From: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 3/29/2012 12:21:56 PM

To: "Betsaida Alcantara" <Alcantara.Betsaida@epamail.epa.gov>
CC: "David Bloomgren" <Bloomgren.David@epamail.epa.gov>; "Mick Kulik" <kulik.michael@epa.gov>; "Roy Seneca" <seneca.roy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Dimock Qs&As - Response from Abrahm

You and I are on the same page, Betsaida. Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Ex. 5 - Deliberative I just called him, got vm; will wait for him to call me back.

From: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US
To: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: "Mick Kulik" <kulik.michael@epa.gov>, "Roy Seneca" <seneca.roy@epa.gov>, "David Bloomgren" <Bloomgren.David@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: 03/29/2012 11:54 AM
Subject: Re: Dimock Qs&As - Response from Abrahm

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

----- Original Message -----
From: Terri-A White
Sent: 03/29/2012 11:51 AM EDT
To: Betsaida Alcantara
Cc: "Betsaida Alcantara" <alcantara.betsaida@epa.gov>; Dennis Carney; "Mick Kulik" <kulik.michael@epa.gov>; "Roy Seneca" <seneca.roy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Dimock Qs&As - Response from Abrahm
I haven't spoken to him. Just said I'll get back. Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

From: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US
To: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: "Betsaida Alcantara" <alcantara.betsaida@epa.gov>, Dennis Carney/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Mick Kulik" <kulik.michael@epa.gov>, "Roy Seneca" <seneca.roy@epa.gov>, Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/29/2012 11:19 AM
Subject: Re: Dimock Qs&As - Response from Abrahm

Terri

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

From: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US
To: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Dennis Carney/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Shawn Garvin/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Betsaida Alcantara" <alcantara.betsaida@epa.gov>, "Mick Kulik" <kulik.michael@epa.gov>, "Roy Seneca" <seneca.roy@epa.gov>
Date: 03/29/2012 09:09 AM
Subject: Re: Dimock Qs&As - Response from Abrahm

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

From: Terri-A White
Sent: 03/29/2012 08:43 AM EDT
To: Dennis Carney
Cc: Shawn Garvin; "Betsaida Alcantara" <alcantara.betsaida@epa.gov>; "Mick Kulik" <kulik.michael@epa.gov>; "Roy Seneca" <seneca.roy@epa.gov>
Subject: Fw: Dimock Qs&As - Response from Abrahm
Hi Dennis,
See below. Are you available Friday?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

From: Abrahm Lustgarten [Abrahm.Lustgarten@propublica.org]
Sent: 03/28/2012 06:41 PM AST
To: Terri-A White
Subject: Re: Dimock Qs&As
Terri,
Thank you for the response, and sorry I've been slow to respond to you. This is helpful — below. And yes, if its not too late, I would

do the background conversation. I've obviously missed your suggested time. Is anything Friday afternoon possible?
Abrahm

From: Terri-A White <White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: Mon, 26 Mar 2012 17:28:28 -0400
To: Abrahm Lustgarten <Abrahm.lustgarten@propublica.org>
Cc: Terri-A White <White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov>
Subject: Dimock Qs&As

Hi Abrahm,
I'm providing responses to several questions you asked last week. Also, we'd like to set up the background interview you requested. Are you available sometime tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon? Please let me know. Dennis Carney of our Hazardous Sites Cleanup Division here in Region 3 is our chief technical expert who will talk with you. Since you're on the west coast, how about giving me two suggested appointment times, and I'll see which works best for Dennis. Thanks.
-- Terri
btw, Roy is out of the office til Thursday, so I'll serve as your main POC for Dimock.

Why did you say concentrations were within the safe range for drinking water when some don't have standards under the safe drinking water act?

We should have been more clear in discussing our findings with the residents and the public. Our statements referred only to the first round of sampling and we did not intend to convey that we had made conclusions about the entire universe of the homes sampled.
For contaminants that were found in this first round of homes that do not have a designated MCL, our toxicologists and risk assessors thoroughly reviewed all the data and concluded that none of the levels detected present a significant health concern.

What about methane levels and potential explosivity risks?

As there is no MCL for methane, EPA selected a screening level used by the federal Office of Surface Mining(OSM) of 28 parts per million for dissolved methane in drinking water. 28 ppm is the maximum level of methane than can be dissolved in waterbefore the methane leaves solution and enters the air as a gas. Methane is not explosive while in solution and OSM reports that methane in water does not impair the odor, taste or color nor does it affect in anyway the potability of the water. The potential for methane in air to create an explosive environment depends on a number of factors, such as: the concentration, the volume of the space and frequency of air exchanges in the space.Proper room ventilation will ensure that methane levels in indoor air do not present a safety hazard.
As part of our sampling efforts, when a well is found to have methane levels above 28 ppm, we immediately take action to notify the resident, the state, and the county emergency management agency. This would also trigger a toxicological review and expedite a quality assurance review.
EPA found one out of the 11 homes in the first round of samples that is above the 28ppm level. This well was not connected to the residence at the time of the sample because the resident was receiving alternate water from Cabot. EPA has notified that resident, who indicated they were already aware that their water contained levels of methane. EPA also notified Pennsylvania DEP and the Susquehanna County EMA, and can work with local officials to provide recommendations to affected residents in the event that use of well water is resumed. EPA will continue to follow this process should there be any similar instance.

Aren't' Lithium levels a health concern?

There are no homes that we sampled in the first 11 results with lithium results that would present an acute health threat. According to ATSDR, levels that may present an acute health threat would be above 1,500 ug/L. Therefore, we have determined that there is no basis for additional action at this time. As new data presents itself, EPA will continue to review it and make decisions on any appropriate response based on science and the law.

Are you releasing the data?

EPA will be releasing a compilation of the analytical data, available so far, of the private residential wells sampled in Dimock. This information will be made available on the Agency's website soon and will follow the requirements of the Privacy Act. We will continue to share the data on a rolling basis with homeowners over the next weeks.

From: Abrahm Lustgarten <Abrahm.Lustgarten@propublica.org>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Betsaida@mintra03.pyd.epa.gov" <Betsaida@mintra03.pyd.epa.gov>, Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US <Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@mintra03.pyd.epa.gov>, Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 03/22/2012 12:12 PM
Subject: Re: Dimock meetings with residents

Hi Roy, i look forward to hearing from you today, by email if you like, or if you want to call, ill be at my desk in about 45 minutes,1 pm eastern.
Thank you
Abrahm
Sent from my iPad
On Mar 21, 2012, at 6:49 PM, "Roy Seneca" <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:
We will have to get back to you tomorrow...

From: Abrahm Lustgarten [Abrahm.Lustgarten@propublica.org]
Sent: 03/21/2012 09:37 PM AST
To: Roy Seneca
Cc: Michael Kulik; "Betsaida@mintra03.pyd.epa.gov" <Betsaida@mintra03.pyd.epa.gov>; Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US <Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@mintra03.pyd.epa.gov>; Terri-A White
Subject: Re: Dimock meetings with residents
Thank you Roy,
But can you tell me anything more in detail? Could we talk by phone? 917-589-1262 I'm hearing at first residents were told that the delay was due to a printer error. I'm also hearing that some of the test values have changed between the first copies delivered and a new rounddelivered. Why would that be and what would it mean?
And I think its still very important at this point to address some of the unresolved questions from yesterday before my last story: what is the methane situation, why was it portrayed the way it was on March 15? What about the Benzo(a)pyrene and other Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons? Terri wrote me this morning that the highest reading was 1.6 ug/L — not past the MCL of 2.0. But that's not what my test pagessay — they have a reading of 2.0 in a clean lab detection. (And even besides, I would be surprised to hear no concern about a detection of a carcinogen close to the MCL, and especially when there are minute detections of multiple carcinogens.)
So lots to talk about — I think its important to be able to answer some of these questions in order to stop what obviously is a seriously deepening level of concern among Dimock residents, and among those following this story elsewhere.
From: Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: Wed, 21 Mar 2012 21:29:00 -0400
To: Abrahm Lustgarten <Abrahm.lustgarten@propublica.org>
Cc: Michael Kulik <Kulik.Michael@epamail.epa.gov>, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov>, "Betsaida@mintra03.pyd.epa.gov" <Betsaida@mintra03.pyd.epa.gov>, "Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@mintra03.pyd.epa.gov" <Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@mintra03.pyd.epa.gov>, Terri-A White <White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Dimock meetings with residents
Abrahm -- Sorry for not getting something to you sooner...have a good evening...
Meetings previously scheduled for Thursday and Friday with seven Dimock residents have had to be delayed due to a backlog of work. EPA will be working with residents to reschedule new times for early next week.
Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
seneca.roy@epa.gov
(215) 814-5567

Re: Dimock meetings with residents Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Betsaida Alcantara to Abrahm Lustgarten, Michael Kulik, Roy Seneca 03/21/2012 08:15 PM
:

+ Roy and Mick in the region

From: Abrahm Lustgarten [Abrahm.Lustgarten@propublica.org]
Sent: 03/21/2012 08:14 PM AST
To: Betsaida Alcantara
Subject: Dimock meetings with residents

Betsaida,

Hi, I'm hearing that resident's meetings with the EPA to explain and go over their water test results are being cancelled? Is there anything more you can tell me about what's happening, and why?

Thank you,

Abrahm