Message

From: Logan, Paul [Logan.Paul@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/6/2016 2:29:23 PM
To: Hestmark, Martin [Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov]
CC: Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]; Ward, W. Robert [Ward.Robert@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: New Years Letter to EPR staff from Martin and Sandy

Thanks again Martin for checking in with us. This version looks fine to me as well, from a legal perspective.

Paul Logan
Acting Regional Counsel | EPA Region 8
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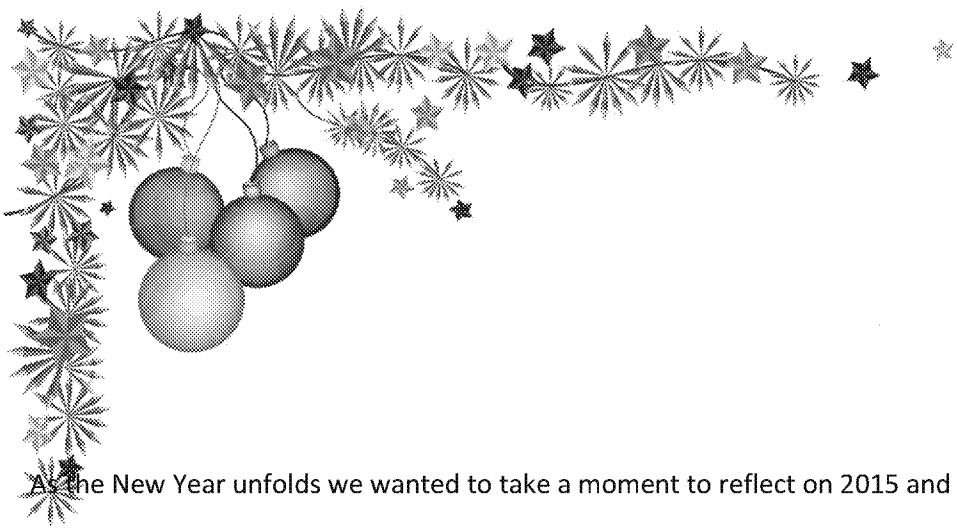
From: Hestmark, Martin
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 7:26 AM
To: Ward, W. Robert <Ward.Robert@epa.gov>; Logan, Paul <Logan.Paul@epa.gov>
Cc: Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>
Subject: New Years Letter to EPR staff from Martin and Sandy

Bob Paul for some reason I sent you an older version of the GKM language. Could you take another look at just the GKM paragraph? It is highlighted.



As the New Year unfolds we wanted to take a moment to reflect on 2015 and share our thoughts for the coming year.

2015 was a challenging year and we made significant positive accomplishments across all of our media programs and we know that the environmental challenges in front of us will also turn into positive outcomes for the environment. EPR's success is due to your hard work and dedication. Thank you!

Some highlights of the year include the following:

In our energy work we continued to provide technical support to Wyoming on the Pavillion investigation and completed a multi-office analysis of well construction issues in the Mamm Creek gas field in Colorado which allowed us to engage in collaborative discussions with the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission.

In NEPA we evaluated 59 EIS projects resulting reduced impacts, improved analysis and disclosure of potential impacts and mitigation and significant collaboration with federal partners for nearly 90% of these projects. Through negotiations with BLM and BIA we successfully included water resource and source water protections in Resource Management Plans for energy sector work in Montana, Colorado, Utah and North Dakota over the next 15-20 years.

After declaring a public health emergency at the Libby Superfund Site in 2009 we completed the toxicology and risk assessment and in January we will finalize the Record of Decision documenting EPA's selected remedy for Libby and Troy residential and commercial properties, parks schools, transportation corridors and industrial park. The community can now live and work in Libby and Troy Montana safely because of EPA's efforts.

The 446 acre Midvale Slag Superfund Site in Utah has been redeveloped to include a light rail system, affordable housing and commercial development after 24 years of remedial activity. The Arkansas River is now home to 106 miles of "Gold Medal trout waters" due to EPA's cleanup activity at the California Gulch/Leadville Superfund Site-70 percent of this site is now delisted. The City of Midvale and Lake County, Colorado were recognized by Region 8 in 2015 with Excellence in Site Reuse Awards for their efforts in reuse and redevelopment.

Staff response to the Gold King Mine spill demonstrated the remarkable dedication of EPA employees. The incident raised national awareness of the potential vulnerability abandoned mines pose to our rivers, streams and groundwater and has prompted discussion regarding potential NPL listing of specific sites in the Upper Animas watershed.

We developed and presented effective outreach for the proposed rule defining waters of the U.S. to mostly agricultural stakeholders across Region 8 and provided significant technical assistance to headquarters during the rulemaking process.

As we begin our implementation of Executive Order 13650 on Chemical Safety and Security we developed and implemented procedures in coordination with state and local emergency response planners for information sharing, inspection coordination and preparedness planning and training.

We responded to over 30 emergencies and 16 time critical and non-time critical removals as well as several big and challenging events including: the Bridger Pipeline spill in North Dakota and Montana in January 2015 which spilled approximately 700 barrels of Bakken crude oil into the frozen Yellowstone River, and the Colorado Cedaredge Lead Site in Colorado where we completed assessment, clean-up and removal of 454 tons of mine tailings and contaminated soil protecting residents including children.

We finalized listing of the Colorado Smelter Site in Pueblo, Colorado to the NPL and initiated remedial investigation of potentially contaminated properties and we proposed the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant in MT for listing.

We worked collaboratively with the Rocky Mountain Arsenal on development of a risk assessment to support possible modifications of institutional controls.

We resolved the Montana TMDL Litigation after 15 years of effort resulting in the completion of 664 TMDLs or delistings , approved Montana's water quality variance policy and nutrient standards, and are close to agency action on Colorado's proposed nutrient standards.

We completed 86 Brownfield Assessments, including 51 led by EPA, and completed cleanup at 21 properties.

We committed to utilize Superfund Special Account resources to hire 10 FTE, which will allow us to increase much needed personnel to the Superfund Program throughout the region.

Looking ahead in 2016, along with EPR's Leadership Team, we are encouraging all of you to take advantage of EPR's new information sharing opportunity "An Invitation for Coffee or Tea…and 15 minutes of your time". This opportunity encourages all EPR managers and staff to seek opportunities to connect with each other about program work in EPR and business practices that might aid us in our continued high performance as an organization. We hope this opportunity strengthens relationships across EPR, breaks down stove pipes between programs, and helps us learn from each other to increase knowledge and performance. Please consider "tapping one of your co-workers/supervisors in EPR on the shoulder" and asking for a moment of their time to share information!! Also don't forget that Sandy and I have office hours every week from 8-8:30 Tuesday through Friday-and of course you can also stop by and see us anytime!

Sandy and I want to thank you again for all for the great work you did in 2015 to protect human health and the environment in Region 8 and look forward to an exciting and meaningful 2016. We are so proud of each of you and the work you do to protect public health and the environment.