Re: EPA's response to reporter 's questions
Christine L STONE to: Kay Morrison 08/26/2011 12:42 PM
Cc: Scott Downey, Marianne Holsman, Mark Macintyre

Kay: Looks good. Can you please refer to us as: Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division and then on second reference Oregon Public Health. I know it gets confusing. My changes are in BOLD.

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>>> <Morrison.Kay@epamail.epa.gov> 8/26/2011 11:11 AM >>>

Christine, per our phone conversation (EPA's response indented):

I'd like a better understanding of how the study came about and how and when EPA became involved.

October 2007 - EPA first learned of the Pitchfork Rebellion's concerns and discussed by phone with the group's leaders. EPA recommended they share any relevant information including exposure incidents and diagnosed health affects

February 2010 - Pitchfork Rebellion petitions EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, requesting a spray drift study and protective buffer zones

June 2010 - EPA participated in a listening tour, meeting residents and other stakeholders

September 2010 - EPA requested the assistance of ATSDR to assess residents' health concerns

March 2011 - Dr. Barr and residents announced the results of urine analysis, which showed levels of atrazine and 2, 4-D elevated above what is typically seen in the US population

May 2011 - EPA and ATSDR join Oregon's multi-agency pesticide exposure investigation

July 2011 - EPA, ATSDR and other state agencies participate in PARC's public meeting to describe the state's

study design and answer resident's questions and listen to concerns.

August 2011 - Oregon Health Authority's Oregon Public Health began recruiting participants in the exposure study

I'd also like to know what the EPA's roll is in the investigation going forward, which agency will take the lead,

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are participating in a multi-agency exposure investigation led by the Oregon Pesticide Analytic and Response Center (PARC). The study, which is starting this month, includes sampling of residents' drinking water, locally-grown and consumed food sources, soil, and urine.

The PARC study will establish a baseline in the exposure investigation. This will help determine whether pre-herbicide application exposures are of concern to public health.

The agencies are also assessing the need to sample air and surface water, both during and following herbicide applications, as this is when the possibility of offsite migration and exposure to herbicides is the greatest.

and what EPA's financial commitments are to the process.

To date, EPA has committed staff time and expertise to this issue and has traveled to Oregon and met with citizens, state agency representatives and other stakeholders and toured the study area. For the upcoming study, EPA Region 10 (Pacific Northwest) is providing technical support for the design and sampling, as well as collecting the environmental samples (water, soil, and food). Staff has traveled to Oregon for on-site visits, meetings, and field work

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