Message

From: Opalski, Dan [Opalski.Dan@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/23/2020 8:26:11 PM
To: Martinson, Mathew [martinson.mathew@epa.gov]
CC: Schuster, Cindy [Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov]; Kenknight, Jeff [Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov]; Kowalski, Edward [Kowalski.Edward@epa.gov]; Contreras, Peter [Contreras.Peter@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

I think it is "Area" rather than "Agency"?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2020, at 12:18 PM, Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov> wrote:

Cindy – This is what Peter, Jeff and I have come up with for the response to Tucker Billman (Congressman Walden's eastern Oregon staff).

EPA has not been able to give the petition a substantial review. It's likely that this will take some time, as the submission is over 1,500 pages in length, and was submitted 1-week ago (on January 16, 2020). However, EPA is aware of the Ground Water Management Agency and the important role GWMAs play in supporting assessment and management of ground water resources by state and local stakeholders. EPA does not currently have an active role in the Lower Umatilla Basin GWMA. The State has primacy for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act regulation, and they have played the lead role.

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: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 7:20 AM
To: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>; Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>
Cc: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Thank you.
--Cindy, x. 1815

From: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 6:46 PM
To: Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>
Cc: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Yes. I have another urgent matter I'm dealing with in the morning too, but this is a priority.

Mathew J. Martinson, P.E., BCEE
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From: Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 5:40 PM
To: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Cc: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Mat, how about we talk in the morning?

Thanks,

Peter

On Jan 22, 2020, at 5:05 PM, Kowalski, Edward <Kowalski.Edward@epa.gov> wrote:

Edward J. Kowalski
Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
EPA Region 10
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-6695

From: Kowalski, Edward
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 4:25 PM
To: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Cindy, to date, we've been jointly working the issue with the Water Division. I will forward it and leave it to Peter and Matt to decide who should respond. Thanks.

Edward J. Kowalski
Director
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Seattle, WA 98101
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From: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:56 PM
To: Kowalski, Edward <Kowalski.Edward@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Cc: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Hi Ed, I understand that your office is the one that can help with a response to this congressional inquiry. It does not need to be formal. Please let me know if I should work with one of your staff members.

Also, Ed and Marianne, since we are in the midst of preparing for budget hearings, do you think this is something that needs a budget briefing paper?

Cindy, x. 1815

From: Billman, Tucker <Tucker.Billman@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>
Subject: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Hey Cindy!

Thank you for taking my call today. Again, I had just wrapped up a call with Northeast Oregon Water Association (NOWA) before calling you. They have a lot of concerns about the long standing impacts of this petition, and were hoping I could get some information from you all on.

Here is the article I mentioned when we spoke today:
https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/activists-petition-epa-to-step-in-on-groundwater-emergency-in/article_d7588b8a-38b3-11ea-b6c9-672ddf79c426.html

NOWA's concern is pretty well laid out in this article. I was really just hoping for some background on EPA's end – has the EPA reviewed the petition? Is there an initial reaction from the EPA? And is the EPA aware of all of the activity that NOWA and the State are doing to work on a number of water-related issues in the Umatilla Basin?

Whatever information you can share is most helpful!

Thanks,

Tucker

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