Message

From: Block, Molly [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=60D0C681A16441A0B4FA16AA2DD4B9C5-BLOCK, MOLL]
Sent: 7/5/2018 8:19:07 PM
To: Yamada, Richard (Yujiro) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4c34a1e0345e4d26b361b5031430639d-Yamada, Yuj]
Subject: Fwd: Politico inquiry: formaldehyde assessment

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Beck, Nancy" <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>
Date: July 5, 2018 at 4:18:18 PM EDT
To: "Block, Molly" <block.molly@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Politico inquiry: formaldehyde assessment

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

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Nancy B. Beck, Ph.D., DABT
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
P: 202-564-1273
M: Personal Matters / Ex. 6
beck.nancy@epa.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Annie Snider <asnider@politico.com>
Date: July 5, 2018 at 6:30:45 PM GMT+2
To: "beck.nancy@epa.gov" <beck.nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Politico inquiry: formaldehyde assessment

Nancy -- Annie Snider from Politico here. I've been in touch with your press shop (statement from them below) but wanted to personally give you a heads up & chance to weigh in on a story we're running later today or tomorrow morning about the IRIS formaldehyde assessment.

I've got 2 sources – a current & a former career official – who say politicals are "stonewalling" the assessment, keeping it from going through internal review processes and thus being made public. They laid out several scenarios where key briefings for the air office were cancelled, and said pains were taken to keep things from being put in writing. They say the assessment has been complete since last fall, and at a January EPW hearing Administrator Pruitt said that it was his understanding that the assessment was complete. The sources say the assessment finds health risks, including leukemia, at very low levels of exposure that most Americans are exposed to thru daily life. I know that this is an issue you were involved with in your previous job, and the sources said that you have played a role more broadly in slow-walking or limiting other IRIS assessments.

Here's what your press shop got me:

"EPA continues to discuss this assessment with our Agency program partners and have no further updates to provide at this time. Assessments of this type are often the result of needs for particular rulemakings and undergo an extensive intra-agency and interagency process. Mr. Yamada and Mr. Jackson have not cancelled briefings on assessments or during the IRIS process, and in fact have requested briefings. The National Academy of Science and Congress in legislative reports have for years been highly critical of EPA's previous assessments involving formaldehyde." - EPA Spokesperson

On background:

Nancy Beck is the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. She does not lead, direct, or make decisions for the IRIS program, which is in the Office of Research and Development.

Let me know if you want to weigh in. Thanks --

Annie Snider
Reporter
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