Message

**From**: Jackson, Ryan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=38BC8E18791A47D88A279DB2FEC8BD60-JACKSON, RY]
**Sent**: 2/12/2019 5:23:53 PM
**To**: Abboud, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b6f5af791a1842f1adcc088cbf9ed3ce-Abboud, Mic]; Konkus, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=555471b2baa6419e8e141696f4577062-Konkus, Joh]
**CC**: Hewitt, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=41b19dd598d340bb8032923d902d4bd1-Hewitt, Jam]
**Subject**: RE: Question on IRIS research

# Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

**From:** Abboud, Michael
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:22 PM
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Question on IRIS research

She's working on a deadline of COB today. But she said she can be flexible with us depending on the answers to these first ones and if they require a follow up.

**From:** Jackson, Ryan
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:20 PM
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Question on IRIS research

## Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

**From:** Konkus, John
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:13 PM
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>
**Subject:** FW: Question on IRIS research

# Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

**From:** Abboud, Michael
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:09 PM
**To:** Dunlap, David <dunlap.david@epa.gov>; Fitzmorris, Amanda <fitzmorris.amanda@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>
**Subject:** FW: Question on IRIS research

Can you provide some answers here?

**From:** Vogt, Heidi <heidi.vogt@wsj.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:07 PM
**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
**Subject:** Re: Question on IRIS research

Sure. There may be a few followups to these once I've got responses, but these are the main ones:

-Did EPA leadership go back to program offices (I believe in October) and tell them to reduce their list of chemicals they wanted IRIS to assess to a maximum of 4? If so, how does this square with Wheeler's statement that they were given complete latitude?
-Wheeler said OAR did not submit and chemicals for assessment. This seems surprising. Did OAR give any reason for this or does EPA have a comment on why that office would not want any research at this point?
-Did OAR career staff say the formaldehyde assessment was needed? If so, why did it not make it on the final list?
-How many program offices did submit a list of chemicals for assessments, and which ones?
-Obviously there have been allegations that Nancy Beck and David Dunlap have conflicts of interest because of there previous jobs. What is EPA's comment on this?
-Why have completed IRIS reports not been released, even for internal review? And in particular formaldehyde
-Given that formaldehyde is likely to be listed as a priority chemical for TSCA, how can it not be a priority for IRIS research?
-My understanding is that the EPA is required to consider IRIS reports when designing regulations and prioritize those results over outside research. Is this correct?

On Tue, Feb 12, 2019 at 11:59 AM Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

> I'm going to be stuck in this meeting for awhile. Can you send over some of your top line questions and I can make sure the right folks can start working on those right now?
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Feb 12, 2019, at 11:29 AM, Vogt, Heidi <heidi.vogt@wsj.com> wrote:
>
>> My office number is best-- Ex. 6
>>
>> On Tue, Feb 12, 2019 at 11:18 AM Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:
>>
>>> Hey what number can I reach you at?
>>>
>>> **From:** Vogt, Heidi <heidi.vogt@wsj.com>
>>> **Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 11:16 AM
>>> **To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
>>> **Cc:** Press <Press@epa.gov>
>>> **Subject:** Re: Question on IRIS research
>>>
>>> Hi Michael,
>>>
>>> I'm just following up. Are you available for a phonecall?

Heidi

On Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 11:04 AM Vogt, Heidi <heidi.vogt@wsj.com> wrote:

Heya -- I have a few more questions (I already have the statement from Wheeler that most of this is quoting from). Are you available for a phonecall?

Heidi

On Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 10:54 AM Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Hey Heidi, here is some information regarding our IRIS reports. If you are looking for more let me know.

"Because IRIS assessments are major investments in both time and resources, on August 10, 2018, on behalf of the Administrator, Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, ORD, delivered a memorandum to the Assistant Administrators and their deputies. As laid out in this memo, the programs were asked to identify priorities for future IRIS assessments as part of the Agency's continuing effort to ensure IRIS assessment activities are focused on the most important Agency needs. Additionally, these priorities needed to be verified by program leadership and be accompanied by the signature of each program's Assistant Administrator or acting Assistant Administrator. Each program was given complete latitude to select its own priorities.

After these priorities with proper signatures were received, a summary memo was sent on December 4, 2018, announcing the seven chemicals for priority IRIS assessment (PFAS counts as one but covers five substances). The list of seven chemicals was then announced to the public via the Agency's website.

Program offices identified Hexavalent Chromium, Inorganic Arsenic, Mercury salts, Methylmercury, PCBs, varieties of PFAS, and Vanadium. Should their priority needs change, Program offices are able to nominate new assessment needs at any time."

**From:** Vogt, Heidi <heidi.vogt@wsj.com>
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2019 10:19 AM
**To:** Press <Press@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
**Subject:** Re: Question on IRIS research

Hi -- just checking back on this request.

Heidi

On Fri, Feb 8, 2019 at 2:53 PM Vogt, Heidi <heidi.vogt@wsj.com> wrote:

> Hey Michael -- I'm writing a story about the unreleased IRIS reports and the EPA's shift in priorities for chemical data from IRIS. Can you put me in touch with the right person to get a comment?
>
> Heidi
>
> --
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> ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
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**Heidi Vogt**
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