Message

From: Ferrell, Mark [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=8CCAF8C895C8426E9B5C274D26B7F833-FERRELL, MARK]
Sent: 3/22/2019 6:25:04 PM
To: Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]
CC: Seneca, Roy [Seneca.Roy@epa.gov]; White, Terri-A [White.Terri-A@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Paden City, WV - PCE

I think Rob would like some sort of indication we recognize the issue and concur, then yes, next time DEP or EPA goes to press with this issue we'll give a heads-up.

~Mark

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2019, at 2:19 PM, Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov> wrote:

> Next step, Rob will reach out to EPA when he wants more coordination on public messaging. Correct?
>
> Thanks,
>
> Chad Nitsch
> Director, Office of Communications and Government Relations
> US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic: WV, VA, PA, MD, DE, DC)
> 215-814-5434
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Ferrell, Mark
> **Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2019 3:39 PM
> **To:** Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Re: Paden City, WV - PCE
>
> Sorry, should have included Roy on this.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Ferrell, Mark
> **Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2019 3:38 PM
> **To:** Nitsch, Chad; White, Terri-A
> **Subject:** Paden City, WV - PCE
>
> In talking with Rob Rice and Ed McGuire at DEP, their concerns seem to be mostly about heading off any growing local perception that DEP/EPA may not be performing as they should, as implied in this editorial. This editorial also calls for a Town Meeting on the issue, with state and fed agencies present.
>
> http://www.wetzelchronicle.com/page/content.detail/id/559483/Paden-City-Residents-Deserve-Transparency--Clarity.html?nav=5003

The vetted responses Roy sent to the Wheeling Intelligencer today address the fact that EPA and DEP have been working on this issue together for nearly a year. (Even though the City didn't begin making this information public until March 4, 2019). But we've also seen reporting in the Wetzel Chronicle and WTOV in Steubenville.

Then we also have a mayor of Paden City saying that concerns are being "overblown" in this story, and gives his own interpretation of testing data:

http://www.wetzelchronicle.com/page/content.detail/id/559483/Paden-City-Residents-Deserve-Transparency--Clarity.html?nav=5003

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

As Roy's response to the Intelligencer's last question bears out, its not EPA's role to answer the question "is this water safe to drink, cook or bathe with?"

Going forward, Rob Rice is seeking some coordination on public messaging where appropriate to ensure the public is being accurately informed about EPA and DEP activities, that EPA and DEP are appropriately coordinated in their work to address the issue.

From: Nitsch, Chad
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 1:25 PM
To: Ferrell, Mark; White, Terri-A
Subject: RE: Wetzel Chronicle (3-20) Editorial - Paden City Residents Deserve Transparency, Clarity

Okay.

Chad Nitsch
Director, Office of Communications and Government Relations
US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic: WV, VA, PA, MD, DE, DC)

215-814-5434<image001.png><image001.png>

From: Ferrell, Mark
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 1:24 PM
To: Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>
Subject: Fw: Wetzel Chronicle (3-20) Editorial - Paden City Residents Deserve Transparency, Clarity

Chad, reading again the editorial Rob points to below, its my guess Rob has something communications/messaging on his mind than a question about what EPA is doing at the site. Let me hear him out and see what's on his mind and I'll report back to you two.

From: Rice, Robert <Robert.Rice@wv.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 1:07 PM
To: Ferrell, Mark
Subject: Re: Wetzel Chronicle (3-20) Editorial - Paden City Residents Deserve Transparency, Clarity

2pm work for you?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 21, 2019, at 12:39 PM, Ferrell, Mark <Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov> wrote:

> Rob, I have a 1:30 appt but the rest of my day is pretty open whenever you'd like to talk.
>
> ~Mark
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Mar 20, 2019, at 6:23 PM, Rice, Robert <Robert.Rice@wv.gov> wrote:
>
>> Mark,
>> Please see article below. What have you heard on your end regarding this? Would you have time for a brief call tomorrow?
>> Thanks
>> Rob
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>> Begin forwarded message:
>>
>>> **From:** "Huggins, William" <William.Huggins@wv.gov>
>>> **Date:** March 20, 2019 at 2:29:50 PM EDT

To: "Rice, Robert" <Robert.Rice@wv.gov>, "Korbini, Casey E" <Casey.E.Korbini@wv.gov>
Cc: "Fletcher, Terry A" <Terry.A.Fletcher@wv.gov>, "Joins, Rusty T" <Rusty.T.Joins@wv.gov>, "McDougal, Jason S" <Jason.S.McDougal@wv.gov>
Subject: Wetzel Chronicle (3-20) Editorial - Paden City Residents Deserve Transparency, Clarity

I forwarded this to Jake McDougal earlier so he may have already passed this article to you. Just making sure everyone is aware of it. Please see below.

Note I have a call with the Shaffer Equipment RPM until 3:30PM, but will be available to discuss afterward.

Thanks

Bill

304-382-7712<image001.png><image001.png><image001.png> mobile

Paden City Residents Deserve Transparency, Clarity

March 20, 2019
Wetzel Chronicle

Numerical values aside, the fact remains that Paden City's drinking water contains an excess of a dry cleaning chemical considered

by the EPA to be "most likely carcinogenic to humans."

However, when considering the numbers, it is argued that someone's odds of getting cancer from PCE in their drinking water would increase by one in 1 million if they consumed 17 parts per billion of the chemical over a lifetime, according to the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Furthermore, the concentration of PCE is Paden City's water supply is 5.5 parts per billion. The maximum allowable contaminant level for the chemical set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is 5 parts per billion.

Paden City residents have been given these facts though, over and over. If they didn't attend the March 4 council meeting, when a letter was read by Mayor Clyde Hochstrasser stating the above-mentioned information, then they might have heard such from someone who did attend the council meeting. Or, perhaps they read the story when the Wetzel Chronicle released

our news coverage from the meeting on our website that week. Or, perhaps they read the information the following week when each Paden City water customer received a memo-type correspondence, without a date or signature, stating the information. The news then broke regional, and even nationwide.

Still, we feel that Paden City residents are looking for more. Browsing social media, and the comments in response to this news story, we can confidently state that residents ARE looking for more than just an impersonal letter or the repetition of information from governmental agencies. Is that water safe to drink? Is the water safe to use for bathing? Are children at a higher risk of ill affects from drinking water contaminated with PCE? What about pets? Do animals have a different reaction to drinking water contaminated with PCE?

Why were residents informed about this in March, when it's been reported that the city found contamination

at one of its wells
about six months ago?

We recommend a
town meeting which
includes
representatives from
the local, state, and
federal levels.

We recommend
complete
transparency and
clarity. The people of
Paden City deserve
this.