Message

From: Anna Sewell [asewell@earthjustice.org]
Sent: 7/10/2020 6:32:35 PM
To: Walts, Alan [walts.alan@epa.gov]; nnelson@equitylegalservices.org
CC: dchizewer@earthjustice.org; kjackson@ehoc-stl.org; nospina@nrdc.org; mgeertsma@nrdc.org; Triantafillou, Kathy [triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov]; Suero, Maryann [suero.maryann@epa.gov]; mrock@earthjustice.org
Subject: RE: Updates and Phone Call
Attachments: 2011 EPA R5 Info Rqst to Commonfields.pdf

Hi Alan,

Thank you again for meeting on Monday, and for including enforcement and water division colleagues on the call. We remain interested in partnering with EPA on a near-term emergency communications option for residents impacted by flooding or sewage, as well as moving forward with a convening of the relevant entities. We are eager to hear about next steps and set a timeline for the partnership process.

We also appreciate Region 5 investigating its enforcement options, including options related to the pattern of sewage overflows and discharges for decades in Centreville. To that end, we are reminded that in 2011 Region 5 sent a very thorough information request to Commonfields of Cahokia under 33 U.S.C. 1318 regarding sewage overflows in Centreville (attached). We wonder if you might be able to share the concerns that prompted this request, as well as any responses EPA received?

Thanks much,
Anna

From: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 1:22 PM
To: nnelson@equitylegalservices.org
Cc: Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; kjackson@ehoc-stl.org; Anna Sewell <asewell@earthjustice.org>; nospina@nrdc.org; mgeertsma@nrdc.org; triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov; suero.maryann@epa.gov; Mary Rock <mrock@earthjustice.org>
Subject: RE: Updates and Phone Call

Sure thing. Yes, we'll set up a number.

Director, Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office (TMPO)
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Nicole D. Nelson <nnelson@equitylegalservices.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Cc: Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; kjackson@ehoc-stl.org; asewell@earthjustice.org; nospina@nrdc.org; mgeertsma@nrdc.org; Triantafillou, Kathy <triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov>; Suero, Maryann <suero.maryann@epa.gov>; Mary Rock <mrock@earthjustice.org>
Subject: Re: Updates and Phone Call

Yes, that works for us. Thanks for getting everyone together. Will you be sending around a dial in number?

Nicole D. Nelson

Executive Director of Equity Legal Services
Equity Legal Services, Inc.
5720 N. Belt West
Suite #20-267
Belleville, Illinois 62226
P: 618.693.9800
E: nnelson@equitylegalservices.org
www.equitylegalservices.org
she/her/hers

On Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 12:13 PM Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Nicole, can we plan on Monday the 6th, 10-11 am Central?

Along with myself, Kathy Triantafillou, and Maryann Suero, Water Division and Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division management will join us in the conversation.

Best,

Alan

Director, Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office (TMPO)
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Nicole D. Nelson <nnelson@equitylegalservices.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Cc: Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; kjackson@ehoc-stl.org; asewell@earthjustice.org; nospina@nrdc.org; mgeertsma@nrdc.org; Triantafillou, Kathy <triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov>; Suero, Maryann <suero.maryann@epa.gov>; Mary Rock <mrock@earthjustice.org>
Subject: Re: Updates and Phone Call

Hi Alan,

Our team is available Monday (7/6)-- we are flexible for times on Monday and Friday (7/10) anytime between 9AM and 11AM CDT and also after 1PM CDT.

Let us know what works.

-Nicole

Nicole D. Nelson

Executive Director of Equity Legal Services

Equity Legal Services, Inc.

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Suite #20-267

Belleville, Illinois 62226

P: 618.693.9800

E: nnelson@equitylegalservices.org

www.equitylegalservices.org

she/her/hers

On Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 12:59 PM Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your patience Nicole -- we're prepped now for the more substantive discussion you requested. What are some dates and times that work for you and your team?

Best,

Alan

Director, Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office (TMPO)
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Nicole D. Nelson <nnelson@equitylegalservices.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Cc: Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; kjackson@ehoc-stl.org; asewell@earthjustice.org; nospina@nrdc.org; mgeertsma@nrdc.org; Triantafillou, Kathy <triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Updates and Phone Call

Thanks, Alan.

Nicole D. Nelson

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Suite #20-267

Belleville, Illinois 62226

P: 618.693.9800

E: nnelson@equitylegalservices.org

www.equitylegalservices.org

she/her/hers

On Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 11:03 AM Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Nicole – thanks for this additional information. I apologize, it's been taking a little while to arrange on our end but we will get back to you all as soon as possible.

Best,

Alan

Director, Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office (TMPO)
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Nicole D. Nelson <nnelson@equitylegalservices.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Cc: Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; kjackson@ehoc-stl.org; asewell@earthjustice.org; nospina@nrdc.org; mgeertsma@nrdc.org
Subject: Re: Updates and Phone Call

Hi Alan,

We are following up on scheduling the call.

Please find attached photos from yesterday. Centreville residents were inundated with stormwater from the broken stormwater and sanitary sewer systems. At least one resident could not access her home as of 7PM last night. Some residents were offered boats for rescue by St. Clair Emergency Management Agency.

Also, I continue to receive daily calls from residents in Cahokia who are experiencing the same. I received numerous calls from media last night and today who plan to cover yesterday's flooding.

We look forward to speaking with you and your team.

-Nicole

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www.equitylegalservices.org

she/her/hers

On Fri, Jun 26, 2020 at 1:02 PM Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Debbie – understand, hope to be able to get back to you all by Monday afternoon.

Best,

Alan

Director, Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office (TMPO)
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>; nnelson@equitylegalservices.org
Cc: kjackson@ehoc-stl.org; asewell@earthjustice.org; nospina@nrdc.org; mgeertsma@nrdc.org
Subject: RE: Updates and Phone Call

Hi Alan,

Thanks for checking with your team on dates. We are eager to have a call as soon as possible.

Best,

Debbie

Debbie Chizewer

Managing Attorney, Midwest Office

Earthjustice

311 S. Wacker, Suite 1400

Chicago, IL 60606

dchizewer@earthjustice.org

312-800-8307

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From: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:10 AM
To: nnelson@equitylegalservices.org
Cc: Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; kjackson@ehoc-stl.org; Anna Sewell <asewell@earthjustice.org>; nospina@nrdc.org; mgeertsma@nrdc.org
Subject: RE: Updates and Phone Call

Hi Nicole – thanks much for the update and attachments; I will talk to our team and look for possible dates for a call, then get back to you as soon as possible.

Best,

Alan

Director, Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office (TMPO)
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Nicole D. Nelson <nnelson@equitylegalservices.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Cc: Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; Kalila Jackson <kjackson@ehoc-stl.org>; Anna Sewell <asewell@earthjustice.org>; Ospina, Natalia <nospina@nrdc.org>; mgeertsma@nrdc.org
Subject: Updates and Phone Call

Hi Alan,

I hope you are doing well. Our team is reaching out to provide you with a few updates and to determine your availability for a call.

When we last spoke we mentioned that we were close to filing litigation. On 6/5, two organizations from our team (mine and Kalila Jackson from EHOC) filed a Complaint for Injunctive Relief in the Southern District of Illinois. I have attached those pleadings for you and your team's review.

Since that filing, several newspapers have covered the filing, including the St. Louis Post Dispatch, Belleville News Democrat, St. Louis NPR, Madison St. Clair Record, and the Southern Illinoisan. We have received numerous phone calls, emails, emails received from these publications forwarded to us from residents in Centreville and many from Cahokia asking for help because of raw sewage in their homes and yards and stormwater flooding in their neighborhoods.

While our team is aware that these surrounding municipalities have been struggling with similar issues and would love to be able to dedicate resources and time to assist everyone, unfortunately, we do not have the resources available to do so. We barely have the resources needed (and often run into many barriers) to assist the Centreville residents.

We would like to schedule a call with you and any other members of your team you believe it would be helpful to have on the call to have a more substantive discussion with clear steps on what it would take to start building environmental justice partnerships and begin bringing in resources in the metro-east to include all of these predominantly black and/or low-income communities that are suffering from these flooding and raw sewage issues.

We are greatly appreciative of the interest you and your team have shown in wanting to help resolve the issues in Centreville and we hope we can all work together to resolve these conditions.

Thanks and we look forward to speaking with you.

-Nicole

Doc #1--Complaint.pdf

Doc #2- Motion for Injunctive Relief.pdf

Doc #3--Memorandum in Support of Plaintiffs' Co...

Exhibits A-L-Combined-filed.pdf

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