President has done all that he can do using his executive authority, and the remaining restrictions can only be removed through congressional action. And we certainly would encourage Congress to act in bipartisan fashion to do that.

Q And lastly, has the White House -- has the President seen the Secret Service review and is he satisfied with it?

MR. EARNEST: I don't believe the President has. I know that senior officials here at the White House will be briefed before the end of the week on that report, if they haven't been already. But again, I anticipate that we'll have more -- that you'll be able to obtain more information on this today from the Department of Homeland Security.

Q Today for sure?

MR. EARNEST: That certainly would be my expectation. It was my, actually, understanding that they were supposed to release it yesterday. I'm not sure why that didn't happen. But I do anticipate that they will have figured out whatever kinks that were in the system and will take care of that important piece of business today.

Christi.

Q Thanks, Josh. Back on North Korea. You're calling it a national security matter. Does that mean you don't consider it a national security threat at this point? In other words, that there might be other attacks coming?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Christi, we certainly have seen -- well, let me actually step back and say -- I know you referred to it as the North Korea matter. That's certainly the way it's been widely reported. I'm not in a position to confirm any attribution at this point. But certainly as a general matter, the President does view some of the attacks that we have seen in recent years as a threat to our national security. And there has been an effort underway throughout the President's first six years in office to do what he can do, again, using his executive authority, to try to better prepare our country to defend against those attacks and to respond to them when they occur.

I can give you a couple of examples of things that the President has succeeded in doing. We have taken steps to better protect our infrastructure both here in the federal government and working with the private sector to help them protect their infrastructure from attacks. We've worked hard to tighten up and secure federal computer networks. We've sought to improve our capability as it relates to both investigating these intrusions and responding to them. We have sought to build a stronger cooperative relationship in working with countries around the world to confront this threat. And we have also been working at a variety of agencies to develop more sophisticated technology, again, that would better defend our networks and allow us to more effectively respond when intrusions occur.

So there have been a number of steps that this administration has been taking because of the perception of this national security threat. That's also the reason that we continue to call on Congress to act on cybersecurity legislation. And you've heard me on a variety of occasions stand up here and urge Congress to take action on this. This is not the kind of topic that should allow us to be divided along party lines. This is something that has a clear impact on our economy and has a clear impact on our national security. And I would anticipate that Democrats and Republicans should be able to work together on this.

Q And just because you used the phrase "proportional response," does that mean that one of the things you're considering would be a kind of attack on computers where the attacks originated akin to ones that were launched against Sony?

MR. EARNEST: I wouldn't speculate at this point about the range of options that are currently under consideration. I also wouldn't commit at this point to at some point being entirely transparent about what that response is.

Q And could you also say how provoking the U.S. might be of benefit to the people who did this?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I know that there are -- it's difficult to do that in the abstract. But I do think that there are -- it's not hard to imagine that there may be some organizations or individuals who would perceive a specific response from the United States as something that might enhance their standing, either among their cohorts or colleagues, or even on the international stage.

So, again, I point that out only to indicate that we're mindful of that phenomenon as we consider the range of options.

Q And just to circle back, you didn't rule out a proportional response of taking attack on this, the computers from which the attacks originated -- you didn't rule that out.

MR. EARNEST: I did not. I mean, in fact, I have indicated that we believe this destructive activity merits an appropriate response. But I would acknowledge that an appropriate response is something that is not always obvious, but is something that is worthy of careful consideration. And that's exactly what the President's national security team is doing.

Jim.

Q If there is a government -- a foreign government that is behind this attack on Sony, would that merit sanctions?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, there are a range of options that are under consideration right now. I'm not going to speculate on which options might work best. There are people that have a lot more experience and expertise in this area who are considering this question, and once they've made a decision I do anticipate we'll be in a position to tell you a little bit more about that decision. But as I mentioned to Christi, I don't anticipate that we'll be in a position where we're going to be able to be completely forthcoming about every single element of the response that has been decided upon.

Q And is that imminent, this decision on a response?

MR. EARNEST: Well, what will come first is more information about the investigation and some conclusions about the investigation.

Q -- get that sometime today, tomorrow?

MR. EARNEST: I'd encourage you to check with either the Department of Justice or the FBI. I know that they have made -- that investigation has been progressing, but I don't know the exact timing in terms of when they'll be ready to start talking about that a little bit more publicly.

Q You're not prepared to say here at the podium that North Korea was behind this?

MR. EARNEST: I'm not prepared to ascribe any accountability for this specific act, or to describe who might have been the sophisticated actor that initiated it.

Q And did the President discuss this with the Japanese Prime Minister? I know that was not in the readout of that call.

MR. EARNEST: I don't have any more details about their conversation beyond what was included in the readout.

Q And yesterday you said the President would be willing -- or potentially might be willing to go to Cuba someday. You're not ruling it out.

MR. EARNEST: Correct.

Q Would the President welcome Raul Castro to the White House?

MR. EARNEST: That's a hypothetical as well. I don't know that Mr. Castro has necessarily indicated a desire to travel to the United States and visit the White House. I guess what I would say is that there --

Q -- any more outrageous than the President going down to Cuba?

MR. EARNEST: I mean, I suppose not, considering that the analogy that we've tried to draw -- or at least identify is that there are important national security reasons for the President to travel to other countries that have what we would describe at best as checkered human rights records.

The President did, as we discussed yesterday, travel recently to both China and Burma. These are countries where the President has urged the leadership of those countries to do a better job of respecting universal human rights. The President traveled to those countries both because he believed it was in our national security interest, but also because he viewed it as an important opportunity to raise concerns about those nations' human rights records; that having an open relationship in which the President engages with the leaders of other countries can actually serve as a useful way to shine a spotlight on the shortcomings of other countries' records as it relates to human rights.

He did that when he was in China. He did that when he was standing next to the Chinese President. And that did provoke a, as many of you will recall, pretty memorable exchange between the Chinese President and an American journalist. That kind of exchange that attracted that kind of attention would not have occurred if the President refused to visit the country, or if we refused to visit with that country because we had objections to their human rights record.

Q You're not ruling it out?

MR. EARNEST: I guess the point is that the President has had the leaders of both Burma and China to the United States, and for that reason I wouldn't rule out a visit from President Castro.

Q Last question, I'm going to sneak it in -- is the President feeling more liberated after these midterm elections? There's been some discussion about that -- Cuba, immigration, climate. What's next?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I noticed that there was a cover headline in a local media outlet describing the President in that fashion but using the Spanish version of that word. (Laughter.)

What I'll say is, as a general matter -- here we are in what is likely to be my last press briefing of the year -- that there has been a tremendous amount that the President has accomplished --

Q Had me hanging there for a second. (Laughter.)

MR. EARNEST: I don't have any personnel announcements to make, Jim, so don't get too excited.

Q Earnest libre. (Laughter.)

MR. EARNEST: Exactly. I will say that it has been -- in many ways, it has been a rather consequential year in this administration -- in this President's tenure in office; that if you review the substantial accomplishments that we've racked up here, particularly in the last few weeks, from the historic climate deal with China to finally taking action to address some of the broken aspects of our immigration system, to obviously this substantial historic announcement on Cuba -- that the President is pleased with the kind of progress that we have made; that we began this year suggesting that this would -- that 2014 would be a year of action and here in the last couple of weeks of the year, I think, looking back, we can say that, by any measure, that goal has been accomplished.

But there is a lot more that needs to get done, and the President has a long list of things that he is looking forward to tackling in the new year after a couple weeks with his family over the holidays.

Jon.

Q In light of what you just said to Jim about engaging with Cuba, I'd like to follow up on a question from yesterday that Ed asked you. So if engagement works when you're dealing with a country with a bad human rights record, or a country that behaves poorly, why not North Korea? Can you explain the difference? Because you answered very directly yesterday -- you said, no, the President is not considering normalizing relations with North Korea. He wouldn't welcome Kim Jong Un to the White House. He wouldn't visit Kim Jong Un.

MR. EARNEST: All of that is correct.

Q But can you explain why, given what you just said about how you think that kind of engagement is what works?

MR. EARNEST: Well, because the principal concern that's been raised about Cuba is about the deplorable human rights record that the Castro regime has. And for 50 years -- more than 50 years -- for five decades, there was in place a policy to try to compel the Castro regime to change that record by isolating them. And the fact is, that policy failed, because the Castro regime remained in power and continued to take steps that oppressed their people.

Q But the Kim family has been in power a long time.

MR. EARNEST: They have. And the point is that policy had failed and it's time for us to try a new strategy to get the Castro regime to better implement policies that don't oppress the basic universal human rights of their people.

Our concerns about North Korea's behavior certainly include their deplorable human rights record, but they also include other things, too. It includes significant concerns with their nuclear program. It concerns the threatening statements that they have made about their neighbors who happen to be strong allies of the United States of America.

So our concerns with the regime in North Korea are different than the concerns that we have with Cuba. There is no concern that the Cuban regime is, for example, developing a nuclear weapon or testing long-range missile technology. That was, frankly, from a previous era. That era has closed, and that is why we believe that the policy needs to be changed to reflect the fact that that era no long exists.

Q But do you think this policy of isolation is ultimately going to work with North Korea? I understand that the transgressions of North Korea are in many ways qualitatively different than Cuba, but I'm talking about the approach. Because all the same things could be said -- this has been a long time and there's certainly been no progress in changing North Korean behavior.

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think there has been. I mean, at the end of the previous administration there was a move to begin to relax some sanctions in exchange for the North Koreans to take some steps to come into compliance with the international community's concerns about their nuclear weapons program. The North Korean regime walked back from those commitments.

So there have been some attempts to at least consider changing our policy towards North Korea. But there's no doubt that the problem of North Korea poses a rather vexing policy challenge to the United States but also to the broader international community, particularly our allies that are much closer to North Korea. And the United States continues to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Republic of Korea and Japan as they confront the threat that's posed by North Korea.

Q And on the Sony hack, what does the President think of the decision of Sony Pictures to pull the movie, to basically give in to the blackmail?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, this is a decision that Sony should make. This is a private company, these are artists who have created a film and it should be their decision about how and whether to release it. This is not a decision --

Q This was a decision made under duress. This was a decision that was made as the result of a direct threat. They clearly didn't want to pull this movie, but they were forced to.

MR. EARNEST: It's a decision that they should make -- a decision that they should make, not one that the federal government should be making. But I can say again, as a general matter, the United States stands squarely on the side of artists and companies that want to express themselves, and we believe that that kind of artistic expression is worthy of protection and is not something that should be subjected to intimidation just because you happen to disagree with the views.

Q But the intimidators won here, whether or not it's North Korea -- and I guess we'll find out officially soon, but regardless of who it was, they won. They succeeded. They wanted this movie pulled; the movie was pulled. I understand the government is not going to force Sony to go forward with the movie, but what do you make of that? This was a direct threat. This was an act of cyberterrorism, or whatever you want to call it. It worked. It succeeded.

MR. EARNEST: What we have seen, Jon, is we have seen that there has been destructive activity with malicious intent. And the administration believes that that activity merits an appropriate response from the United States. And that is -- this is something that is being investigated, and the appropriate response is something that is being carefully considered by members of the President's national security team.

Major.

Q So in part, this is a detective story. Is it fair to say that North Korea is a nation of interest in the investigation of the Sony hack?

MR. EARNEST: I'd refer you to the FBI and the Department of Justice on that question.

Q It's not even within your range to say that?

MR. EARNEST: I don't want to say anything that would be perceived by anybody as interfering in any way with their investigation. What I'm prepared to say at this point is to confirm that the National Security Division of the Department of Justice is working with the FBI to determine what happened and to determine who's responsible for it. And what I can

tell you is that investigation is progressing, but I don't have any more that I can say about it than that.

Q Is part of the problem that this could be somewhat murky and that the direct responsibility might not be a national -- nation state actor, but someone contracted or affiliated or financed through various means by a nation state actor, but the direct responsibility may lie elsewhere?

MR. EARNEST: I wouldn't want to speculate on this other than to confirm what I think is the premise of your question, which is that these kinds of investigations are extraordinarily complex because the issues at play here are necessarily murky, as you describe them. I would agree that that's an appropriate description of the circumstances here.

And that is why -- we've got a team of experts that's very focused on this. That's why I'm reluctant to get out ahead of what they're learning over the course of their investigation. And it's also why some of the senior members of the President's national security team have been meeting on a daily basis here at the White House to consider this matter and to consider the range of appropriate responses.

Q How would you describe the direct level of participation of the President in these meetings so far?

MR. EARNEST: So far, I can tell you that the President has -- is understandably interested in the conversations that are underway, and this is something that he's monitoring very closely himself.

Q Is he participating in these meetings, or has he to date?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have any presidential participation to read out at this point, but I can assure you this is something that has taken up some time on the President's schedule on a daily basis over the last several days at least.

Q To follow up on Jon's question, do you believe, as some in the artistic community have suggested, and it may be a larger corporate-culture conversation, that there could be broader repercussions from Sony's decision and what this illustrates the vulnerabilities are and the potential corporate consequences of a cyber attack?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I'm sympathetic to the very difficult decision that they had to make, and there are a lot of equities that they had to balance, both in terms of the way to release this movie, the way that it could be shown. I know that there was a reluctance from some of the movie theaters to commit to showing the film, and that certainly weighed on the decision that Sony had to make. So I'm sympathetic to that. But ultimately this is a decision that they had to make based on their own best interests and based on the freedom that they have to express themselves as artists.

And I can tell you that this administration and this President stand squarely on the side of a right to free expression, even when the expression of those views by some is considered to be offensive.

Q And I may be dense, but you described this as a national security matter. Can you flesh that out a little bit? Because to many of us -- maybe just me -- it looks like principally an economic security matter, or a matter of economics, commerce, artistic freedom, things like that. What is the broadly defined national security component of this from your perspective?

MR. EARNEST: Certainly, those elements apply here, that there is a financial impact of this activity. But what we saw here that is maybe not unprecedented but is certainly unique is that the activity that we've seen here is destructive with clear malicious intent. And it was carried out by, all appearances, a sophisticated actor. And that is something that, in the mind of the President, elevates this to the level of being a legitimate national security matter, and it's being investigated as such by the FBI and the Department of Justice. And that's why you've seen members of the President's national security team assembled to consider a range of responses that we believe at this point is appropriate.

Q Just to clear up one thing from yesterday -- you made mention of it. There was blowback from the Hill about this -- funding for an embassy. But there is an Interest Section building in Havana currently; rather large, somewhat spacious. Does the United States even need to construct a new embassy in Havana to facilitate the opening of diplomatic relations? You mentioned yesterday you're going to need appropriations for a new building, suggesting you might still need one. I'm just trying to figure out -- this is a rather large building there now. Can we do all the business that we intend to do there, and this is kind of a non-issue entirely?

MR. EARNEST: This is something that we'll have to evaluate as we begin the process of normalizing relations with Cuba. But as I mentioned yesterday and as you're pointing out now, there is already a substantial American diplomatic presence in Cuba and it resides at a significant structure that essentially is the American Interests Section there in Cuba, and there is business done on a daily basis with Cuban citizens. And obviously the range of engagement that American diplomats have with Cuban government officials will expand as a result of this decision and as a result of our efforts to begin to normalize relations with Cuba.

One of the leading proponents of this strategy of shutting off funding for the construction of an embassy and the appointment of an ambassador to Cuba is Senator Rubio of course. In thinking about this, it occurs to me that it seems odd that Senator Rubio would be reluctant and, in fact, actively seeking to block the appointment of an ambassador to Cuba when earlier this year he voted to confirm the ambassador to China that the President nominated his former colleague, Max Baucus -- who's

doing an excellent job representing the United States in China, I might add.

The other thing that I noticed is that in the context of those hearings, Senator Rubio said something that this administration wholeheartedly agrees with. Let me read it to you. (Laughter.) All right? Isn't this good?

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. EARNEST: I know. Be careful what you ask for.

Senator Rubio said, and I quote, "I think you'll find broad consensus on this committee and I hope in the administration" -- he does -- "that our embassy, the American embassy, should be viewed as an ally of those within the Chinese society that are looking to express their fundamental rights to speak out and to worship freely." We think the exact same thing can be said of the new American embassy in Cuba.

Q Last question. Since you intimated that this is your last briefing of the year, can I put on my calendar that President Obama will be the briefer tomorrow?

MR. EARNEST: You can put on your calendar that the President will convene his traditional end-of-the-year news conference tomorrow.

Q Very good.

Q Time?

MR. EARNEST: I believe it will be in the afternoon. We'll get some more details on the timing to you before the end of the day.

Q Glad I asked.

MR. EARNEST: There you go.

Mr. Dorning.

Q News you can use. Afternoon.

MR. EARNEST: There you go.

Q On the Russia sanctions, two questions. First, today, President Hollande of France is publicly raising the idea of easing up the sanctions. Is there some distance opening between the U.S. on these sanctions and European partners, or do we agree with him that maybe we should think about easing up on the sanctions?

MR. EARNEST: I'll say a couple things about that, Mike. The first is that we have said from the very beginning that the success of the sanctions regime depends upon the effective coordination and cooperation

of the United States with other members of the international community, including France, and we have worked very effectively with France and other countries to maximize the impact of this sanctions regime on ~~China~~ [Russia] and to focus the costs on the Russian economy without disadvantaging American businesses.

The second thing that I will point out is that after the latest ratcheting up of the sanctions regime that was announced at the NATO meeting earlier this fall, the President convened a news conference at the end of the NATO meeting and said that if Russia were to begin to live up to the commitments that they signed onto in Minsk and were to begin showing tangible evidence of their commitment to respecting the territorial integrity of a nation like Ukraine, that the President would be prepared to begin rolling back our sanctions regime.

So I didn't see the entirety of President Hollande's remarks, but based on the way that you described them, it sounds consistent with the sentiment that the President expressed earlier this fall.

Q Separately, a day before the President end-of-the-year news conference President Putin had his end-of-the-year news conference today. And he didn't sound like he was giving in. He was saying, we have to be ready in Russia for two years of economic downturn, and he compared what the U.S. is trying to do to Russia with the sanctions to trying to chain a bear and then rip out its teeth and claws. Is that what we're trying to do? And what do you read from his comments? It doesn't sound like someone who's giving in easily.

MR. EARNEST: Well, we're certainly aware of President Putin's comments. I can tell you that President Putin has repeatedly attempted to shift blame for the conflict in Ukraine and the internal problems that Russia is experiencing away from his own policies, both in his speeches and in the government-funded propaganda that is disseminated not only inside Russia but beyond its borders. The revisionist narrative of the crisis in Ukraine is deeply troubling but utterly unconvincing.

The United States has made clear repeatedly that it's the choices of Russian leaders and actions that Russian leaders have taken with respect to Eastern Ukraine that has caused this conflict in the first place. And it is in response to those destabilizing actions that the United States and the broader international community has imposed sanctions.

The other thing that I would point you to is what I said in response to the question about whether or not the President would sign the sanctions bill that's on his desk. What I noted is that we do believe that a diplomatic solution is one that will provide a lasting resolution to the conflict and help to promote growth and stability in Ukraine and in Russia. And I think that is pretty clear evidence about what our aims are here.

I don't think that President Putin's rather colorful imagery is at all an accurate description of either the situation or our goals. The

goal of the international community is to resolve this conflict in Eastern Ukraine. President Putin has repeatedly refused to take steps that even he has committed to, to try to resolve this conflict. And that is why the international community has acted to send a clear signal to President Putin that there will be economic consequences for his failure to respect basic international norms, including the territorial integrity of a neighboring country.

So the person with the most influence for resolving this situation is actually, and maybe even somewhat ironically, President Putin. If he lives up to these commitments and if he lives up to the international norms that are generally accepted across the globe, he can have some influence over the international community in terms of prompting the international community to start to roll back the sanctions regime that's been in place.

Q And logistically, when you say the President will sign the sanctions bill, is he going to do that today, do you know?

MR. EARNEST: I anticipate that that will be today, but we will let you know through the usual process of sending a pro forma notification.

Mr. Viquiera.

Q Thanks. If I could reframe Major's question -- how did the Sony case go from a case of corporate espionage to a national security threat?

MR. EARNEST: Again, because of the destructive activity with malicious intent that is evident from this situation. I know there have been reports about the substantial number of computers and other equipment that have been destroyed as a result of this attack. I think that's an indication that the intent of whatever this sophisticated actor is went beyond what you described, and it ventures into the territory of being destructive. And the President believes that that kind of behavior is consistent with a national security matter.

Q Was there one revelation, piece of evidence, discovery that led to this sort of escalation in rhetoric here? And does it go beyond Sony? Is that the implication? Is that what you've found?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, in terms of what's been found, I'm going to let the Department of Justice and the FBI speak to that.

Q Does it go beyond Sony?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, I'd refer you to the FBI and the Department of Justice. They're looking into -- among the other things that they're looking into is the scope of this activity. So you can ask them about that.

Q And finally, the 2:00 p.m. meeting the President has scheduled, is this on the agenda, this issue?

MR. EARNEST: This issue? No, I don't believe it is.

Chris.

Q I'm going to rephrase another question if I can, Josh. Sony -- and let's -- if we call this terrorism, whether it's something state-sponsored or it's cyber terror -- and I don't want to draw a direct analogy, but in the way that you've said many times from the podium that the U.S. is against ransom in the case of kidnappings because it encourages other kidnappings, is there a concern that Sony, in withdrawing "The Interview," might encourage further similar activity?

MR. EARNEST: Well, you did draw one analogy that I do think is appropriate, and I do think -- well, and I can actually say that it has influenced the way that we here at the White House and the way that this administration responds to these specific incidents.

Within the last year, Lisa Monaco, who's the President's top counterterrorism advisor, has stood up something called the Cyber Response Group. And she did that based on the recognition that our administration, and the U.S. government more generally, even predating this administration, has learned a lot about the appropriate way for us to respond to acts of terror and incidents of terrorism, or even threats of terrorism.

And Lisa identified something I think that is appropriate, which is that for a long time the risk of cyber-attacks was sort of siloed in a compartment of individuals that had extensive expertise as it relates to information technology and computer networks and the like. And what Lisa found is that it's useful for us to pool our knowledge in the same way that we pool the knowledge of a variety of agencies when responding to terror threats. And so what that allows for is it allows for different agencies to come together and sit around the table, literally -- these are members of intelligence community, military leaders, diplomatic leaders, law enforcement officials and homeland security officials -- to sit down and evaluate a problem.

This will allow us to have the kind of agile defense and response that's necessary when dealing with a threat like a cyber-attack. And this is consistent with the kind of response that this administration and, again, even the previous administration has honed in responding to threats from terror; that what's required is a quick evaluation of the problem and an effective, prompt, coordinated response. And so that's something that we have tried to deploy over the course of the last year to these specific situations.

Q But given the global economic reach of the movie industry, is there concern that giving the terrorists, the criminals what they wanted just encourages others to do the same?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think the truth is, Chris, I'm not sure exactly what this sophisticated actor was trying to accomplish. What's clear is that --

Q Well, they didn't want the movie shown.

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, I'm not in a position to identify who the sophisticated actor is, so it would be hard for me to ascribe any motive to an individual whom I do not know. What is clear, however, is that they did carry out destructive activity with malicious intent. And that is something that this administration takes very seriously. We view it as a legitimate national security matter. It's being investigated accordingly. And an appropriate response will be attendant as well.

Q A couple quick questions on the Secret Service report that's coming out. Jeh Johnson said today that already the Acting Director has made some changes, which we all know about, and that he's encouraging him to continue with those changes. Is there any urgency to name a permanent new director?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I suspect that the interim director probably feels some of that urgency.

Q Does the President or the White House feel the urgency?

MR. EARNEST: Well, certainly this is a very important job. And as I have said on a number of occasions, the President, the First Lady, and everybody here at the White House is appreciative of the commitment that Mr. Clancy has made in leaving his private sector job temporarily to come over here and to assume this very important responsibility at a really important time for the agency.

So his brief tenure so far has been characterized by the kind of professionalism and confidence that, frankly, is exactly what we all expected. So he is somebody that has a sterling reputation and he's lived up to it in the confines of his current role.

What I'll say is that we certainly do believe that having a permanent director in place is important, and that's why you've seen this independent panel that was stood up take very seriously their responsibilities. We'll be sure that their recommendations are carefully reviewed. But I don't have any update for you in terms of timing about when a new director would be appointed.

Q Last question. Secretary Johnson also said that -- obviously he's seen the report, reviewed the report -- that there are fundamental systemic issues with the Secret Service. Does the President feel he and his family are safe in the interim while these changes are going to be made?

MR. EARNEST: Well, as I mentioned earlier and on a number of occasions in briefings earlier this fall, the President does have confidence in the men and women of the Secret Service. These are

dedicated professionals with a lot of expertise who are willing to put their lives on the line to protect the President and his family. They also work hard to protect all of us, and that's certainly something that we're grateful for.

It is clear that some changes are needed. As you pointed out, Mr. Clancy is putting in place some of those changes, and we'll consider the recommendations from this independent panel of experts about additional changes that be necessary.

Ed.

Q Josh, given your transparency to Major about the news conference, any sense on early next year when the President would like to do a State of the Union?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have a date yet. I don't believe that the President has been invited yet by the Speaker of the House, who traditionally does that. I can tell you that there have already been some conversations about this. But we'll let you know as soon -- well, I guess the Speaker's office will let you know as soon as they have made a decision. But there's obviously a lot of coordination that goes on behind the scenes to make sure that we choose a date that's appropriate for the President's schedule but also appropriate for the schedule of the members of Congress who will be in attendance as well.

Q I want to go back to Sony. I know you said the White House does not want to dictate to Sony about what they should or shouldn't do. But the Daily Beast has gotten some emails that show that at least two Obama administration officials screened a rough cut of this movie, "The Interview," some months ago -- I believe back in June -- including the final scene that allegedly shows the dictator's head explode. And essentially, these administration officials felt, despite the sensitivity, it was okay to move forward. Can you, first of all, tell us what involvement the Obama administration had months ago in this film, and why you even got involved? Was it because you were concerned that this would become a big deal?

MR. EARNEST: No, Ed, there is no policy at the administration for screening films before they are released.

Q So that didn't happen?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I can tell you that there's no policy in place that requires this. I wouldn't be surprised, however -- and I think this is apparent in the emails that were released -- that administration officials were consulted about the film prior to its release at the request of officials from the company that was producing the movie.

Q I'm not suggesting you were dictating to them, but I'm saying you had an involvement months ago in this. So did this administration underestimate the impact this was going to have?

MR. EARNEST: No, because we would not have been in a position of dictating an outcome or dictating changes to a film.

Q Why get involved at all?

MR. EARNEST: We did so at the request of the company. So again, you had this private company that had come to administration officials seeking their input, and that was -- presumably that input was shared. But certainly nothing was dictated. And changes that were made to the film were made by the film's creators themselves; certainly nothing that was created by the administration.

Q And you make an important distinction that the President can't tell Sony, do this or don't this. But given the fact that they were twisting in the wind, the company, for several days about what to do, why didn't the company and other senior officials here speak out and say, look, whatever decision you make, you're an American company, we've got your back?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think the President was asked something along these lines in the interview he did with Jon's network just yesterday.

Q About theaters. And he said people should go to theaters. But what about the fact that --

MR. EARNEST: I think that is a pretty strong show of support for the artists who are making films these days.

Q I thought the context of the question was about the concern about terror threats out there.

MR. EARNEST: It was. But I think it was also a show of support for artists and others who are making films, including the artists who made this film, that they have a right to be able to express themselves and produce these kinds of movies, even if some people happen to find their brand of humor offensive.

Q Okay. I want to go to a last subject. On executive orders, executive actions. USA Today has taken a look, and you'll remember some months ago the President claimed that he was using executive orders "at the lowest rate in more than a hundred years." And then USA Today looked at the fine print and, yes, 195 executive orders less than Democratic and Republican predecessors. But when you add on 198 presidential memoranda, it actually turns out he's using a lot more executive action than his predecessors, right?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think there's no doubt that the President has sought to use his executive authority to move this country forward within the confines of the law, oftentimes in the face of congressional inaction. That I wouldn't disagree with.

Q But why did he make this public claim that there's this criticism that I'm acting on executive basis, and I'm doing that less -- the lowest level in a hundred years? That wasn't really true, right?

MR. EARNEST: It was true, because the level -- the number of executive orders that this President has issued is lower, as you pointed out, than executive orders that have been issues by many of his previous predecessors.

Q Presidential memoranda have essentially the same effect. It's called something different. But the fact of the matter is that he's taking a lot more executive action. Why would he --

MR. EARNEST: There is an important difference between executive orders and presidential memorandums. But I would not -- but I would grant the premise that the President has used every element at his disposal to try to move the country forward. And he has done that in a way that is consistent with the law, that is consistent with precedent, and is often carried out in the face of pretty rigid congressional obstruction.

Q And last one. What do you see as that distinction? I understand there are legal distinctions. But, big picture, what is the difference? Because both -- it's still executive action. So what is the big difference according to you or the President?

MR. EARNEST: Generally speaking, presidential memorandums -- presidential memoranda are associated with more technical issues and are often directives that are related to a subset of agencies. Executive orders, therefore, are more sweeping and often more impactful. But again, I would readily concede that this President has, using executive orders and presidential memoranda, used his executive authority to try to move the country forward as much as he possibly can.

And whether it's taking action on climate change, fixing -- adding some accountability to our broken immigration system, or even relaxing some of the failed trade restriction policies as it relates to Cuba, the President has taken a number of steps, using his executive authority, to move the country forward. And I recognize that this was something that was done over the objection of many members of Congress, but frankly, a lot of this was done because Congress was refusing to act.

Q But you just said executive orders usually are more sweeping, but in the case of immigration, which you would acknowledge was pretty sweeping, it was a presidential memorandum, not an executive order.

MR. EARNEST: That's correct.

Q So, by your definition -- I'm slightly confused. You said that executive orders are quite sweeping; the immigration one, which you acknowledged was sweeping, actually was not. So doesn't that make the point USA Today was trying to make, that no matter what you call it, he was kind of misleading people about how often he's using executive action?

MR. EARNEST: No, I think the President was being specific about the fact that his predecessors have issued far more executive orders than he has. I don't think anybody has ever made the case from here about this President, that he is not willing to use his executive authority to move the country forward. In fact, he has, and I think the numbers that you cite demonstrate a commitment to doing exactly that.

Thank you, Ed.

Mark.

Q Josh, yesterday President Obama issued another batch of pardons, and yet six years into his presidency he's issued far fewer pardons than nearly all of his predecessors over the last half-century. And I wonder if he feels that he's stingy with pardons, as some of his critics have said.

MR. EARNEST: The President and his administration take this issue very seriously. And we have had the opportunity to talk quite a bit about criminal justice reform over the last few months, and this is something that the President believes is critically important. One of the things that the President has done is sign into law the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. This was a bill that would address the unjust disparity between penalties for crack and powder cocaine, and this reflected some improvements in the way that the law is being carried out and the way that it's enforced.

What we have also seen is we have also seen some changes to the sentencing guidelines that have freed up judges to use more discretion when applying sentences and penalties. So we certainly have made some important progress in trying to address some of the current concerns that the President has identified about criminal justice reform. But the President believes that there is more work that can and should be done.

The good news is that there are some Republicans who believe that there is more work that can and should be done. And this would be one area where we would hope we could work with Republicans in the new year to make some progress on an issue that both Democrats and Republicans have identified. But I would anticipate the President will continue to use the clemency authority that he is granted under the Constitution to try to address some of these problems as well.

But I think ideally what we would try to do is try to fix some of these problems statutorily so we could fix them on the front end, and future Presidents won't have to resort to using their clemency authority to try to address some of these disparities that we see in the law.

Q Can you describe what his criteria are for granting pardons?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I'm sure there's a pretty legal description related to this that I wouldn't want to venture into.

Q Like he's President, he can grant a pardon to anyone he likes. (Laughter.)

MR. EARNEST: Well, as a factual matter, that is true. Let me follow up with you to see if I have some more specific guidance I can share with you about how these kinds of decisions are reached.

Q Perhaps I could ask him this tomorrow.

MR. EARNEST: Perhaps you could. (Laughter.)

Juliet.

Q Josh, buried in the spending bill was one provision affecting the consideration of the sage grouse and a couple of other grassland birds. The federal government is involved in extensive negotiation with 11 governors out West about what to do. Could you comment on how the White House views that provision and how it will affect what could be a very significant decision regarding endangered species?

MR. EARNEST: Once again, Juliet, this highlights the fact that the omnibus legislation that the President signed earlier this week is a genuinely compromise proposal. It includes some riders, like this one, that would essentially prohibit the Fish and Wildlife Service from issuing an endangered species act rule related to the sage grouse. That's not a rider that we believe is the right policy and certainly wasn't appropriate to include on a piece of legislation like this.

That said, this rider does nothing to stop the administration from continuing bipartisan work with the governors that you cited to put conservation measures in place with the aim of avoiding the need to list the greater sage grouse as threatened or endangered in the first place; that we can take some of these steps as it relates to conservation that would prevent them from reaching the point where they are threatened or endangered in the first place and that would obviously make it so that the Fish and Wildlife Service didn't have to issue this endangered species act rule.

In fact -- and this is where the good news comes in -- the bill contains funding that will enable the Department of Interior and the United States Department of Agriculture to continue their work to continue sage grouse habitat. The Fish and Wildlife Service will still be able to do the critical data collection and analysis work that's required to meet a court-ordered deadline to decide whether a listing is warranted under the Endangered Species Act.

So we certainly do not agree with this provision, but the bill does contain funding for the kinds of conservation measures that we believe will be important to protecting the sage grouse and hopefully preventing the need for any sort of Endangered Species Act rule to be implemented.

Olivier.

Q Josh, a couple for you. Under what circumstances would the President showcase his support for artists by screening this movie at the White House?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have any announcements about that now. As I think you know, the President is preparing to leave tomorrow night with his family to go to their traditional Hawaii holiday vacation trip. I know that he's looking forward to getting that time away. So I guess the point is I don't think we're going to be showing the film here anytime soon. But I wouldn't rule it out necessarily in the future.

Q And then -- and I apologize, I missed your briefing yesterday, so if this is well-trod ground just say so. But how will we know in six months, in a year, in 18 months, whether the President's overtures to Cuba have worked? Based on your own internal guidelines and your own internal criteria, are there very specific concrete deliverables? Can I look at the news out of Cuba in six months and say they've let those 53 released prisoners stay and continue their activities? Can I look at they've freed up the resort workers to keep more of the money they make in resorts that cater to Western European tourists, say? Are there things I can look at in six months, in a year, in a year and a half, to make that judgment?

MR. EARNEST: Well, the first thing I'll point out, and I think you're alluding to this in your question, is that the President acknowledged pretty directly that we're not going to see changes overnight in Cuba, that these kinds of broader social and political changes take time.

And that said, we certainly should have seen a lot more progress over the last 53 or 54 years since the embargo was put in place than we did see. And I think that is a reflection of the fact that that policy failed. That's why the President is advocating a different approach, one that emphasizes openness and engagement, and that focuses on empowering the Cuban people to assert more authority and to take more control over their daily lives and to try to bring about the kinds of political and social and economic changes that they would like to see in their own country. Ultimately, it should be their decision.

But I do think it's appropriate -- I do think it would be appropriate for us to evaluate the progress of the Castro regime when it comes to respecting basic human rights by watching how they treat political prisoners, particularly those who have recently been granted their release or soon will be released. There was talk, as the President mentioned yesterday, of the Cuban government taking steps that would allow their citizens greater access to the Internet and greater access to the kind of information that has in many other societies, including this one, succeeded in empowering citizens and individuals to take greater control over their own lives.

We saw specific commitments from the Castro regime to engage more deeply with both the United Nations and the International Committee for the Red Cross. The engagement and cooperation with those international institutions that champion human rights I think would be another legitimate way for us to evaluate their progress.

Now, the other thing that I'm confident the President would be quick to point out -- and maybe you'll have the opportunity to probe him on this tomorrow -- is that when we see this kind of change, it doesn't occur in a straight line. It wouldn't be uncommon for us to see a step forward, a step back, two steps forward, another step back. What we're looking at is over the longer term. And certainly we do anticipate that because of the strategy change, we will see the Cuban people become more empowered.

And we will also see that the U.S. policy toward Cuba will no longer be a distraction, and that our partners and allies in the Western Hemisphere who've previously come to us complaining about our policy toward Cuba can now spend more time talking to us about the Cuba government's policy toward its own people. That would be a welcome development. That would shine a light on the situation and put more pressure on the Castro regime to protect and advance the kind of basic human values that we have long championed in this country.

Mara.

Q Would you argue that the same thing has happened in China and Vietnam?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I certainly -- I think there is a clearer story to be told about Vietnam, that the progress that they have made has been important -- certainly not complete, and certainly not a long a straight a line, as I was describing to Olivier -- but we continue to believe that the progress, the economic progress that we've seen in Vietnam will lead to the kind of political and social progress that we have seen.

Again, this should be about the people of an individual country realizing their aspirations and having some say over how their country and their society is run. And it is the philosophy of this administration, as it has been of previous administrations, that greater openness, that greater engagement, that deeper economic ties facilitates the kinds of economic changes that often lead to the political and social changes that we believe are important, that reflects the kinds of values that we believe should take priority.

Q I know you think they will do it. I'm just wondering, in our experience so far, has that happened in China? I mean, to date.

MR. EARNEST: I mean, I think there are people who are probably better equipped to evaluate this than I am, but I do -- so I'll let somebody else pass judgment on that. I will say that I believe that the strategy that the President has pursued to engage them is clearly in our national security interest. That goes without saying. And I do think it

serves to put more pressure on the Chinese leadership to respect those basic universal human rights.

Again, as a result of the President's trip there, there was extensive coverage and debate about this that would not have occurred had the President not traveled to China. And again, there are a variety of ways to evaluate how much progress has been made and whether that progress is lasting. And I think, again, we're not going to see that kind of progress travel along a straight line, but the President does retain a lot of confidence in the strategy that it's worked in many other places too.

Justin.

Q A couple of Sony. The first is, I know you mentioned the cybersecurity legislation. Back in 2012, the administration was pretty active in lobbying for this up on Capitol Hill. There was a series of classified briefings for lawmakers. Since then, kind of overtly, you guys have said that you've shifted towards kind of trying to handle it administratively. But since you mentioned it to Christi, as much as I'm sure you've had great success calling for Congress to do things from behind the podium, I'm wondering if there's additional work that you're going to do on this issue with Congress in the new session, nd also if Congress is being briefed right now on kind of the developments of the investigation.

MR. EARNEST: Justin, we do retain hope that advancing cybersecurity legislation in the new year can be a bipartisan pursuit. As I mentioned earlier, there's no reason that there should be divisions along party lines when it comes to an issue that's important.

I can understand given the complexity of the issue that there might be differences of opinion on this, but they shouldn't break down along partisan lines. We shouldn't allow partisan differences to interfere with our ability to tackle something that's this complex, but yet at the same time, that's this important to the country. So I certainly would hope that we would see some bipartisan movement on this in the new year.

The steps that we have taken on our own using the President's executive authority were done out of necessity. And there is also a need for Congress to act here, and we hope that they will recognize that and take action in the new year.

As it relates to your other question, it is not uncommon at all for the administration to work closely with Congress as we confront these kinds of situations related to cyber-attacks. So I don't know of any specific conversations that have occurred, but that is part of the standard operating procedure when it comes to these matters.

Q And since you've mentioned differences of opinion, I know it will shock you to hear that Senator John McCain has been critical of the administration's response to the cyber hack. He said that because you guys haven't responded so far that you're effectively yielding to the

hackers, and that you also kind of created the window by not responding sooner for Sony to have to make a decision on pulling the movie. So I'm wondering if you could respond to that, but also if there's any concern that by maybe slow-walking this investigation to some extent that this window has been --

MR. EARNEST: I don't think there's any evidence to suggest that this investigation has not moved at the pace that is appropriate. This is a matter that the President takes very seriously. This is a matter that the National Security Division of the Department of Justice and the FBI take very seriously, and they've been conducting the kind of investigation that you would expect them to do in light of the fact that this is considered by the administration to be a serious national security matter.

And it would be inappropriate to get ahead of that investigation to start publicly discussing what our response is going to be, particularly in light of the fact that I'm confident that at least some of the measures that will be considered as a response are the kinds of things we wouldn't want to telegraph in advance. So what you have seen is a very professional approach to dealing with this situation, and that reflects the seriousness with which we believe this issues should be confronted.

Zeke, I'm going to put a lot of pressure on you, man, and give you the last question of the year. (Laughter.) So make it a good one.

Q I got to rethink this now. So, still on Sony. You said that White House officials are contemplating a response and that response needs to be proportional. How do they -- who are they contemplating responses against? Is there an array of potential perpetrators that we're working off of? Are they sort of shooting blindly from the hip who is behind it, or do you actually have a culprit in mind and you're just not telling us?

MR. EARNEST: You're asking a very good question, and it illustrates why it's necessary for us to allow the investigation to make some more progress before we start talking publicly about the range of options that are being considered.

Q Then why do you keep talking about the range of options that are being considered? Isn't that then premature, what you've just before in that if you're not comfortable talking about who's behind it, why are you talking about the response?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I guess because I'm not talking -- I think I've been pretty candid about the fact that I'm not talking in a lot of detail about what our response is going to be.

What I am suggesting, though -- and I think this is because of the activity that we have seen -- is that we believe an appropriate response is warranted. And that is why we have begun the process of considering the range of appropriate responses. But any more information about the range of appropriate responses will not be provided until more information about the investigation has been nailed down.

Q And just in terms of having a counterattack, that's not something that you would do normally when there's a criminal ring behind this. Is that an indication that, when you say significant actor, that is something larger than what we've seen, very large cyber-attacks at -- whether the American businesses that have seen large numbers of credit card numbers stolen or other intellectual property stolen before -- that this is a step beyond that? This is not -- you're not going to go carry out counter-cyber-attacks against a band of cybercriminals somewhere overseas? This is different. Are you indicating that this a larger actor here?

MR. EARNEST: Well, let me try to answer your question as best I can. I think the direct answer to your question is, no. What I -- I described him as a sophisticated actor, which does not necessarily describe their size, but it does describe their level of, well, sophistication. (Laughter.) And so that is what we're focused on.

And the other thing -- the other line that I would draw here is that you cited previous incidents in which we saw other sophisticated actors take actions related to cyber theft. And you've seen public reports that some people believe that acts of cyber theft have been committed by both state actors as well as more conventional criminal rings. I'm not going to speculate at this point about which category this one falls into, other than to say cyber theft is treated differently by this administration than something that is -- than an activity that is destructive with a malicious intent. And because of that, that destructive activity with malicious intent that we've seen, we consider this to be a serious national security matter.

So, Alexis, I'll give you the last one.

Q Can I just follow on that? Zeke was asking something that struck me, and that is, last night the NSC's statement talked about the government working hard to bring "the perpetrators to justice." That is not what you're saying here today. You're saying that you're looking for a range of options proportional to what has occurred. So just to follow on what Zeke was saying, did something happen between the statement last night and the knowledge today that left justice, which reflects crime, out of your commentary?

MR. EARNEST: Well, no. I think you might be over-reading the statement a little bit. I don't think that justice necessarily only refers to crime. After all, it's the National Security Division of the Department of Justice that is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to review this matter. So I wouldn't suggest any sort of change in policy or perspective based on last night's statements and my extensive statements here today.

Q -- more facts, a set of facts?

MR. EARNEST: Correct.

Q Okay.

MR. EARNEST: Okay. Thanks, everybody. Happy New Year, everybody.

END 2:15 P.M. EST

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Message

From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
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Subject: President Obama Announces More Key Administration Posts

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2016

President Obama Announces More Key Administration Posts

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate the following individual to a key Administration post:

- **Christopher E. O'Connor** – Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs

President Obama also announced his intent to appoint the following individuals to key Administration posts:

- **Tamara L. Lundgren** – Member, Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations
- **Inge G. Thulin** – Member, Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations
- **Naseem Kourosh** – Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- **Barbara Satin** – Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- **Manjit Singh** – Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- **Jack Martin Brandt** – Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- **Dan Habib** – Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- **Michelle C. Reynolds** – Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- **Ricardo Thornton, Sr.** – Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- **Rev. Thomas J. Reese, S.J.** – Member, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
- **John Ruskay** – Member, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom

President Obama said, "These fine public servants bring a depth of experience and tremendous dedication to their important roles. I look forward to working with them."

President Obama announced his intent to nominate the following individual to a key Administration post:

Christopher E. O'Connor, Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs
Christopher E. O'Connor is Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Previously, he served as Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs from 2010 to 2015. Mr. O'Connor served in various roles in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1979 to 2009, including Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar from 2006 to 2009 and Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps from 2004 to 2006. He served with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing as Assistant Wing Commander from 2003 to 2004 and as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations from 2002 to 2003 in Okinawa, Japan. Mr. O'Connor received a B.A. from the University of Rochester and an M.A. from The George Washington University.

President Obama announced his intent to appoint the following individuals to key Administration posts:

Tamara L. Lundgren, Appointee for Member, Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations
Tamara L. Lundgren is the President and Chief Executive Officer at Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., a position she has held since 2008. She first joined Schnitzer Steel Industries Inc. as Chief Strategy Officer in 2005. Ms. Lundgren was a Managing Director at JPMorgan Chase in London and New York from 2001 to 2004 and a Managing Director at Deutsche Bank AG in New York and London from 1996 to 2001. She was a partner at Hogan & Hartson LLP in Washington, D.C from 1995 to 1996. Since 2015, Ms. Lundgren has served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Ryder System, Inc., Parsons Corporation, and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Portland Branch. Ms. Lundgren received a B.A. from Wellesley College and a J.D. from the Northwestern University School of Law.

Inge G. Thulin, Appointee for Member, Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations
Inge G. Thulin is Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of 3M Company, positions he has held since 2012. He held a number of executive and managerial roles at 3M since 1979, including Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer from 2011 to 2012, Executive Vice President of International Operations from 2003 to 2011, and Vice President of the Company's Europe and Middle East areas from 2002 to 2003. Mr. Thulin is a member on various boards, including Chevron Corporation, World Childhood Foundation, The Business Council, Business Roundtable, and the Council on Foreign Relations. He previously served as a member on the Board of Directors of the Toro Company. Mr. Thulin received a B.A. and M.B.A. from University of Gothenburg.

Naseem Kourosh, Appointee for Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
Naseem Kourosh is the Human Rights Officer at the U.S. Bahá'í Office of Public Affairs, a position she has held since 2011. In this position, Ms. Kourosh defends the rights of persecuted Bahá'í communities, works to advance international religious freedom, and engages with colleagues and partners in discourse and advocacy around human rights issues. Before joining the U.S. Bahá'í Office of Public Affairs, she practiced commercial litigation at law firms in New York City, clerked at the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, and worked with several human rights

organizations. Ms. Kourosh received a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from the New York University School of Law.

Barbara Satin, Appointee for Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
Barbara Satin is the Assistant Faith Work Director for the National LGBTQ Task Force. She is an active member of the United Church of Christ and served on the denomination's Executive Council as its first openly transgender member. Ms. Satin recently worked on the development of Spirit on Lake, a LGBTQ senior housing project in Minneapolis. She served on the Board of Directors for OutFront Minnesota from 2001 to 2008 and has served as Chair of GLBT Generations since 1999. She has also served on the Board of Directors of PFund Foundation, a regional LGBTQ community foundation advancing social justice in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin, since 2013.

Manjit Singh, Appointee for Member, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
Manjit Singh is the President of Agilious, a software technology consulting firm she founded in 2013. He is also co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, a national Sikh American media, policy, and education organization. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Guru Gobind Singh Foundation and also as a Member-at-Large on the Board of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington. Mr. Singh received an M.S. from the State University of New York at Albany and a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Bombay, India.

Jack Martin Brandt, Appointee for Chair, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Jack Brandt is the Disability Policy Specialist for the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University, a position he has held since 2010. Mr. Brandt was a Disability Rights Advocate at the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy from 2008 to 2010, and a Disability Policy Consultant for the State of Virginia from 2006 to 2008. He was a Governor's Fellow at Virginia's Office of Community Integration for People with Disabilities in 2006. Mr. Brandt has served on the Virginia Community Integration Advisory Commission since 2011 and on the Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council from 2006 to 2012. He received the Colorado Award from the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services in 2013, the Participatory Action Research Award from The Arc of the U.S. in 2012, and the Jackie Crews Award for Excellence in Leadership from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities in 2006. He was first appointed as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities in 2010. Mr. Brandt received a B.A. from James Madison University and an M.S. from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dan Habib, Appointee for Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Dan Habib is a Filmmaker and Project Director of the Inclusive Communities Project at the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability, where he has worked since 2008. Mr. Habib has held a few positions at *Concord Monitor* from 1998 to 2008, including Photography Editor, freelance photographer, and Staff Photographer. Mr. Habib created a nationally broadcasted film about his son, *Including Samuel*. He received the Humanitarian Service Award from the University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science, and the Arts in 2015 and the Justice for All Grassroots

Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities in 2013. He was first appointed as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities in 2014. Mr. Habib received a B.A. from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Michelle C. Reynolds, Appointee for Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Dr. Michelle C. Reynolds is a Research Associate with the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) Institute for Human Development, Missouri's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, a position she has held since 1997. At UMKC, Dr. Reynolds serves as the Director of the Individual Advocacy and Family Support and Missouri Family-to-Family Disability Resource Center. She holds various leadership positions with the National Community of Practice for Supporting Families of Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and Missouri's Family-to-Family Health Information Center. She was first appointed as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities in 2014. Dr. Reynolds received a B.A. and M.A. from Rockhurst University and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Ricardo Thornton, Sr., Appointee for Member, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Ricardo Thornton, Sr. has worked at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library in Washington, D.C. since 1978. Mr. Thornton is a member of Project ACTION!, a coalition of adults with disabilities. He is a member of the D.C. Developmental Disabilities Council, serves on the Special Olympics Board of Directors, and an actor with the theatre group Players Unlimited. Mr. Thornton and his wife Donna were the subjects of *Profoundly Normal*, a made-for-TV movie. In 1997, he was selected by *The Washingtonian* as a Washingtonian of the Year. He was first appointed as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities in 2014.

Rev. Thomas J. Reese, S.J., Appointee for Member, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
Rev. Thomas J. Reese, S.J. is a Senior Analyst for the National Catholic Reporter, where he has worked since 2005. Rev. Reese was Editor-in-Chief of *America* magazine from 1998 to 2005 and an associate editor from 1978 to 1985. Additionally, Rev. Reese was a Senior Fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center from 2006 to 2013 and from 1988 to 1998. Rev. Reese entered the Jesuits in 1962 and was ordained in 1974. He was first appointed to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in 2014. Rev. Reese received a B.A. and M.A. from St. Louis University, an M.Div. from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. John Ruskay, Appointee for Member, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom
Dr. John Ruskay is a partner at JRB Consulting Services, a position he has held since 2014. Dr. Ruskay is currently the Executive Vice President-Emeritus of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, where he previously served as Executive Vice President & CEO from 1999 to 2014. He began his tenure at the UJA Federation working in a variety of roles in 1993 including Chief Operating Officer, Group Vice President for Program Services, and Executive Director for Education and Community Services. From 1985 to 1993, Dr. Ruskay served as the Vice Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. From 1980 to 1985, he was the Education Director of the 92nd Street Y. Dr. Ruskay received a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University.

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From: White House Press Office [noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
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Subject: Background Conference Call on the Vice President's Upcoming Trip to Brazil, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release June 15, 2014

BACKGROUND CONFERENCE CALL

ON THE VICE PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING TRIP

TO BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Via Telephone

4:30 P.M. EDT

MS. PIETRANTON: Good afternoon, everyone. Thanks for joining us on Father's Day. This conference call is to discuss the Vice President's trip to Brazil, Colombia and the Dominican Republic. The call is on background and our speakers should be referred to as senior administration officials. They'll speak for a few minutes, and then take some questions.

With that, I'll turn it over to our first speaker.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thank you, everyone, for joining us on Father's Day, to the fathers out there. I'll just take a few minutes to walk through the context and the stops on the trip, and then we'd be happy to take a few of your questions.

The Vice President's trip, which starts tomorrow morning, will take him to Brazil, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. And we've now added a fourth stop in Guatemala on June 20th at the end of the trip, which I'll talk more about during these comments.

This will be the Vice President's second visit to the region this year, his eighth visit since 2009. And it's part of what has been one of the most sustained periods of high-level activity in the Western

Hemisphere by any administration in recent memory -- a period that has included the President's February 19th visit to Mexico for the North American Leaders Summit, a May 12th Oval Office meeting with Uruguayan President José Mujica, and the Vice President's March trip to Chile for the inauguration of President Michelle Bachelet, as well as a number of calls and meetings between the Vice President and regional leaders.

You've all seen our stepped-up pace of engagement, but I think it's really worth underscoring the unprecedented nature and level of engagement by this administration to advance our relationships with our friends and partners in the region, and also to underscore the active pace of engagement behind the scenes that the Vice President and President had been undertaking.

Just this past week, the Vice President had his second meeting with members of Congress to consult on a range of issues related to the region, both ongoing challenges as well as the enormous opportunities that the region presents for advancing the shared agenda. And whether it's consulting with the President of Chile, Mexico, and Peru to work to conclude the Transpacific Partnership negotiations, or working with the Cabinet to advance the agenda of the U.S.-Mexico high-level economic dialogue, the Vice President, the President, and a range of senior officials at the White House have been deeply engaged in trying to pursue a very ambitious agenda related to Latin America and the Caribbean. And that is fundamentally because the President and the Vice President believe that we have to be centrally committed to the project in building a hemisphere that is middle class, secure and democratic, from Canada to Chile and everywhere in between.

So just to walk through each of the stops on this trip -- on June 16th, tomorrow, the Vice President will make his second visit to Brazil in as many years. He will fly to Natal to watch the U.S.-Ghana match, and I suppose everybody can probably guess which side he will be rooting for. He will then fly on to Brasilia, where, on June 17th, he will meet with President Dilma Rousseff and Vice President Temer. The Vice President and President Rousseff last met in Chile in March, and spoke by phone on May 8th. He has great respect for both President Rousseff and Vice President Temer, and looks forward to the meeting.

The Vice President sees this as an important opportunity to consult on the full range of issues on our bilateral agenda on everything from energy and economics, to science and technology, to regional and global issues. And the fact that he is making this trip at this time is a reflection of the importance that the President and the Vice President place on moving the U.S.-Brazil relationship forward. They both see -- both the President and the Vice President see a great opportunity to continue building a global partnership between two strong, diverse democracies, and it will be a full agenda when he arrives in Brasilia on Tuesday. And we'll look forward to reading out those meetings after they take place.

We'll arrive in Bogota, Colombia on the evening of June 17th, two days after the June 15th presidential run-off election. The Vice President wanted to do this to demonstrate to the Colombian government and to the people of Colombia that the United States will always be first in line to support their aspirations. He looks forward to following up on his numerous discussions with President Santos on finding new ways to advance the bilateral partnership, whether it's on economic or security matters, on energy cooperation, and the range of other issues that Colombia and the United States are (inaudible.)

This will be the Vice President's first trip to the Dominican Republic, and while he is there, the Vice President and President Medina will have a number of issues to discuss both bilaterally and regionally. More than 1.5 million Dominicans and their descendants live in the United States. Over 250,000 U.S. citizens live in the Dominican Republic. And about a million and a half U.S. tourists visit every year. And as a signatory of the Central American Dominican Republic FTA, we enjoy close trade ties with the DR.

The Dominican Republic is a Caribbean country, but it also currently holds the presidency of SICA, the Central American Integration System, which provides an opportunity for the Vice President to discuss issues of a regional character, whether it's energy security or our joint efforts to combat transnational crime. And during his visit there, he'll place special emphasis on the energy security throughout the Caribbean, bringing with him some new ideas on how the United States can contribute to advancing the -- or improving the energy picture across the Caribbean.

And then finally, on Friday, the Vice President will travel to Guatemala where he will meet with President Pérez Molina, and he will also meet with President Sánchez Cerén of El Salvador and the senior representative of the Honduran government, Coordinator General Jorge Ramón Hernández Alcerro, to address the rise and flow of unaccompanied children to the United States, to discuss our security and economic support for the countries of Central America, and more generally, to increase our cooperation in the region.

And on the issue of unaccompanied children, let me just say a few words. The surge of unaccompanied Central American children crossing the U.S.-Mexican border is an issue of great concern to us. The children making this long journey are some of the most vulnerable individuals, and many become victims of violent crime and sexual abuse. We're seeing growing numbers of children under 12 and girls in the latest surge. Our top priority is to manage this urgent humanitarian situation.

The entire U.S. administration is engaged in addressing the situation and making sure these children are housed, fed and receive necessary medical treatment. But at the same time, we also realize that crucial importance of stemming the tide of migration. And here we see two primary factors -- first, the sustained violence in Central America, and the lack of economic opportunities there, second.

There are also then some reports about the misperception of U.S. immigration policy. As Secretary Johnson made clear yesterday, these migrant children are not eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, what's called the DACA process, or pending immigration legislation. We ask families and communities to think twice before sending their children on this very dangerous journey. This is an important factor in thinking about how to address this problem.

The Vice President will be making this trip to Guatemala to discuss both the violence and economic opportunity side, and the misperceptions of the U.S. immigration policy. We're looking for ways to enhance our existing work with those countries to address some of the root causes (inaudible.) And while we provide humanitarian relief to these children in the short term, unaccompanied immigrant minors are still going through removal proceedings just like anyone that crosses the border without proper documentation. Each case is evaluated individually and handled on a case-by-case basis.

So while he's there in Guatemala, he will emphasize that illegal immigration is not safe; that putting your child in the hands of a criminal smuggling organization is not safe. And he will make clear that the recently arriving children are not eligible for DACA or earned citizenship provisions in current immigration reform legislation. The bottom line is that it's not worth subjecting children to a perilous journey when, at the end of the day, there is no light at the end of the tunnel.

So with that, let me open it up for questions. And I will ask my colleagues to jump in to help provide comprehensive answers. Thank you.

Q Just wondering if you guys know the percentage of people who are coming across the border or unaccompanied children versus families with adults.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm sorry, I didn't understand the question. Could you repeat that question?

Q The question is, the administration is talking about unaccompanied minors, unaccompanied children crossing the border, but various reports suggest that the flow of unaccompanied minors are mostly older teenagers, and they're only one-third of the new flow coming across the border. Do you know what percentage of people coming across the border these days are adults rather than unaccompanied minors? These are the people coming from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't have the precise numbers in front of me on that, and you'll have to go to the Department of Homeland Security and others to get an answer to that. So I'd refer you to them unless one of my other colleagues has something they'd like to add at this point.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think the Department of Homeland Security is the best place to have those precise statistics. Thanks.

Q If you could just go over again the name of the speaker and the rules for attribution on this. I'm dialing in on this a little bit late.

And my question was, will Cuba come up in this visit with several countries near Cuba, including the Dominican Republic? And is the administration considering changing U.S. policy or opening up some trade with Cuba? Thanks.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Just on that first issue, this call is on background, sourced to senior administration officials. And in answer to the question on Cuba, let me turn it to my colleague.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thanks. Cuba comes up very much as part of our dialogue with countries throughout the Americas, so we anticipate that it will be a subject of discussion in all of our stops -- probably less so in Central America, where we're going to be more focused on an ongoing crisis involving the movement of children through the region.

But in the case of Cuba I think it's important to say from the outside that the United States has made clear that we're interested in having a more constructive relationship with the Cuban government. We remained very concerned about the lack of respect to democracy and human rights that Cuba has demonstrated this week through the arrest of a large number of dissidents and other figures. But at the same time, it's been very clear that what is going to promote positive change in Cuba is empowering the Cuban people to have access to more resources and information. U.S. policy from the beginning of the President -- of Obama's administration has been focused on doing exactly that.

In the case of our work in the region, certainly there is a desire to have Cuba more fully included in the Inter-American system. We share that desire. We want Cuba to be able to be part of the Inter-American system as a democratic country. And we are working with countries that do have a core commitment to democracy to ensure that they are also doing what they can to promote reform and increase respect for human rights in Cuba.

Q So I was trying to clarify -- can you tell us again the name of the Honduran official who the Vice President is going to be meeting with? And also, what is he bringing to these countries as part of any sort of plan to deal with the unaccompanied minor issue? Is the U.S. offering money, grants, assistance, law enforcement assistance -- any sort of carrot?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: On the issue of what he's bringing, we'll have more information to provide over the course of the next few days. So stay tuned on that front.

This is fundamentally meant in a cooperative spirit, where the United States wants to do its part to address some of the root causes of both the violence and the lack of economic opportunity. And that would build on the Central American Regional Security Initiative and the various economic initiatives that we have been pursuing.

Q So there will a source of aid, but just -- you're not ready to announce it yet at this point?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think you can anticipate that the Vice President will talk about the ways that the United States can enhance its support to these countries. But I don't want to get into more details now. We will provide more details as the week goes on. So that's number one.

Q I just wanted to ask you -- I know this call is about this visit, but while he's on the visit, since he'll be in the public eye, will he be making any remarks about the situation in Iraq? And does he have any new comments -- now about the situation in Iraq and any steps the U.S. is prepared to take?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Nothing for me to share on this call, but I think you can anticipate as the week unfolds that he'll be speaking to this issue -- to the Iraq issue.

In terms of the name of the Honduran official, it is their Coordinator General, Jorge Ramón Hernández. The President of Honduras will actually be in Brazil for the World Cup matches. In fact, I think as we speak right now Honduras is playing one of its matches and will have another one later in the week.

Let me turn it to my colleague.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So just a little further on Central America -- so the President was in Costa Rica last year, in May of 2013, to meet with the leaders of Central America. And there, a great deal of the focus was on ways for -- to take on a competitiveness in Central America. And as my colleague said at the top of the call, there's a variety of factors involved here. A major one is the very low economic growth the unfortunately has been a factor in the region.

So certainly we're looking at what we can do to cooperate as partners with this particular issue, but also what we can do to address the long-term development of Central America. And that's a subject of great interest not only on the part of the administration, but also on the part of the U.S. Congress and of other governments in the region with which we've worked to address matters like infrastructure, energy costs in Central America and so forth. So there is both the immediate issue and then the long-term process that we want to start moving towards.

And in addition to the security and economic side, it is important to underscore, as I did in my opening comments, that another element to this

is addressing this perception about U.S. immigration policy, which the Vice President will also do.

Q How is the Vice President going to address the unaccompanied minor issue when he's in Guatemala? Is he going to be making any public appearances or statements? Or will there just be press conferences? How is he going to tell parents in Latin America not to send their kids?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So the Vice President will obviously have intensive consultations with the leaders to discuss the crisis and to engage on ways forward to dealing with it. And while he's there, we anticipate he will have the opportunity to speak publicly to the issue, but I don't want to get in front of him with his statements.

I would just say that some of the observations and comments I made in my opening remarks will be consistent with the kind of messages you'll hear from him while he is there; that in addition to issues related to security and economics and misperceptions about U.S. immigration policy, there's simply the fundamental issue that illegal immigration is not safe. Putting your child in the hands of a criminal smuggling organization is not safe, and it is not worth subjecting children to a perilous journey when there is no light at the end of the tunnel. But at the same time, the United States wants to work very closely with the governments of the region to try to make life better for these families and children in all of the countries of Central America.

Q I had a couple of questions. One is -- so it sounds like -- I believe there are three countries that are considered primarily responsible for the current surge: Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Is there something planned with regard to El Salvador? Is there a reason he's not visiting if, in fact, he's not visiting on this trip? And also, can you say if any of these actions are in any in response to some requests from Congress, including a letter that was sent out last week to the President asking that he and other high-level administration officials send a clearer message that these children that are coming across the border are not eligible for any exceptional relief? Thanks.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: As I said in my opening remarks, the President of El Salvador, President Sanchez Cerén, will actually be in Guatemala for these meetings, along with the senior representative of the Honduran government, the Coordinator General, who is very close with the Honduran President and will come in his stead, because the President of Honduras will be in Brazil. So you will have senior representatives, leaders from all three countries be able to sit around the table with the Vice President to deal with these issues.

And then with respect to members of Congress, the Vice President, as a former member, he takes what they have to say very seriously. And we've had intensive consultations with Congress over the last several days, and consider dealing with this challenge a partnership with Congress. So we certainly consider their role important in all of this. The Vice

President had the chance to speak directly to a number of both senators and representatives here at the White House. And I anticipate that as he heads down to Guatemala, and then after he returns, he will continue intensive engagement with folks on the Hill.

I don't know if my colleague wants to add anything.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I just wanted to say this is only the latest of the highest level of engagement with the leaders of those countries on this topic. We've had very high-level interaction with the Presidents from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala for more than two months on this particular issue. Leaders in Central America have also, in their dealing with their own populations, have mentioned that they view this as a very serious problem, and have warned against this dangerous illegal migration as well in their own work.

We have also ensured that the Secretary of Homeland Security and -- has also engaged with the leaders of Mexico, which is working very closely with us to address this issue. So this is only the latest, and it's a clear sign of the importance that we place on this and our determination to find a solution that will prevent this dangerous travel.

END 4:55 P.M. EDT

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Subject: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE INITIATIVE TO COMBAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN HOUSING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018

NOTE: U.S. Attorney PSA in English and Spanish (mp3 links at bottom of page)

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE INITIATIVE TO COMBAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN HOUSING

WASHINGTON — Today, as the Department of Justice recognizes the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the nationwide rollout of an initiative aimed at increasing awareness and reporting of sexual harassment in housing. The announcement includes an interagency task force between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Justice Department to combat sexual harassment in housing, an outreach toolkit, and a public awareness campaign. This three-pronged approach will strengthen the Department's efforts to combat sexual harassment in housing.

"Sexual harassment in housing is illegal, immoral, and unacceptable," said Attorney General Sessions. "It is all too common today, as too many landlords, managers, and their employees attempt to prey on vulnerable women. We will not hesitate to pursue these predators and enforce the law. In October, I ordered a new initiative to bring more of these cases, and we have already won relief for 15 victims. Today we announce three new steps to make the initiative more effective and to win more cases. I want to thank the dedicated and committed professionals in our Civil Rights Division and our partners in the Department of Housing and Urban Development for their hard work in this effort. We will continue to aggressively pursue harassers, because everyone has a right to be safe in their home."

"All discrimination stains the very fabric of our nation, but HUD is especially focused on protecting the right of everyone to feel safe and secure in their homes, free from unwanted sexual harassment," said Secretary Ben Carson. "No person should have to tolerate unwanted sexual advances in order to keep a roof over his

or her head. Part of our mission at HUD is to provide safe housing and we will remain diligent in this mission to protect those we serve. I look forward to working with Attorney General Sessions and the Department of Justice as part of this task force to bring an end to this type of discrimination."

In October 2017, the Justice Department announced an initiative to combat sexual harassment in housing and launched pilot programs in Washington, D.C. and the Western District of Virginia. The initiative sought to increase the Department's efforts to protect women from harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, security guards, and other employees and representatives of rental property owners. During the pilots, the Department developed and tested ways to better connect both with victims of sexual harassment in housing and with those organizations that victims may turn to first for help – including law enforcement, legal services providers, public housing authorities, sexual assault services providers, and shelters. The Department also tested certain aspects of the initiative in other jurisdictions, including New Jersey, the Central District of California, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Michigan.

The two pilot programs generated an upswing in harassment reporting to the Department from both D.C. and the Western District of Virginia. In D.C., the Department generated six leads since the October 2017 launch. In Virginia, the Department generated three leads. While the Justice Department recognizes that leads and investigations do not always lead to enforcement actions, the pilot program's results—when extrapolated across all the U.S. Attorney's Offices across the country—could lead to hundreds of new reports of sexual harassment in housing across the country.

Because of these promising results, the Department is rolling out three major components to the Initiative.

First, the new HUD-DOJ Task Force to Combat Sexual Harassment in Housing will drive a shared strategy between the Department and HUD for combatting sexual harassment in housing across the country. It will focus on five key areas: continued data sharing and analysis, joint development of training, evaluation of public housing complaint mechanisms, coordination of public outreach and press strategy, and review of federal policies.

Second, the outreach toolkit is designed to leverage the Justice Department's nationwide network of U.S. Attorney's Offices. The toolkit provides templates, guidance, and checklists based on pilot program feedback. It ultimately will amplify available enforcement resources and help victims of sexual harassment connect with the Department.

Third, the public awareness campaign has three major components: a partnership package with relevant stakeholders, launch of a social media campaign, and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) run by individual U.S. Attorney's offices. The campaign is specifically designed to raise awareness, and make it easier for victims all over the country to find resources and report harassment.

More information about the Civil Rights Division and the civil rights laws it enforces is available at www.usdoj.gov/crt. Individuals who believe that they may have been victims of sexual harassment in housing should call the Department at 1-844-380-6178, send an e-mail to fairhousing@usdoj.gov, or contact HUD at 1-

800-669-9777. If you have information or questions about any other housing discrimination, you can contact the Department at 1-800-896-7743.

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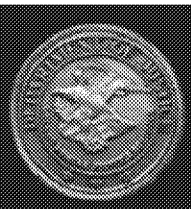

THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019

PROMINENT GLOBAL LAW FIRM AGREES TO REGISTER AS AN AGENT OF A FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

Civil Settlement Resolves Department of Justice National Security Inquiry into Violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act

WASHINGTON -- Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has entered into a settlement agreement with the Department of Justice, resolving its liability for violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), announced Assistant Attorney General for National Security John Demers.

According to the Agreement, Skadden acted as an agent of the Government of Ukraine within the meaning of FARA, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.*, by contributing to a public relations campaign directed at select members of the U.S. news media in 2012. Moreover, in 2012 and 2013, Skadden received multiple inquiries from the Department's FARA Registration Unit about its role in that campaign. A partner then at Skadden made false and misleading statements to the FARA Unit, which led it to conclude in 2013 that the firm was not obligated to register under FARA. The facts, when uncovered, showed that Skadden was indeed required to register in 2012, and, under the Agreement, it will do so retroactively.

"Law firms should handle inquiries from the federal government the same way they would counsel their clients to: with appropriate due diligence to ensure the honesty of their response," said Assistant Attorney General Demers. "Skadden's failure to do so, and reliance on only the representations of the lead partner on the matter, hid from the public that its report was part of a Ukrainian foreign influence campaign. FARA protects the integrity of the American political system by enabling Americans to consider the identity of the speaker as they evaluate the substance of the speech." Assistant Attorney General Demers added, "The Department appreciates Skadden's more recent extensive cooperation in the investigation of this matter, which facilitated its resolution."

In addition to agreeing to register under FARA, Skadden has agreed to pay the U.S. Treasury more than $4.6 million, which it received in fees and expenses for its work with Ukraine, and will ensure that it has formal, robust procedures for responding to inquiries concerning its conduct from any federal government entity and ensuring FARA compliance as to its engagements on behalf of foreign clients.

The Agreement acknowledges that Skadden has already taken substantial steps to comply with its terms, and so long as the firm continues to comply with it, the Department will not undertake any action against the firm relating to any of the conduct described in the Agreement and its Appendix.

Background of the Investigation

According to the Agreement, in the spring of 2012, Ukrainian Ministry of Justice (MOJ), with the assistance of Paul Manafort, hired Skadden to write a report (Report) on the evidence and procedures used during the 2011 prosecution and trial of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and to address various questions regarding its fairness. Skadden also agreed to advise Ukraine in connection with a second, potential future prosecution of Tymoshenko. Although the engagement letter between Skadden and the MOJ stated that Skadden would be paid its customary fees and expenses, the contract Skadden signed with the MOJ, and which the MOJ made public, stated that the law firm would be paid only 95,000 Ukrainian hryvynas, which is approximately $12,000. Skadden understood that a Ukrainian business person would be paying its fees, which the law firm received from a Cypriot bank account of an entity named Black Sea View Ltd., which Manafort controlled. Skadden was eventually paid $4,657,568.91 for its work on behalf of the MOJ. The arrangements with the Ukrainian business person, the amounts paid, and advice on a second criminal prosecution of Tymoshenko were not disclosed in connection with the issuance of the Report.

Soon after it began work for the MOJ, Skadden became aware that Ukraine intended to use the Report as part of a public relations campaign to influence U.S. policy and public opinion toward Ukraine. After that point, Skadden's lead partner for the Ukraine engagement took steps to advance the public relations campaign. In the fall of 2012, shortly after a meeting in New York with Manafort and a representative from Ukraine's public relations firm to finalize the Report and discuss the media strategy for its rollout, the lead partner contacted a journalist at a national newspaper and asked whether the journalist would take a call from a lobbyist for Ukraine about the Report in advance of its release. Then, shortly before Ukraine released the report on December 13, 2012, the lead partner again contacted the journalist and arranged for delivery of the Report to the journalist, both via email and in person. On December 12, 2012, the lead partner spoke with the national newspaper about the Report and provided a quotation for attribution.

The lead partner's pre-release outreach to the journalist was consistent with Ukraine's media strategy for the Report, which including leaking the Report prior to its official release so as to "effectively set the agenda for subsequent coverage."

FARA requires those in the U.S. who engage in political activities on behalf of foreign principals, which include foreign governments, to make a variety of

written public disclosures to the Department of Justice. Based on its awareness of and involvement in Ukraine's public relations campaign, Skadden had an obligation to register with the Department of Justice under FARA, but it failed to do so. If Skadden had registered, it would have had to disclose, among other things, the full amount it was being paid, the source of those payments, and the full scope of the work it was doing on behalf of the MOJ.

Five days after news articles appeared about the Report, the FARA Unit sent Skadden a letter, seeking information about its activities on behalf of Ukraine in order to assist the FARA Unit in determining whether Skadden had a registration obligation. This was the first of several requests for information the FARA Unit made to Skadden.

In both written and oral responses to the FARA Unit between February 6, 2013, and October 11, 2013, Skadden, in reliance on the lead partner, made false and misleading statements including, among other things, that Skadden provided a copy of the Report only in response to requests from the media and spoke to the media to correct misinformation about the report that the media was already reporting. The firm also submitted documents to the FARA unit that were false.

The FARA Unit made a determination that Skadden did not have a registration obligation in connection with its work for Ukraine, and it based that conclusion on the false and misleading information Skadden had provided. Before making its representations to the FARA Unit, Skadden had conducted no investigation to confirm the information the lead partner was providing to the FARA Unit and to other partners at the firm.

The investigation and negotiation of the Agreement was handled by Jason B.A. McCullough, a Trial Attorney in the Counterintelligence and Export Control Section, which includes the FARA Registration Unit, with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Counterintelligence Division.

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