Message

From: Mutter, Andrew [mutter.andrew@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/19/2019 11:20:42 PM
To: Harrison, Jennifer [Harrison.Jennifer@epa.gov]
CC: Wardell, Christopher [Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov]; Chergo, Jennifer [Chergo.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: EPA Press release: "EPA celebrates and shares this long-awaited milestone with those who live in the north-Denver neighborhoods affected by lead and arsenic contamination," said EPA Regional Administrator Doug Benevento.

Thx Jennifer. Standing by

Best regards,

Andrew

Andrew Mutter

Director, Office of Communication and Public Involvement
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (Denver, CO)

Office: 303.312.6448
Cell: 720.520.3047

Twitter: @EPARegion8
Facebook: U.S. EPA Region 8
Webpage: EPA Region 8 (Mountains and Plains)

From: Harrison, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 4:45 PM
To: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>
Cc: Wardell, Christopher <Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov>; Chergo, Jennifer <Chergo.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: EPA Press release: "EPA celebrates and shares this long-awaited milestone with those who live in the north-Denver neighborhoods affected by lead and arsenic contamination," said EPA Regional Administrator Doug Benevento.

Andrew, just want to circle back that I spoke with Jesse Aviles and Steve Wharton and Steve agreed it appropriate for me to call Joan Seeman. I left Joan a voicemail earlier this afternoon but have not heard back from her. At this time I don't recommend elevating to Betsy and Sandy as it appears that Joan's concerns aren't really new. If Joan does reach me, I will reiterate that Jennifer is back April 1 which is before the comment period ends and that deletion will not occur until EPA has reviewed and considered all comments and prepared a responsiveness summary. I'll also stay tuned on the CAG meeting tonight which is being attended by Steve Wharton.

On Mar 19, 2019, at 8:41 AM, Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov> wrote:

> Jennifer,
> Jennifer C state you were covering for while she is out on vacation. Can you check into this and let me know if we need to elevate to Sandy or Betsy?
>
> Thanks
>
> Best regards,
>
> Andrew

Andrew Mutter

Director, Office of Communication and Public Involvement
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (Denver, CO)

Office: 303.312.6448
Cell: 720.520.3047

Twitter: @EPARegion8
Facebook: U.S. EPA Region 8
Webpage: EPA Region 8 (Mountains and Plains)

From: Leahy, Leslie
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 5:55 AM
To: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>
Cc: Aviles, Jesse <Aviles.Jesse@epa.gov>; Chergo, Jennifer <Chergo.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Margand, Freya <Margand.Freya@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA Press release: "EPA celebrates and shares this long-awaited milestone with those who live in the north-Denver neighborhoods affected by lead and arsenic contamination," said EPA Regional Administrator Doug Benevento.

Hi Andrew,
I received a call out of the blue from a concerned citizen in Region 8 yesterday afternoon – Ms. Joan Seeman, with regards to the Vasquez Boulevard and I-70 Superfund site. She had a lot to say, and I felt my role was to pretty much just listen, as I have very little knowledge of the activity at the site (although I was reading information on the site profile pages as I listened and trying to get up to speed quickly).

I am sure she found my name and contact information on the CAG website, which currently lists Libby Faulk as the Region 8 CAG coordinator. If possible today or sometime this week, could you please provide me with an alternate person from your team or region who I can add as either a temporary or permanent Region 8 CAG coordinator? Apparently when Ms. Seeman tried to reach Libby Faulk, she learned Libby left the agency on Jan. 4th. Much of her concern yesterday was not being able to speak to someone in the Region 8 office (as she tried to reach the CIC on the site, Jennifer Chergo, who is away from the office until 4/1). But, I know for a fact that Jesse Aviles was available at the time she called me, as I spoke to Jesse to debrief him right after hanging up with Ms. Seeman. Jesse clearly has everything under control, and confirmed he is all set for a meeting with the VB/I -70 community that is scheduled for tonight. But, one area of concern for Jesse is the CAG at the site, and once Jennifer is back, maybe we should set up a call to discuss his concerns and a path forward.

I do not plan to reply to Ms. Seeman's email, but during our conversation I did let her know I'd make sure the phone numbers that she called (and got voice messages to leave a reply) were aware that Jennifer is away from the office, and that I'd get a CAG poc from Region 8 to include on the CAG website.

Just wanted to keep you in the loop while Jennifer is away from the office.

Leslie Leahy
Community Involvement & Program Initiatives Branch
Office of Superfund and Remediation and Technology Innovation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Tel 703-603-8707
https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement

From: Joan Seeman Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 8:09 PM
To: Joan Seeman Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; benevento.doug@epa.com; Aviles, Jesse <Aviles.Jesse@epa.gov>; Chergo, Jennifer <Chergo.Jennifer@epa.gov>; jennifer.opila@state.co.us; jeannine.natterman@state.co.us; Meghan Hughes <meghan.hughes@state.co.us>; fonda.apostolopoulos@state.co.us; Leahy, Leslie <leahy.leslie@epa.gov>; vbi170cag@gmail.com; Wharton, Steve <Wharton.Steve@epa.gov>; Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>; Murray, Bill <Murray.Bill@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA Press release: "EPA celebrates and shares this long-awaited milestone with those who live in the north-Denver neighborhoods affected by lead and arsenic contamination," said EPA Regional Administrator Doug Benevento.

Updated email re the Vasquez Blvd National Superfund Site OU1 delist to "Betsy Smidinger".

Betsy,
Just found this EPA press release and supposed collaboration with the community and the City of Denver? There is no mention of the Vasquez Blvd the current Citizens Advisory Committee and their concerns regarding the proposed delist?

"EPA Regional Administrator Doug Benevento. **"Our proposal to delete these residential areas from the Superfund list is the culmination of nearly two decades of hard work and collaboration with the State of Colorado, the City of Denver and the local community."**

Betsy Smidinger
Assistant EPA Region 8 Administrator

Re: The Vasquez Blvd National Superfund Site

Betsy,
Please help clarify a few questions regarding the EPA residential OU1 deletion, the public notification of the upcoming EPA quarterly meeting, and the need for the EPA electronically available documents.

1. "Historically, the affected north-Denver neighborhoods were a major smelting center for the Rocky Mountain West. Two smelting plants—Omaha & Grant and Argo—operated at the site for varying lengths of time, beginning as early as the 1870s, refining gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc."

Why was the ASARCO Globe Smelter not mentioned in the Press Release?
https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-delete-residential-areas-north-denver-superfund-list

2. Why was there no additional press release regarding the "extension" of the public comment period for the community?

3. Regional Director Doug Benevento would not respond to requests from the Citizens Advisory Committee to attend a question and answer meeting with EPA. No EPA presentation or response to expert questions re the OU1 delist were considered "before" the Proposed delist? Mr. Benevento went to the Pueblo Colorado Smelter Superfund site CAG meetings several times.
https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-delete-residential-areas-north-denver-superfund-list

"EPA celebrates and shares this long-awaited milestone with those who live in the north-Denver neighborhoods affected by lead and arsenic contamination," said EPA Regional Administrator Doug Benevento. **"Our proposal to delete these residential areas from the Superfund list is the culmination of nearly two decades of hard work and collaboration with the State of Colorado, the City of Denver and the local community."**

Why did EPA not mention of the ASARCO Globe Smelter?
https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-delete-residential-areas-north-denver-superfund-list

News Releases from Region 08

EPA proposes to delete residential areas in north Denver from Superfund list

Milestone at Vasquez Boulevard/ Interstate 70 Superfund site reflects long-awaited completion of residential cleanups for lead and arsenic

02/06/2019

Contact Information:
Richard Mylott (mylott.richard@epa.gov)
303-312-6654

DENVER- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced its intent to delete a portion of the Vasquez Boulevard/Interstate 70 (VB/I-70) Superfund site in Denver, Colorado from the National Priorities List (NPL) of the nation's most contaminated sites. EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have determined that all required cleanup activities are complete in the area proposed for deletion. EPA is accepting public comments on the proposed action through March 8, 2019.

"EPA celebrates and shares this long-awaited milestone with those who live in the north-Denver neighborhoods affected by lead and arsenic contamination," said EPA Regional Administrator Doug Benevento. **"Our proposal to delete these residential areas from the Superfund list is the culmination of nearly two decades of hard work and collaboration with the State of Colorado, the City of Denver and the local community."**

The VB/I-70 Superfund site includes four square miles in north Denver, including the Cole, Clayton, Swansea/Elyria, southwest Globeville and northern Curtis Park neighborhoods. EPA placed the site on the NPL in 1999 due to metals contamination, mainly lead and arsenic, associated with historic smelter operations in the area. In 2003, EPA selected a remedy for residential properties that included extensive soil sampling, soil removal, and a community health program. In completing that work, EPA has sampled more than 4,500 residential yards and cleaned up nearly 800.

EPA is proposing to delete the residential area of the VB/I-70 Superfund site, also called Operable Unit 1, based on a determination that no further action is needed to protect human health and the environment. The area will continue to be subject to regular EPA review for protectiveness. EPA will continue to address contamination concerns at remaining portions of the VB/I-70 site, which includes the locations of two former smelters.

Historically, the affected north-Denver neighborhoods were a major smelting center for the Rocky Mountain West. Two smelting plants—Omaha & Grant and Argo—operated at the site for varying lengths of time, beginning as early as the 1870s, refining gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc. As a result, heavy metals were deposited in area soils at levels that, in some cases, posed a health risk to residents. Groundwater was also impacted at the former smelter locations.

For more information, including how to comment on the proposed deletion, visit: https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0801646

4. Who will take Jennifer Chergo's place at the upcoming March 19th "EPA quarterly meeting" if she will be unavailable until April 1? Jennifer

states, "If this is urgent, please contact the EPA Information Service Center at 303-312-6312."
Who is Jennifer's replacement as the Community Involvement Coordinator? I just phoned the number available and there is NO EPA person available except a general voicemail message?

Below are the EPA Region contacts posted online:

At EPA Headquarters, contact Freya Margand (margand.freya@epa.gov, 703-603-8889) or Leslie Leahy (leahy.leslie@epa.gov, 703-603-8707).(Amazing. An EPA D.C. contact Leslie Leahy answered her phone!)

For assistance in the regions, contact your appropriate General Regional Contact listed below:
Region 8 – Libby Faulk (faulk.libby@epa.gov), 303-312-6083 (message wrong in this Region, she is retired - no new info posted.

Just found this site: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/organization-chart-epas-region-8-office#orc
Office of Communications and Public Involvement (OCPI)
Director: Andrew Mutter
303-312-6448

5. Will the March 19th EPA quarterly Vasquez Blvd Superfund site meeting be available by teleconference/video for those unable to attend?

Focus Point Family Resource Center, 2501 East 48th Ave., Denver, Colorado 80216

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

6. I am unable to locate any EPA notice of this meeting and I was just told there is only "1" Library, the Valdez Perry, that contains a CD of a few documents regarding the OU1 operable unit that is now proposed for deletion. Also, EPA Jesse Avilés created a google website that has not been available to the general public. It requires a password and is difficult to access.

7. Should EPA have provided a formal question and answer session "before" the Federal Notice to help clarify questions regarding the "residential" OU1 delist for the general public? The VB/I-70 CAG expert presented his questions that have not been answered, EPA did not reply to the CAG resolution regarding OU1, and a required Community Involvement Plan (CIP) and interviews for OU 1 are "now" occurring AFTER the close of the public comment period? The last CIP one written was in 2000 and it was a "draft". The next one was in 2005 and all OU's were "combined" and little info re OU1 was included.

Lastly, it would be important before the delist for EPA to provide access to documents due to a Freedom of Information request that I submitted for OU1 to be available on the website ASAP. This request is still

pending due to a computer issue that is currently being worked on to be resolved. There are many people concerned in the community that are unable to travel who live in or to the community meetings. Also, many citizens were unaware of the many documents that have not been made publicly available by EPA for their review. Most citizens like myself were not aware of the Freedom of Information document access on EPA's website:
https://www.foiaonline.gov/

This EPA website for public participation to review available information electronically is amazing. I'm hoping the public has access before the April 8th Federal notice to comment regarding the delist of OU1 in the Vasquez Blvd National Superfund site.

I look forward to your help.

Thank you,
Joan Seeman

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

PS
I will contact the Valdez Perry Library for an update as to what has been made available for the local community review for OU1 before the delist.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2019, at 11:48 AM, Chergo, Jennifer
<Chergo.Jennifer@epa.gov> wrote:

> I will be out of the office until Monday, April 1, 2019. I will respond to your email when I return. If this is urgent, please contact the EPA Information Service Center at 303-312-6312.
>
> Thank you.