Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/12/2018 1:32:39 PM
To: Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]
CC: Wheeler, Andrew [wheeler.andrew@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Community Role on Monday night of Regional Meeting

Got it.

Well, we do need to craft these somewhat to the regions. Especially with two sessions over two days, it seems like we could split up the public hearing to a community presentations portion and an open mic portion. 3 hours of open mic seems pretty comprehensive. And the couple hours of community presentations may even relieve some of that 3 hour time anyway.

I'm fine with the regions crafting these a little specific to be responsive to the interest in their region. Maybe some regions will simply be open mic. Some could be more structured. Citing being responsive to the particular interest within a region is a good reason.

From: Dunn, Alexandra
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 7:13 AM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Wheeler, Andrew <wheeler.andrew@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Community Role on Monday night of Regional Meeting

We have not agreed to have the community presentations on Monday night. Only three minutes per person open mike. I recommend we allow the community presentations at 15 min each with a break between the first and second three (2 hours total) and then host 3 hours of open mike - we have up to 5 hours total.

Sent from my iPhone
Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, J.D. , Regional Administrator
Region 1 New England. ***This email is for official EPA business only and may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of information Act***

On Jun 12, 2018, at 6:45 AM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

> What is even the complaint?

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Jun 12, 2018, at 12:19 AM, Dunn, Alexandra <dunn.alexandra@epa.gov> wrote:

Colleagues:

See below. I strongly recommend we create time on June 25 for the six community presentations as requested by Andrea Amico. The communities will do an excellent job and we have plenty of open mike time. Without question allowing this to occur will make this event truly successful in New England and gain us much credibility with the community groups.

I pledge to work with John and Molly and my team to work this in (we have from 5 to 10 pm) and to make it a success. Our collective reputation as being truly committed as EPA to hearing from communities – the stated goal of these regional forums - really turns on making this happen. This is what the community believes is engagement of them – not just 3 minutes at a mike.

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, J.D.
Regional Administrator

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From: Andrea Amico [mailto:abrown3@worcester.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2018 7:47 AM
To: Dunn, Alexandra <dunn.alexandra@epa.gov>
Subject: Community Role on Monday night of Regional Meeting

Dear Administrator Dunn,

Thank you for taking the time to talk more on Friday about my concerns regarding the limited time impacted communities will have to present their stories at the EPA Region 1 meeting and why an extended "open-mic" period does not constitute meaningful participation.

As you know from our in person meeting on May 8, 2018, community members were upset to not have an invitation to the EPA's National PFAS summit in DC. It was our understanding that community members were not given a seat at the DC summit because the regional meetings were more focused around giving the impacted community members their opportunity to be heard. Community leaders in New England were happy to learn that Region 1 was the first regional meeting scheduled one month after the DC summit and that we would have dedicated time set aside on

Monday night to share our stories and present them in the meeting. Needless to say, we are disappointed to learn that this opportunity will now not be given to us as we have spent the last month planning, preparing, and collaborating to attend Monday night to make it meaningful and impactful.

We feel strongly that we deserve to have our voices and stories heard on Monday night as previously discussed with a dedicated amount of time for community presentations. New England has multiple communities impacted by PFAS contamination and several community groups that are highly organized and willing to share their story. We have six New England community groups willing to take time off of work, arrange for childcare, and spend resources they don't have to drive to New Hampshire to share their story at this very important meeting. We are appreciative of the community participation on day two of the regional meeting, however some community members can only attend on Monday night due to work and family commitments on Tuesday and we want Monday night to have strong community participation and representation, too. Therefore, it is imperative that the EPA give our communities one to two hours of designated time at the front of the room to share our community stories on Monday night.

We understand EPA's desire for an open mic forum on Monday night, but several hours of open mic with no structure or presentations seems unnecessary and ineffective. We feel having six community groups being able to share their efforts and the details of their stories will foster better open mic comments and discussions throughout the meeting. By allowing meeting attendees to learn of the similarities and differences among each community group and action taken to date will also help to educate the room on the different sites facing PFAS contamination in New England. It will also allow people to start day two with background knowledge of the stories and challenges in each community which will be highly beneficial for the various meeting attendees with different levels of understanding of the many sites in New England dealing with PFAS contamination.

We feel strongly we need more than an open-mic, we need time at the front of the room. And we need to know that we have it NOW so that impacted community members, who work on this issue between balancing full-time jobs, caretaking responsibilities, and dealing with chronic health challenges from exposure, can plan and prepare as the meeting is only two weeks away.

To summarize, we feel that allowing the community the opportunity to share our stories in a more structured way will give the community the voice they have been wanting and deserve since the DC summit was announced. It will also allow for more community members to participate as an evening meeting is much more feasible for working members of the public than a day meeting that interferes with work and family commitments. Also, it will be an opportunity to educate the meeting attendees on several New England communities dealing with this issue and get background knowledge on the different sites in the region. Lastly, we feel all of these reasons will foster a deeper understanding of the

issues communities are facing and allow for more thoughtful and meaningful public comments (which it is our understanding that is what the EPA is looking for in these regional meetings).

We hope that the reasons articulated in this email will help the EPA understand why this time on Monday night is so critical and valuable to us. We want the platform we were promised in our May meeting with you so we can make this regional meeting as successful and productive as possible. Thank you for your understanding of the community's position and please know I am happy to speak with anyone at EPA Headquarters if there are additional questions or possible concerns about the community's role on Monday night. Please keep us posted on the agenda once it is finalized.

Sincerely,
Andrea Amico