Message

From: Strynar, Mark [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5A9910D5B38E471497BD875FD329A20A-STRYNAR, MARK]
Sent: 2/14/2020 6:21:59 PM
To: Watkins, Tim [Watkins.Tim@epa.gov]
CC: Medina-Vera, Myriam [medina-vera.myriam@epa.gov]; Smith, Emily J. [Smith.Emily@epa.gov]
Subject: article that incorrectly mentions me and solar panel GenX and PFAS
Attachments: perfluoro-and-solar-panels-Reference_02_15_2018_120238-002.pdf; Eckerlin solar panels and PFAS emails.pdf; Neal Robbins PFAS and solar emails.pdf; Louis Iannone email Article.pdf; Geoff Marke email RE_ solar panels and GenX .pdf; Stukes and Ross email solar stuff.pdf

All,

I wanted to bring this article to your attention that I just was asked about today. However this article is from (February 2018). https://nsjonline.com/article/2018/02/solar-panels-could-be-a-source-of-genx-and-other-perflourinated-contaminants/ It incorrectly cites me and says many things that are inaccurate. I am attaching my emails to Herb Eckerlin, and the References from Scifinder I sent. As well as others I have sent the literature review to in the past.

I recently found this article where Peter Grevatt and Andy Gillespie are cited in (August 2018) so this may be a non-issue https://www.carolinajournal.com/news-article/epa-confirms-genx-related-compounds-used-in-solar-panels/

I want to set the record straight on this article I am quoted in above:

1) Some time in the past (~ 2years ago) I had a call from an NC State emeritus professor (Heb Eckerlin) with expertise in solar power asking if I know anything about PFAS in solar panels. I told him I did not but I would be glad to do a literature review on the topic and see what I could find. I did so in Scifinder and sent him the results on a search for "perfluoro" and "solar panels". The one correct thing in this article is that literature review.
2) Shortly after sending that literature review another person contacted me asking me via phone for the same literature review. They identified themselves as a reporter (Neal Robbins) who had talked to Herb and was interested in the literature review I had done. I seem to recall they called and I sent the email after in response. I sent them the same literature review, and a follow up to a technical question about FRD902 and FRD903 being PFAS . Much to my dismay (~2 years ago) they wrote the article above citing me about PFAS in solar panels with quotes in some article. Clearly the reporter but did not state he was going to cite or quote me as such and used this info without my knowledge, he had only indicated he wanted the literature review. I found out about the article over that weekend from a colleague. I sent a very direct email to the author and editor of the article saying I was quoted in this article, this was done without my knowledge and any reference to me or this topic should be removed from this article. I don't know if they ever did as I got no response from them. In hindsight I should have brought this to your attention then, but I was hoping this was a non-issue. We were knee deep in the NCDEQ and GenX work and did not need more to do.
3) I have sent this same literature review to a couple of people I met at the NC Bar association meeting (Katherine Stukes and Katherine Ross) May 2019 and to a person from the MO office of public counsel (Geoff Marke) in the past year.

Fast forward to today:

4) I received a call today from a gentleman names Louis Iannone from Strata Solar asking about the article above. I told him today I was quoted and cited without my knowledge. I sent the literature review and other than stating the PFAS appear to be potential PFAS sources as they are clearly in solar panel production, I know nothing on this topic.

I am not sure what if anything can or needs to be done at this point with this original article. At a minimum I would like to be able to write a document that states we are not working on this topic and I know nothing of the subject. It is

evident to me based on the literature I saw and some follow-up documents from other sources that PFAS are used in solar panel production. I am however not the authority on this subject.

Tim, I am not sure if you are still here. I will try to find you.

Mark

Dr. Mark J. Strynar
Physical Scientist
US EPA
National Exposure Research Laboratory
919-541-3706
Strynar.mark@epa.gov