Message

From: gray.david@epa.gov [gray.david@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/24/2019 10:14:22 PM
To: Acevedo, Janie [Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry for review and approval

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On Mar 24, 2019, at 4:59 PM, Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov> wrote:

<image001.gif>

Q. What is the EPA in charge of in this investigation, what is exactly being done. Which agencies are accountable for which parts of the investigation (Who is accountable?).
A: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) are working in Unified Command in response to a fire at the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Deer Park facility near Houston, TX. The Unified Command consists of EPA, TCEQ, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Harris County Pollution Control Services (HCPCS) and ITC. Emergency responders have extinguished the fires. EPA has conducted, and continues to conduct, ground level air monitoring with hand held equipment and the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology aircraft (ASPECT). The EPA Trace Atmosphere Gas Analyzer (TAGA) has arrived in LaPorte and is operating in the Deer Park area. It is monitoring for organic compounds in the air. EPA began collecting water samples in Tucker Bayou on March 20, 2019, and in Buffalo Bayou on March 21, 2019.

Q. What are the potential health concerns that you are watching closely and why? What test are you doing to check these?
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Q. Shell in Deer Park told its employees not to come to work because of benzene levels which exceed the permissible limit. Is your investigation finding this? Were you aware of this?
A: From all aerial and on the ground air monitoring conducted by EPA throughout this response, no significant or elevated detections of hazardous chemicals or particulates have been measured to date.

Q. ITC mentioned that it had concerns over returning to the investigation because of safety and that it would do soil testing. Is this this a concern for public health? What is the status of your soil, water and air investigations? *Where can we get timely updates to your findings?
A: Onsite soil contamination at ITC would not be a cause of immediate concern for public health. Sampling results will be posted on response.epa.gov/ITCTankFire.

Q. Where can people get information if they are concerned about the investigations or public health concerns?

A: People should always listen to local authorities for information about concerns in their area. Harris County is posting information to https://www.readyharris.org/Deer-Park-Fire. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality information is at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/itc-terminal-fire-update. In addition, ITC is providing information on its website at http://www.iterm.com/.

Q. What will be coming down your pipeline next? What will we be hearing from you and when can we expect updates?

A: We will continue to assist the Unified Command and publish our sampling data at response.epa.gov/ITCTankFire. as it becomes available.