To: Albright, David[Albright.David@epa.gov]; Johnson, AudreyL[Johnson.AudreyL@epa.gov]
From: Montgomery, Michael
Sent: Thur 7/3/2014 4:38:57 PM
Subject: FW: Brief report from DOGGR's rollout yesterday

From: Strauss, Alexis
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2014 9:32 AM
To: Keener, Bill; Diamond, Jane
Cc: Montgomery, Michael; Zito, Kelly
Subject: Re: Brief report from DOGGR's rollout yesterday

Thx

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Keener, Bill

Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2014 9:23 AM

To: Diamond, Jane; Strauss, Alexis

Cc: Montgomery, Michael; Zito, Kelly

Subject: RE: Brief report from DOGGR's rollout yesterday

Just FYI, this morning Kelly and I spoke with the comms guy for DOGGR/Dept. of Conservation, Ed Wilson. We had sent them our desk statement yesterday, so we asked him for their statement/FAQ, as well as a copy of any order that went out -- he said he had not seen the order, so he wasn't positive it went out, but he will check and send it along if it was issued.

Bill Keener

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. EPA - Region 9

San Francisco, CA

Phone: (415) 972-3940

From: Diamond, Jane
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2014 8:32 AM
To: Grevatt, Peter; Strauss, Alexis; Keener, Bill; Zito, Kelly
Subject: Brief report from DOGGR's rollout yesterday

Jane Diamond
Water Director
415-947-8707

From: Bohlen, Steven@DOC <Steven.Bohlen@conservation.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2014 7:21:20 PM
To: Montgomery, Michael
Cc: Albright, David; Diamond, Jane; Nechodom, Mark@DOC; Marshall, Jason@DOC
Subject: RE: Desk Statement

Mike,

Phone calls with the operators generally went well with most saying they wanted to work with us. One call in particular went badly, and we are dealing with some issues with this operator. At the moment, we do not see this blowing up in any significant way.

We remain hopeful that we can work though these issues in an expeditious but business-like way. To that end, we look forward to meeting with you on Monday and to charting a path ahead.

Thanks for passing this on.

Steve

From: Montgomery, Michael [mailto:Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2014 4:40 PM
To: Bohlen, Steven@DOC
Cc: Albright, David; Diamond, Jane
Subject: Desk Statement

Steve –

We have prepared the following desk statement to respond to inquiries:

In March 1983, U.S. EPA granted regulatory authority to the State of California's Division of Oil & Gas (now Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources, or DOGGR) for certain types of wells (Class II) that are used primarily to inject steam or water for enhanced oil/gas recovery, or to inject waste water (such as brines) from oil and gas production. As part of EPA's regulatory oversight, EPA approves the use of groundwater aquifers where these wells could be used, typically in areas in or near oil and gas production activity where groundwater quality is very poor. These aquifers are "exempted" from the protection provided for drinking water sources by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and therefore can be used safely for enhanced oil/gas recovery and disposal of related fluids. Higher quality aquifers that could serve as a potential source of drinking water are not exempt, and should not receive Class II oil and gas related injection fluids.

This week DOGGR issued orders to cease injections into aquifers that have not been exempted by EPA. DOGGR is evaluating potential risks to drinking water sources from the injection wells at these facilities. EPA will oversee a broader review of DOGGR's program to ensure wells have been appropriately authorized to inject within the boundaries approved by EPA. Meanwhile, EPA Region 9 is working cooperatively with the staff at DOGGR, as well the State's Drinking Water Program to protect human health and the environment.

Our Public Affairs Office is coordinating it with Ed Wilson at DOC. Let me know if you have any questions.

We will get you some ideas for our Monday discussion soon.

Thanks -

Mike

Michael Montgomery

Assistant Director - Water Division

Region 9

415-972-3438