To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Bennett, Tate[Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]
From: Yamada, Richard (Yujiro)
Sent: Thur 10/26/2017 6:18:12 PM
Subject: RE: Louisiana Briefing Note

Hi Everyone,

This meeting is being set-up at the request of the petitioner (Denka) of Request for Correction #17002 dealing with the IRIS Toxicological Assessment of Chloroprene. It will be held in our HQ offices of EPA West, conference room #6340K

OEI, OGC and ORD folks will be in attendance. Hope this clarifies.

Richard

From: Jackson, Ryan
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 1:23 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bennett, Tate <Bennett.Tate@epa.gov>; Yamada, Richard (Yujiro) <yamada.richard@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Louisiana Briefing Note

From what I understand that as late as October 30, there's still meetings on this. Richard and I spoke about it fairly recently just to see what the latest is on this.

From: Ferguson, Lincoln
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 12:41 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Bennett, Tate <Bennett.Tate@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Louisiana Briefing Note

FYI – in case it comes up tomorrow.

From: Bodine, Susan
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 12:40 PM
To: Traylor, Patrick <traylor.patrick@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Yamada, Richard (Yujiro) <yamada.richard@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Louisiana Briefing Note

ORD is due to respond to Denka's request to reevaluate chloroprene by the end of October.

The local community is worked up:

http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/20/health/louisiana-toxic-town/index.html

From: Traylor, Patrick
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 12:19 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: Bodine, Susan <bodine.susan@epa.gov>
Subject: Louisiana Briefing Note

Lincoln:

Here is a blurb you can place in the Administrator's New Orleans visit book. We want to be sure that the Administrator is aware of this situation if the Attorney General or someone at the Council meeting raises it.

Denka. The Denka Performance Elastomer plant is in LaPlace (la-plahz'), Louisiana, just

outside New Orleans in St. John the Baptist Parish. Formerly owned by DuPont, the plant is the only domestic producer of neoprene, used for wetsuits, laptop sleeves, etc., and employs some 200 workers. A key ingredient in the production process is chloroprene. In 2010, EPA classified chloroprene as a possible carcinogen. In December 2015, EPA released a report concluding that one census tract in St. John the Baptist Parish has the highest modeled cancer risk in the nation, primarily associated with chloroprene emissions. EPA enforcement began coordinating with Louisiana on enforcement approaches to the cancer risk. Louisiana has issued an administrative order requiring Denka to reduce chloroprene emissions by 85% by the end of 2017, and EPA has installed air monitors in the area to collect actual exposure data (so far, the risks are based on models). The community is understandably agitated about the impacts from the Denka facility (an elementary school is very close to the facility). At the same time, Denka is aggressively challenging the scientific bases for EPA's risk conclusions (Denka sent you a letter on June 26, 2017), with a community response to you sent just last week (October 19). The Louisiana Department of Public Health is evaluating whether to declare a public health emergency in the community, though one of the public health officers told the local school board that he would have no problem sending his children to the nearby parish school.

EPA is aware of the situation, and a combination of OECA/ORD/OAQPS staff is working with the state to: (1) see to it that the facility completes its emission reduction project by the end of this year; and (2) continue to collect actual ambient data in the community to see the impact of the emissions reductions. We expect that even with the new controls, the emissions may still be in excess of what has been calculated as the figure necessary to protect against long-term cancer risk (this information is in Denka's June letter). Once we have these data, we will continue to work with the state to evaluate what enforcement options we have (at this point, we only have Section 303 of the Clean Air Act, which is used in cases of imminent and substantial endangerment, which has not often been used). We will certainly use the tools we have to protect public health based on the best possible science.

Patrick

Patrick Traylor

Deputy Assistant Administrator

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