Message

From: Armann, Steve [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A0E0EA7A009D4D75BC7BEA58747CCF9E-SARMANN]
Sent: 8/28/2015 9:53:09 PM
To: Baylor, Katherine [Baylor.Katherine@epa.gov]
CC: ZIFF, SARA [ZIFF.SARA@EPA.GOV]
Subject: FW: Message went to Jared . Testing at Ag Park

Importance: High

Non-Responsive - as agreed with Requestor

Steven S. Armann, Manager
Corrective Action Office (LND-4-1)
USEPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: 415-972-3352
Fax: 415-947-3533
Email: armann.steve@epa.gov

From: Armann, Steve
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 1:03 PM
To: Scott, Jeff; Huetteman, Tom
Cc: Barhite, Steven
Subject: Message went to Jared . Testing at Ag Park
Importance: High

Non-Responsive - as agreed with Requestor

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San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: 415-972-3352
Fax: 415-947-3533
Email: armann.steve@epa.gov

From: ZIFF, SARA
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 9:56 AM
To: Armann, Steve
Cc: Baylor, Katherine
Subject: FW: Testing at Ag Park
Importance: High

Non-Responsive - as agreed with Requestor

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Sara Ziff, P.E.
Project Manager
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(415) 972-3536
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From: Tasnif-abbasi, Maryam@DTSC [mailto:Maryam.Tasnif-abbasi@dtsc.ca.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 9:19 AM
To: ZIFF, SARA
Subject: FW: Testing at Ag Park

Thanks!
Maryam
(714) 222 3485

From: Penny Newman [mailto:penny.newman@ccaej.org]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 6:52 PM
To: Lee, Barbara@DTSC; Jared Blumenfeld (blumenfeld.jared@epa.gov)
Cc: Senator.Roth@senate.ca.gov; Senator.DeLeon@senate.ca.gov; Senator.Leyva@senate.ca.gov; Senator.Mitchelle@senate.ca.gov; Senator Connie Leyva (Henry.Castillo@sen.ca.gov); Senator DeLeon; Mascarenas, Ana@DTSC; Lofstrom, Dot@DTSC; jose.medina@asm.ca.gov
Subject: Testing at Ag Park

August 27, 2015

Ms Barbara Lee, Director
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1000 I Street
Sacramento, CA 9

Re: Riverside Agricultural Park

Dear Director Lee:

First, thank you for taking steps to assure the safety of the new residents that would be moving into homes in the (aka Ag Park) by agreeing to conduct independent confirmation testing. You have demonstrated your leadership in taking the necessary steps to ensure the safety of people near this contaminated site. But after meeting with staff and reviewing the proposed testing plan, I have significant concerns.

To begin with, the staff participating in the confirmation testing are the same people that signed off on the clean up originally. Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi, was project manager; Greg Neal, the Geologist, both played key roles in this project clean up. It is hardly an independent testing program if the very people that allowed the original clean up to go forward are the ones reviewing the clean up. **We request that these staff members and anyone else that was involved in the Ag Park cleanup be recused from participating in the confirmation testing program.**

We appreciate that EPA is providing oversight and consultation on this effort we also are concerned that the same EPA Staff - specifically Steve Armann - that signed off on the clean up based on erroneous information. For example, under the key facts on the site, information regarding the contribution of industrial waste including PCBs by Rohr Industries was eliminated from the information. To read the October 5, 2011 Memorandum from Steve Tyahla to Mr. Armann one would conclude this was a minor site and not one of concern. We will be requesting from EPA that Mr. Armann and any other EPA staff that was involved in approving the original clean up action also be recused from participating in any way in this confirmation testing program.

Our concerns have been heightened after reviewing the proposed testing plan. In the plan the soil samples are proposed to be taken on the surface! Staff must be aware that the developer has brought in clean fill dirt and graded the site! Yet they seriously propose to **TEST CLEAN FILL DIRT! Seriously?!**
The revised plan suggests 0-3 inches with a few core tests, but that simply isn't acceptable. The only way that would guarantee no exposure if pollutants remain on site is if there is a deed restriction that mandates the new homeowners cannot put in a garden, their children can't dig in the dirt, nor any excavation for flower beds, tree planting, patios or pools be allowed. Any disturbance below the surface or (3 inches) cannot demonstrate safety. Demonstration that the site has indeed be cleaned up is the purpose of the testing.

During the excavation of the site in preparation for the development of homes, local residents at the perimeter were exposed to heavy layers of dust and dirt from the site that in all likelihood contained contaminated materials. The few tests taken in the yards surrounding the site found PCBs which should not under any conditions be present. We strongly recommend that the testing plan expand to the first ring of homes to test for contaminants in the yards and attics. While we are concerned about families moving in the more urgent concern is for the families currently living in the area.

We again appreciate your efforts to move forward with this site, but in order to have a testing program in which we can all have confidence, we respectfully ask that the above requested changes in staff and testing protocol be taken.

Sincerely,

Penny J. Newman
Executive Director

cc: Congressman Mark Takano
Jared Blumenfeld, EPA Region 9 Administrator
Senator Richard Roth
Senate Rules Committee members: Senate Pro Tem De Leon, Senator Connie Leyva, and Senator Holly Michelle
Assembly member Jose Medina

CCAEJ

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