Message

From: Shannon Soileau [Shannon.Soileau@LA.GOV]
Sent: 5/6/2019 6:56:55 PM
To: Fife, Greg [fife.greg@epa.gov]; Lyke, Jennifer [Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Coats, Janetta [coats.janetta@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS Q&A's

Thanks, Greg. Did EPA cordon off the area of concern when you were out last week? We did a drive by the weekend before last and there was no indication of a hazard.

Shannon

From: Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2019 1:27 PM
To: Shannon Soileau <Shannon.Soileau@LA.GOV>; Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS Q&A's

I'm sorry about not getting back to you on the questions. I was just all over the place last week. See the answers in red below.

From: Shannon Soileau <Shannon.Soileau@LA.GOV>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:57 PM
To: Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Cc: Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>; Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Rosalind Green (LDH-OPH) <Rosalind.Green@LA.GOV>; Collette Stewart <Collette.Stewart@la.gov>; 'White, Luann E (lawhite@tulane.edu)' <lawhite@tulane.edu>; Raoult Ratard <Raoult.Ratard@LA.GOV>; kathleen.aubin@la.gov
Subject: RE: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS Q&A's

Hi Greg- Just circling back around. Have you had a chance to look into these questions?

Shannon

From: Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:42 PM
To: Shannon Soileau <Shannon.Soileau@LA.GOV>
Cc: Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>; Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Rosalind Green (LDH-OPH) <Rosalind.Green@LA.GOV>; Collette Stewart <Collette.Stewart@la.gov>
Subject: Re: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS Q&A's

Thanks. I'm just about to go on the site walk. I figure this will take the rest of the day. It may be tomorrow before I can get you answers.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 30, 2019, at 2:38 PM, Shannon Soileau <Shannon.Soileau@LA.GOV> wrote:

> Hi Greg-

LDH has been working with our toxicology consultant, Dr. Luann White (Tulane School of Public Health), to assemble a health education document regarding radium and health in a FAQs format. We plan to consult with the CDC/ATSDR's health physicist, Dr. Paul Charp, for input and, of course, coordinate with EPA and NOHD to have a consistent message. We have a few questions, particularly regarding public health concerns for the site. If you have any additional site-specific information you can provide to assist us in answering the questions below, please reach out via email. Or, if you prefer, my cell is 504-606-3189.

Thanks, Shannon Soileau

1. What is EPA's position on the "threat to public health?" We were provided with both a PowerPoint titled "Radium 226 Source Remediation" and the Draft Removal Action Memo. These two documents do not seem to align in terms of defining the threat.
    a. PPT: "Initial investigation found no immediate threat to public"
    b. Memo justifying removal: p 7 – Section III Threats to Public Health or Welfare… *The current conditions at the Site meet the following factors which indicate that the Site is a threat to the public health, welfare and the environment and a removal action is appropriate under section 300.415(b)(2) of the NCP.*

    The current exposure rate from the Ra-226 at the Site is several times higher than the EPA acceptable exposure limit of 125 mR/quarter. In fact, the annual dose allowable for the general public can be exceeded at levels at the street or adjacent areas in less than 1 hour per day. The exposure rate measured by the post excavation survey was 1.5 mR/hr. An average of 1-hour exposure per day would result in an approximate dose of 135 R. That does not include exposure to naturally occuring radiation, medical treatments, and other man-made exposures.

    EPA considers exposures exceeding twice background as unacceptable. The background for the New Orleans area is 0.005 mR/hr. Twice background is 0.010 mR/hr, for the acceptable activity. The 1.5 mR/hr detected by the gamma survey well exceeds that limit.

The powerpoint is a presentation to the City of New Orleans. The opinions do not represent EPA's.

2. How far from the roadbed with the radiation source is elevated gamma radiation expected? Historically, now and during remediation?

Based on the post excavation survey and EPA's contractor doing a site walk, gamma radiation was not found in the shoulders or sidewalks of the roads. And it appears to be contained within that one block of Lowerline. Using the meters, the contamination is very spotty. Some of the hotspots were so concentrated that the meter readings declined rapidly after moving just an inch or so away from the spot. A few were 5 or 6 inches where the meters were reading an elevated activity. And quickly diminished when moving inches away.

3. How far should people stay away from the street during remediation?

Elevated reading of concern were found only in the street. On the site walk, we observed several groups staying in the street to visit. There are two slides in the powerpoint that show the areas with elevated radiation. One is squared off and while that is a recommendation for additional excavation, it can be a quick guide to the areas to avoid.

4. During remediation, the radiation levels would be expected to increase. By how much? Estimate?

The increase of radiation will be primarily localized near the excavation and near the material that has been removed. All we have to go by is the hot spot excavated by the City was shielded by 18 inches of soil and pavement. While the shielding will be removed, the distance between the radioactive contamination and public will be maintained.

   a. Should people stay in houses adjacent to Lowerline or Coolidge during remediation– approximately 20 feet from road

A barrier fence will be erected to keep the public at a safe distance. The radiation at the fence line should be safe for the public. If the buried contamination is greater that expected and the levels at the perimeters are high, work will cease and additional measures like installing a lead blanket or cinderblock wall.

   b. What will be done to minimize dust and dispersion of contaminated soil and dust during remediation?

If needed, water can be misted, and if need be wetting agents mixed in to prevent duct during the excavation. Some dust may be visible at times such as when the uncontaminated pavement is sawn to make straight edges. Poly-sheeting or tarps will be used to mitigate migration or cross contamination.

5. What is the risk to pregnant women (fetus) - historically, now and during remediation

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From: Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:29 AM
To: Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>
Cc: Shannon Soileau <Shannon.Soileau@LA.GOV>; Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS Q&A's

I'll be on a plane then. Go with the meeting.

I'm meeting our cleanup contractor. Targeting the week of May 13 for a start. That is dependent on getting the CR pieces in place.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 30, 2019, at 9:26 AM, Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov> wrote:

Good morning to all:

Gregg

In efforts to develop Q&A's for Lowerline Street removal efforts, would it be possible to discuss drafting Heath Concerns Q&A on a conference call today about 11:00 am. The Q&A's will be used as handouts to those affected during Lowerline Street removal efforts.

Conference #: 202.991.0477
Code# 4994515

Please let me know if the time is ok?

Thanks,

Janetta Coats
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
Senior Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)
Technical Assistance Grant Coordinator (TAG)
Superfund Job Training Initiative Coordinator (SuperJTI)
1445 Ross Avenue 6SF-VO
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
phone: 214.665.7308 or toll free: 1800.533.3508
fax: 214.665.6660
email: coats.janetta@epa.gov

From: Shannon Soileau <Shannon.Soileau@LA.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:54 AM
To: Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>
Cc: Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS

Does Gregg have some time to speak with us this afternoon?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 29, 2019, at 8:11 AM, Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov> wrote:

Hey

Gregg Fife response below:

I'm meeting with our contractor, ER, tomorrow, 4/30, for a site walk. To allow ER to become familiar with the Site and begin making arrangements with vendors and subcontractors. It will only be a short visit. They indicated that they might be able to mobilize on May 13 to

start. It could be one more week, depending on arrangements with vendors and the disposal companies.

With the above information, please let me know the soonest a draft can be availabe to schedule a conference call. It may be useful to allow few days for EPA management to review as well.

Fyi: May 7 and 8, 2019 I will be on site travel.

Thanks,

Janetta Coats
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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From: Coats, Janetta
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 7:45 AM
To: Shannon Soileau <Shannon.Soileau@LA.GOV>; Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: Rosalind Green (LDH-OPH) <Rosalind.Green@LA.GOV>
Subject: RE: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS

Good morning,

Let me check with Gregg about the dates.

Thanks,

Janetta Coats
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From: Shannon Soileau <Shannon.Soileau@LA.GOV>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2019 3:32 PM
To: Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>
Cc: Rosalind Green (LDH-OPH) <Rosalind.Green@LA.GOV>
Subject: RE: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS

Hi Janetta- LDH has been in touch with the City- both the Public Works and Health Depts. We will draft FAQs on radium-226 and health and get input from the city health dept. When do you need a finalized document? And, when will the multi-agency coordination call take place? It might be helpful for us if we could have the call before finalizing the FAQs.

Thanks, Shannon

From: Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:24 PM
To: Shannon Soileau <Shannon.Soileau@LA.GOV>; Kathleen Aubin <Kathleen.Aubin@LA.GOV>
Subject: FW: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS

fyi

Jennifer L. Lyke | Regional Representative | jlyke@cdc.gov
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry | Division of Community Health Investigations
1445 Ross Avenue (6SF-T) | Dallas, Texas 75202
Voice: 214-665-8362 | Tues/Wed Alt phone: 214-577-3763
*email may come through as lyke.jennifer@epa.gov

From: Coats, Janetta
Sent: April 23, 2019 2:22 PM
To: Jeff.dauzat@la.gov; Cheryn Robles <crobles@nola.gov>; Bordelon, David <David.Bordelon@WestonSolutions.com>; Sherman, Robert <Robert.Sherman@WestonSolutions.com>; Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Cc: Karen Burgard <karen.burgard@la.gov>; Josh W. Hartley <jwhartley@nola.gov>; Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS

Good afternoon,

It will be useful to include both ATSDR, LDH, and City of New Orleans regarding health issues/concerns to make sure same message is being shared.

In speaking with ATSDR/Jennifer Lyke; and LDH/Shannon Soileau, a Frequently Q&A draft will be developed for review and discussions.

The timeline need to be confirmed to make sure appropriate outreach materials/information is provided to the community prior to removal efforts.

Cheryn, Shannon Soileau will likely give you as soon as possible to get a feel of previous outreach efforts.

Jeff, appreciate the attached information.

EPA confirming location for the information repository.

EPA will schedule a conference call to discuss timelines/joint outreach efforts and health education.

Thanks,

Janetta Coats
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From: Jeff Dauzat <Jeff.Dauzat@LA.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 1:16 PM
To: Cheryn Robles <crobles@nola.gov>; Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>; Bordelon, David <David.Bordelon@WestonSolutions.com>; Sherman, Robert <Robert.Sherman@WestonSolutions.com>; Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Cc: Karen Burgard <karen.burgard@la.gov>; Josh W. Hartley <jwhartley@nola.gov>; Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS

LDEQ also put some talking points together, thinking about an informational trifold. Feel free to add logos, language or completely dismiss.

Jeff J. Dauzat
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From: Cheryn Robles <crobles@nola.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 1:06 PM
To: Coats, Janetta <coats.janetta@epa.gov>; Bordelon, David <David.Bordelon@WestonSolutions.com>; Sherman, Robert <Robert.Sherman@WestonSolutions.com>; Fife, Greg <fife.greg@epa.gov>
Cc: Jeff Dauzat <Jeff.Dauzat@LA.GOV>; Karen Burgard <karen.burgard@la.gov>; Josh W. Hartley <jwhartley@nola.gov>; Lyke, Jennifer <Lyke.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS

Hi Ms. Janetta,

Left you a message. I'm sorry, I understood that EPA would be drafting the talking points for the City to use re: this issue so I apologize for the delay.

I've started the attached for review.

I can engage the City Health Director if needed but we were planning on the DPW Director being the spokesperson.

From: Coats, Janetta [mailto:coats.janetta@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 3:33 PM
To: Cheryn Robles; Bordelon, David; Sherman, Robert; Fife, Greg
Cc: Jeff.dauzat@la.gov; Karen Burgard; Josh W. Hartley; Lyke, Jennifer
Subject: RE: LOWERLINE STREET REMOVAL EFFORTS

EMAIL FROM EXTERNAL SENDER

Good afternoon to all:

In efforts to conduct community outreach for Lowerline removal efforts, can you please provide me contact information/emails/phone numbers for those that you feel should be included on the communication/notification strategy.

Being mindful the attached flier was handed out in the community previously (no community interest at that time) once the removal efforts begin there will likely be many questions that need answers.

The removal action will involve the excavation, removal and offsite disposal of contaminated soil and road base on Lowerline Street near the intersection of Coolidge Court. (Gert Town).

In working together to make sure the community is not alarmed we want to reach out before removal efforts begin to make sure all interested parties are aware:

Local Elected Officials

cleanup efforts timeframe
In the event of emergency
keeping their family/pets safe
where to get information
Health concerns
spokesperson
Traffic impact
Health Services

Please provide information the soonest!

Thanks,

Janetta Coats
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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