Message

From: Mastro, Donna [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=04C0D304A60246198CD573754FADE0B4-DMASTRO]
Sent: 1/14/2020 4:38:25 PM
To: Stoltzfus, Robert [Stoltzfus.Robert@epa.gov]; Seneca, Roy [Seneca.Roy@epa.gov]
CC: Smith, William (Region 3) [smith.william@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Request for comment on PES benzene emissions from E&E and NBC

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

Donna L. Mastro | Deputy Regional Counsel for Enforcement| US EPA Region III ORC | (215) 814-2777 | fax (215) 814-2603

From: Stoltzfus, Robert <Stoltzfus.Robert@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Mastro, Donna <Mastro.Donna@epa.gov>; Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Request for comment on PES benzene emissions from E&E and NBC

Ex. 5 Attorney Work Product (AWP)

Bob

J. Robert Stoltzfus / US EPA, Region III / Office of Regional Counsel / Mail Code 3RC50 / 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 / 215-814-2695 / stoltzfus.robert@epa.gov

From: Patrick ONeill <Patrick.ONeill@Phila.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Stoltzfus, Robert <Stoltzfus.Robert@epa.gov>; Augustine, Bruce <augustine.bruce@epa.gov>; Shine, Brenda <Shine.Brenda@epa.gov>
Cc: Dennis Yuen <Dennis.Yuen@phila.gov>
Subject: FW: Request for comment on PES benzene emissions from E&E and NBC

Ex. 5 Attorney Work Product (AWP)

Patrick K. O'Neill Esq.
Divisional Deputy City Solicitor, Environmental Law
City of Philadelphia Law Dept.
One Parkway Bldg. 16th Floor
1515 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-683-5172 (phone)

215-683-5175 (fax)
patrick.oneill@phila.gov

-------- Original message --------
From: Corbin Hiar <chiar@eenews.net>
Date: 1/13/20 7:22 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Press <Press@Phila.gov>, James Garrow <James.Garrow@phila.gov>
Cc: Lisa Riordan Seville <lriordanseville@gmail.com>
Subject: Request for comment on PES benzene emissions from E&E and NBC

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Hi, I'm working on a story with NBC News about public health dangers posed by the consistently high benzene emissions from the PES refinery that's set to run Wednesday morning.

EPA data show that the refinery exceeded the benzene emissions limit for all but 12 weeks from the end of January 2018 to late September 2019 -- an 86-week span. For the most recent quarter, the refinery's average annual benzene emissions were also 49 micrograms per cubic meter. That was higher than any other refinery that reported data to EPA and five times above the agency's benzene "action level."

The Kenney administration has known about the refinery's benzene problem since at least last June, according to its corrective action plan. But members of the Refinery Advisory Group say they weren't informed of the excessive emissions. And people who live around the refinery told us they felt the city wasn't taking into account their views and concerns.

What is the city doing to reduce the PES emissions, which actually increased after the explosive fire? Why hasn't the city done more to address the problem and protect residents -- many of whom are people of color living below the poverty line -- from the carcinogenic gases? Why hasn't the city informed the public and PES bidders of the refinery's benzene problems? To what extent is the city's silence on the issue driven by concerns about upsetting PES, labor leaders and/or potential bidders?

Please get back to us with any comments by the end of Tuesday, Jan. 14.

Thanks,
Corbin

Corbin Hiar
E&E News Reporter
O: 202 446 0438
M: 718 608 5314
T: @corbinhiar

Contact me securely via Signal, WhatsApp or corbin.hiar@protonmail.com

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E&E NEWS
122 C St NW, 7th Fl; Washington, DC, 20001

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