Message

From: Atkinson, Benjamin [atkinson.ben@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/3/2018 7:46:47 PM
To: Kuefler, Patrick [kuefler.patrick@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Press inquiry - follow up on central sands sampling - urgent

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From: Kuefler, Patrick
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2018 1:01 PM
To: Mikalian, Charles <mikalian.charles@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Hodaj, Andi <hodaj.andi@epa.gov>; Atkinson, Benjamin <atkinson.ben@epa.gov>
Cc: Klassman, Debra <klassman.debra@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Press inquiry - follow up on central sands sampling - urgent

Please edit my proposed responses in Red

Request – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Bergquist)
What prompted the agency to conduct the tests?
Response: Complaints of private drinking water well contamination.

Was the EPA responding to complaints about high nitrate levels in the water, including a report of one mother who said that she was forced to terminate a pregnancy because of a severe birth defect? Response: EPA has received numerous complaints from citizens in the area.

When do you expect to have results - and what is the next step of the agency after getting the results?
Response: EPA will analyze the results and determine if an environmental problem subject to EPA authority exists.

If the results show high nitrate levels that exceed drinking water standards, what will you do?
Response: EPA will coordinate with state and local agencies to address the problem

Have you communicated the reason for the trip with Central Sands Dairy, the largest farm in the area? Response: EPA coordinated the evaluation with state and local authorities but has not contacted any private entities except where access to private property was required to conduct the evaluation.

How often has the EPA conducted such tests in Wisconsin in the last few years? Response: EPA conducts numerous inspections and evaluations of different types and for different purposes annually implementing and supporting various environmental statutes.

Please confirm the following facts that EPA personnel shared with Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP):

41 bore holes for water sampling - at a shallow depth and deeper depth 60 to 80 feet. We did a total of 41 sample locations. Two depths were sampled. Generally the deeper sample was collected from the 49-45 foot depth and the shallower sample was collected at either 25-29 feet or 30-34 feet deepending on the depth

The testing will take place from roughly 20th Ave. and 4th street to the Wisconsin River. Response: Testing took place West of Lake Pentewell from the Wood County Line to the North and South to X.

(In an email, the DNR said a short while ago said that the EPA would be conducing groundwater sampling around Central Sands Dairy's land application fields and production area in Juneau County from April 30-May 4.) I don't think we can confirm what WDNR said

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From: Holst, Linda
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2018 12:42 PM
To: Lippert, Allison <lippert.allison@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press inquiry - follow up on central sands sampling

Pat and Ryan are working on responses, and will run by ORC.

From: Lippert, Allison
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2018 12:04 PM
To: Holst, Linda <holst.linda@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: Press inquiry - follow up on central sands sampling

All - please see below from one of the reporters who received our statement. Can WD draft responses to the questions we're able to answer?

Request – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Lee Bergquist)
What prompted the agency to conduct the tests?

Was the EPA responding to complaints about high nitrate levels in the water, including a report of one mother who said that she was forced to terminate a pregnancy because of a severe birth defect?

When do you expect to have results - and what is the next step of the agency after getting the results?

If the results show high nitrate levels that exceed drinking water standards, what will you do?

Have you communicated the reason for the trip with Central Sands Dairy, the largest farm in the area?

How often has the EPA conducted such tests in Wisconsin in the last few years?

Please confirm the following facts that EPA personnel shared with Cristi Sullivan-Greening:

41 bore holes for water sampling - at a shallow depth and deeper depth 60 to 80 feet.

The testing will take place from roughly 20th Ave. and 4th street to the Wisconsin River.

(In an email, the DNR said a short while ago said that the EPA would be conducing groundwater sampling around Central Sands Dairy's land application fields and production area in Juneau County from April 30-May 4.)

Allison Lippert
U.S. EPA Region 5
312-353-0967