Message

From: Cheryn Robles [crobles@nola.gov]
Sent: 5/28/2019 9:58:51 PM
To: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
CC: Coats, Janetta [coats.janetta@epa.gov]; Fife, Greg [fife.greg@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Statement from the Mayor

Minor edits were made the previous version I sent to you.

Response to Query – Removal of Hazardous Material Containing Radiation

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

After learning about the contamination, the City and its maintenance contractor engaged Baton Rouge-based ARS Aleut Remediation (AAR) in December 2018 to remove and dispose of what had been identified as a small amount of hazardous material located beneath the surface of the Lowerline Street and Coolidge Court intersection. During the course of this work, the team, which also included the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, discovered that the contamination area was larger than originally anticipated and would need to be addressed as part of a subsequent effort.

Since that time, the City has been working alongside the Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to develop a plan to address the contamination area on Lowerline Street between Olive and Edinburgh streets. Furthermore, multiple scientists and experts were consulted to ensure that there was no current risk of acute exposure or health concerns, and that remediation work would be conducted with the lowest risk possible.

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

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

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

From: Durant, Jennah [mailto:Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 3:24 PM
To: Cheryn Robles
Cc: Coats, Janetta; Fife, Greg
Subject: RE: Statement from the Mayor

EMAIL FROM EXTERNAL SENDER

OK. If you get any inquiries on the removal work (EPA's part) please send them to me at 214 665-2200 (main) or 214 665-2287 (direct)
Thanks.

From: Cheryn Robles <crobles@nola.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 2:41 PM
To: Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Cc: Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>; Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Statement from the Mayor

It would only be used if we had a media inquiry or when we're ready to start paving.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 28, 2019, at 2:39 PM, Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov> wrote:

> EMAIL FROM EXTERNAL SENDER
>
> OK. When are you planning on issuing the statement?
>
> **From:** Cheryn Robles <crobles@nola.gov>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 1:48 PM
> **To:** Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>; Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Statement from the Mayor
>
> It's been contained by the asphalt.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On May 28, 2019, at 1:31 PM, Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov> wrote:
>
>> EMAIL FROM EXTERNAL SENDER
>>
>> Hi Cheryn,
>>
>> Thank you for coordinating with me on this statement. I'm guessing media or community members will have questions about whether this material had presented an exposure danger before it was discovered. Does anyone know whether there's a chance the radiation could have been escaping into soil or as vapor intrusion? I know that's probably tough to assess at this point, but I wanted to bring it up because that's usually the first type of media questions we get in these situations.
>>
>> Thank you,
>> Jennah Durant
>> US EPA Region 6
>> Press Office
>> 214 665-2200 (main)
>> 214 665-2287 (direct)
>>
>> **From:** Coats, Janetta
>> **Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2019 1:19 PM
>> **To:** Cheryn Robles <crobles@nola.gov>; Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
>> **Cc:** Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
>> **Subject:** RE: Statement from the Mayor

Cheryn,

Since press related, I have included Jennah Durant/EPA Region 6 Press contact to provide a response to you in the event of a media inquiry.

Thanks,

Janetta Coats
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75201
Senior Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)
Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Project Officer
Super JTI Coordinator
214.665.7308 or 1.800.533.3508
Coats.janetta@epa.gov

From: Cheryn Robles <crobles@nola.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 1:07 PM
To: Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>
Cc: Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Subject: Statement from the Mayor

Ms. Janetta,

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

Cheryn

Response to Query – Removal of Radiation Contaminated Soil

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sent from my iPhone