Message

From: Thurmon, Clarke [Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/30/2020 11:02:29 PM
To: Contreras, Peter [Contreras.Peter@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: 1st draft of letter to states/Umatilla for initial feedback
Attachments: DRAFT EPA ltr to ODA OHA ODEQ re Umatilla 2020 03 26_CTpg1.docx

Peter,

Thanks for the Skype call to help me better understand the process at play for this letter.

I have provided a cursory review of this document, and I am looking forward to any discussions surrounding this document and the strategy of how and when we transmit it or set up calls with each state agency. Also, whenever you are ready for a line-by-line review and edit of the document, let me know.

Thanks,
Clarke

Clarke Thurmon
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From: Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Thurmon, Clarke <Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: 1st draft of letter to states/Umatilla for initial feedback

Morning Clarke – here's the first draft. I'm waiting on feedback from Jeff/Mat for tone/content.

Let me know you're initial thoughts, then we'll start to refine/edit.

Thanks,

Peter

Peter Contreras, Chief
Field, Data & Drinking Water Enforcement Section
Water Enforcement & Field Branch (20C-04)
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
Seattle ,WA (206) 553-6708

From: Contreras, Peter
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Martinson, Mathew <Martinson.Mathew@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: 1st draft of letter to states/Umatilla for initial feedback

Jeff & Mat, Here's a first draft of the letter. Rather than redline, I suggest you review for overall tone/content and provide general feedback so we can calibrate first.

If we are in agreement with the approach, I can work with Clarke, OECA & OGC for their input.

Let me know if you'd like to discuss.

Thanks,

Peter

Peter Contreras, Chief
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From: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:33 AM
To: Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>
Cc: Barber, Anthony <Barber.Anthony@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Thurmon, Clarke <Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov>; Peak, Nicholas <Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov>; Edmondson, Lucy <Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LUBGWMA/Nitrates

Thanks. Am I tracking our collective status and next steps correctly?

Mathew J. Martinson, P.E., BCEE
CAPT, USPHS
Branch Chief, Permitting, Drinking Water and Infrastructure Branch
U.S. EPA, Region 10
Phone: 206-553-6334 (Direct)

From: Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 8:03 AM
To: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Cc: Barber, Anthony <Barber.Anthony@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Thurmon, Clarke <Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov>; Peak, Nicholas <Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov>;

Edmondson, Lucy <Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: LUBGWMA/Nitrates

Mat, I have a start on a letter and hope to get a 1st draft to share this week. I think we should wait to schedule the calls until we're agree on the letter internally — targeted for next week.

Peter

On Mar 26, 2020, at 7:47 AM, Martinson, Mathew <Martinson.Mathew@epa.gov> wrote:

Good morning ECAD, ORC, OOO, and Ag Sector colleagues,

As I was reflecting on my to-do list and priorities, and want to confirm where we're at for our LUB GWMA inquiry. Let me know if I've summarized correctly, or if I missed something in email:

1) We are going to reach out to each of the listed contacts to have more in-depth discussion with questions. Next Action: We need to set dates and decide who's leading each conversation. We also need to refine the list of questions. Date: TBD
2) Email RA/DRA. Next Action: Based on the below, Tony is going to send the below email update to the RA/DRA, WD Director, and ECAD Director. Date: TBD
3) Develop a follow-up letter to the State Agencies. Next Action: Decide who will draft the letter, and decide who will be the recipient of the letter. Date: TBD

Did I summarize our status accurately?

Thanks,
Mat

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From: Barber, Anthony <Barber.Anthony@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>; Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Thurmon, Clarke <Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov>; Peak, Nicholas <Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov>; Edmondson, Lucy <Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LUBGWMA/Nitrates

Here are the lead points of contact for those follow up discussions with the state agencies:

ODEQ – Justin Green
ODA – Stephanie Page
OHA – Gabriella Goldfarb
OrSHA - Garnet Cooke (Garnet.R.Cooke@state.or.us) referred to us by ODA for farm worker housing and related issues.

From: Barber, Anthony
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Martinson, Mathew <Martinson.Mathew@epa.gov>; Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>; Cara Steiner-Riley (Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov) <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Thurmon, Clarke <Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov>; Peak, Nicholas <Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov>; Edmondson, Lucy <Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov>
Subject: LUBGWMA/Nitrates

This is to follow up to our management-level call with Oregon state agencies yesterday regarding nitrates concerns in the Lower Umatilla Basin GWMA.

I'm asking you to review the summary below, which I prepared with an update email to Chris, Michelle, Ed, and Dan in mind. After any changes from feedback from you I will send it to them and copy all of you.

The following were on the call:

EPA: Anthony Barber, Jeff Kenknight, Peter Contreras, Nick Peak, Clark Thurmon
ODA: Stephanie Page, Marganne Allen
ODEQ: Justin Green, Linda Hayes-Gorman, David Anderson
OHA: Gabriella Goldfarb, David Emme

We discussed the petition EPA received in January and our concerns and evaluation of the conditions within the LUBGWMA, especially focusing on whether an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health exists. We verbally went through a list of draft questions with the state agencies, the answer to which will help us close information gaps for our evaluation.

The discussion went well, and each agency will be providing an individual point of contact we can work with to fine tune the requested data and information we need and help coordinate the agencies responses to our request. We plan to work with each of those contacts over the next several days to ensure we are on target for what we are asking. The interest here is to ensure that we are asking for the most helpful information in the most efficient and intelligible manner, and that we aren't missing things. Once that coordination has been accomplished, we will draft a letter to each agency to request the information in writing (signed by ECAD Director or RA?). Once the letter is drafted, we plan to convene an update briefing for the RA.

It is worth noting that we learned that 1) the planned April 2nd LUBGWMA meeting where we were going to have Eric Winiecki present has now been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns, and 2) the Draft 2nd LUBGWMA Action Plan is now out for a 60-day public comment period through May 8th. DEQ will have 30 days after that to act on the plan.

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