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From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Wed 11/25/2015 10:53:40 PM
Subject: Region 2 weekly report

Air Settlement with General Electric: Region 2, DOJ and the State of NY have settled a CAA case involving a hazardous waste incinerator previously run by GE in Waterford (upstate) NY. The company disabled certain air pollution monitoring devices at various times. Not quite the VW defeat device scheme, but still troubling when monitoring devices are purposefully disabled. $1.3 million penalty to be announced next week.

Passaic River: State of New Jersey comfortable with our approach to Passaic River superfund clean up. New model being run. Public announcement expected around March 1.

PFOA in drinking water: Hoosick Falls, a small community in upstate NY, has elevated levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in its public drinking water supply. EPA has not yet promulgated an enforceable drinking water standard for PFOA under the Safe Drinking Water Act, but in 2009, EPA established a provisional health advisory of 400 ppt in drinking water. This public water supply has 600 ppt and a nearby chemical plant has found levels at 18,000 ppt. The company suspected of the pfoa release, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, has agreed to provide bottled water to all local residents and has agreed to install a carbon filtration system on the public drinking water supply. We have been in communication with the state of New York and will coordinate our work with them.

Environmental education grants: R2 announced 3 environmental ed grants this week. One will go to Queens College to support planting of milkweed habitat in NYC, in an effort to attract monarch butterflies.

Zero Waste commitment in Region 2: We are slowly installing water filtration stations in our three main offices. People can easily refill reusable water bottles with filtered cold water, and avoid single use water bottles. They are connected to existing pipes. We are also installing automatic hand dryers to cut down on paper towels in the restrooms.

Gobble gobble.