Message

From: Geertsma, Meleah [mgeertsma@nrdc.org]
Sent: 12/7/2018 5:50:45 PM
To: Walts, Alan [walts.alan@epa.gov]
CC: Marceillars, Rochelle [Marceillars.Rochelle@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Water issues in East St. Louis area

Alan, thanks so much for this information, and good to meet you Rochelle. I would be very interested to learn what you've heard regarding flooding and sewer issues in the East St. Louis area.

I'm unfortunately traveling and out-of-pocket for work retreats much of next week, but am hoping we can connect before 12/18, when I have my next check-in with our local contacts. I do have some availability today at 1, 3:30, or 4-5 CT; on Monday I am available 10:30-11 and 12:30-noon; and then on Friday 12/14 I have slots open 12:30-1 and 3:30-5. Let me know if any of those work for you.

Interesting about the lead service line replacement program for East St. Louis. I have a contact at Illinois American Water, so will follow-up with him as well as Miguel if we'd like to learn more. FYI, I'm involved in advocacy to get a state law passed requiring replacement across the state.

Best,
Meleah

From: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 7, 2018 11:33 AM
To: Geertsma, Meleah <mgeertsma@nrdc.org>
Cc: Marceillars, Rochelle <Marceillars.Rochelle@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Water issues in East St. Louis area

Meleah – I'm copying Rochelle, who is leading an Air program community-based effort in East St. Louis. She has heard some of these same concerns and can also give you more context about EPA's ongoing work in the area.

Here's some info, hope this helps:

1. Sauget Superfund Site: the Remedial Project Manager is Stephanie Linebaugh, (312) 353-2315, linebaugh.stephanie@epa.gov. She's probably the best place to start.
2. CSO: Our Water program tells me Illinois EPA has the lead in this community & EPA isn't involved in CSO work there. State contact (in permitting program) is Amy Dragovich: Amy.dragovich@illinois.gov
3. Drinking water: The main concern we've heard is about possible lead in drinking water and how to get that tested. Based on the most recent Consumer Confidence Report for ESL (http://www.amwater.com/ccr/esl.pdf), the utility started a lead service line replacement initiative in 2017; and testing (to comply with the Lead and Copper Rule) shows lead is being detected in the system. For advice on the various options residents may have to address this concern, or on other concerns related to drinking water, I recommend talking to Miguel Del Toral at deltoral.miguel@epa.gov or (312) 886-5253.

Best,
Alan

Director, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)
U.S. EPA, Region 5

Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Geertsma, Meleah <mgeertsma@nrdc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2018 1:57 PM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Water issues in East St. Louis area

Thanks for the quick response, Alan - it probably goes without saying given the demographics of the East St. Louis metro area as a whole, but the impacted residents are low-income African American homeowners. And the impacts sound horrendous. Anything you can do to help appreciated. Noting, too, that there's concern over potential water impacts from the nearby Sauget Superfund site, so that program may be relevant as well.

Best,

Meleah

From: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 4, 2018 1:34:13 PM
To: Geertsma, Meleah
Subject: Re: Water issues in East St. Louis area

Hi Meleah - thanks for reaching out. I hadn't heard about this but will check with our programs and get you connected with the right folks.

Best,
Alan

On Dec 4, 2018, at 1:26 PM, Geertsma, Meleah <mgeertsma@nrdc.org> wrote:

> Hi Alan -
>
> I hope this note finds you well; I'm reaching out because I was recently contacted about some horrible chronic sewage, flooding, and possibly connected drinking water issues in the East St. Louis area. I'm wondering whether R5 has heard about and/or looked into these issues in that geography, and either way if you could connect me with the right folks internally.
>
> Best,
>
> Meleah