Message

From: Gillespie, Tiffany [gillespie.tiffany@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/15/2021 1:01:00 AM
To: Taylor, Daniel [taylor.daniel@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Superfund site-Blades, Del.

Dan,

I meant to ask this question at the end of my email - What information did you want me to verify? If you're asking me if it's ok to release the AECOM award information, it is publicly available information.

I'll talk to you in the morning.

From: Gillespie, Tiffany <gillespie.tiffany@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 5:24 PM
To: Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund site-Blades, Del.

Dan, can we talk in the morning? I'm available after 8am and before 10am.

Thanks,
Tiffany
(215) 814-5308

From: Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2021 8:02 AM
To: Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>; Yap-deffler, Yazmine <Yap-Deffler.Yazmine@epa.gov>
Cc: Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Mandell, Alexander <mandell.alexander@epa.gov>; Gillespie, Tiffany <gillespie.tiffany@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund site-Blades, Del.

To answer these questions→

1. Our contractor is AECOM (before I release that information I first want to make sure this is allowed to be released). I cc'd our contract officer for the Blade's Site to confirm. Tiffany, this is a question from the media asking if we can tell them who our contractor is for the Remedial Investigation. The rest of the email you don't need to read.
2. The Site Specific Documents will be prepared prior to field investigations commencing. Currently our contractor is preparing condensed Site Specific Documents for the Residential Water Sampling. As mentioned before, this field investigation is expected to commence the summer of 2021, therefore, the Site Specific Documents for this activity will be finalized prior. Site Specific Planning Documents for the other remedial activities (installing monitoring wells/sampling monitoring wells, soil characterization, surface water/sediment sampling) are also being developed. These field investigations will occur after the residential well sampling field investigations occur, therefore the Site-Specific Plan finalization for these investigations will occur after the residential well sampling field investigations is completed. While predicting the length of time the residential well sampling will take to complete is difficult, the Site-Specific Planning Documents for other remedial investigation activities will potentially be finalized the fall of 2021.
3. There were a total of 6 background monitoring wells installed. There were a total of 3 background monitoring wells installed on the Blades Elementary School Property (one shallow well [approximately 25 feet deep], one intermediate well [approximately 65 feet deep], and one deep well [approximately 100 feet deep]). An additional 3 wells were installed on private property off of Route 13 and Business Park Drive (the approximate

depths are the same as at the Blades Elementary School). These background wells are upgradient from the known potential source areas at the Site.

4. As indicated in the Final Site Assessment Report that is on EPA's website, during previous investigations, 54 total residential water locations were previously sampled and currently DNREC provides treatment units to 8 residents that had results ¾ the HAL (Figure 3 in the Site Assessment Report shows the locations previous sampling took place). I attached here for convenience. As part of the Remedial Investigation, EPA will sample water in locations that were previously sampled, and sample additional residential areas. EPA expects approximately 100 total residents will be sampled. This includes areas that were previously sampled, areas that were reached out to in the past that EPA never received access, and locations that may not have been targeted previously. EPA determined the location of this sampling by areas within the Town of Blades, or downgradient of potential source areas, between the Nanticoke River and Morgan Branch. After EPA receives data validation results, EPA can evaluate if additional downgradient areas warrant sampling. This sampling will include a full suite of contaminants, more than just PFOA/PFOS.
5. DNREC sampled for PFOA/PFOS compounds mid-March of 2021. Results showed water post treatment significantly below the HAL for PFOA/PFOS compounds.

From: Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2021 5:46 PM
To: Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>; Yap-deffler, Yazmine <Yap-Deffler.Yazmine@epa.gov>
Cc: Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Mandell, Alexander <mandell.alexander@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Superfund site-Blades, Del.

Dan and Yaz,

Most of these follow ups were more or less expected, I'm not sure all these answers are all public information, but I think most of them are,

Let me know your thoughts, Thanks,

David

From: Chase, Randall <rchase@ap.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2021 5:24 PM
To: Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund site-Blades, Del.

Hi Jeffrey,
Thanks for this. Can you answer some followup questions highlighted below?
Thanks,
Randall

From: Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Chase, Randall <rchase@ap.org>

Cc: Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund site-Blades, Del.

[EXTERNAL]

Randall,

Our apologies for the delay in responding. We were hoping to send this along on Friday. Please see our response regarding your inquiry on a PFAS status update for the Blades NPL Superfund site, as well as [redacted] and [redacted]

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Blades

- EPA listed the Blades Groundwater Site to the National Priorities List (NPL) on Sept. 3, 2020.

- EPA selected a contractor on Dec. 18, 2020 to assist EPA on the Remedial Investigation. Who is the contractor?

- EPA is working with our contractor to develop Site-Specific plans (Health and Safety Plans, Field Sampling Plans, general work planning) in preparation for Remedial Investigation Activities. What is the timeline?

- EPA installed background monitoring wells in March of 2021 to assist in the evaluation of groundwater and provide a reference to compare Site-Specific contamination to naturally occuring concentrations. How many wells were installed, how deep, and where are they in relation to the site?

- EPA anticipates sampling residential wells for PFOA/PFAS compounds and other contaminants of potential concern starting in the summer of 2021. This activity also occurred in 2018 and residents with PFOA/PFOS exceedances are currently being provided treatment units by DNREC. How many wells will be sampled? Are they the same wells that were previously sampled, or are they new wells identified for sampling? If they are new wells, what was the criteria for selecting them? How many wells were previously sampled, and how many residents are currently being provided treatment units as a result?

- EPA further plans to sample the public water supply in the Town of Blades. This is an activity that has been ongoing since 2018 by DNREC to ensure the treatment unit installed on the public water supply continues to be effective. The town of Blades treats their water supply and meets state and federal standards. When was the last time the public supply wells were tested? What were the results?

- Additional Remedial Investigation activities will include groundwater monitoring well installation/sampling, soil characterization, and surface water/sediment sampling for contaminants of potential concern.
- A very important aspect to this work includes Community Involvement. Our EPA Community Involvement Coordinators recently posted two videos to the EPA Blades website in early March about current work at the site and the upcoming Community Involvement Plan. They can be viewed here: www.epa.gov/superfund/bladesgroundwater
- Outreach is not limited to videos, throughout our efforts, the site team will be working closely with residents, providing them up to date information, including letters, fact sheets, post cards, community meetings, and social media.

Nonresponsive based on revised scope

r/ Jeff Landis
Senior Media Relations/Press Officer & Executive Events Coordinator
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs (3RA21)
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424

From: Chase, Randall <rchase@ap.org>
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 4:50 PM
To: Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Superfund site-Blades, Del.

Hi David,
No hard deadline right now but I'm trying to pull together context for a story on Delaware legislature introducing a bill to establish a state MCL, as other states have done and are in the process of doing. Can you tell me whether EPA is involved in any investigation or remediation effort regarding PFAS contamination of groundwater at Nonresponsive based on revised scope or the Nonresponsive based on revised scope
Thanks,
Randall

From: Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 3:03 PM
To: Chase, Randall <rchase@ap.org>
Subject: FW: Superfund site-Blades, Del.

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Randall,

Alex forwarded your message. What is your deadline on this?

Let me know. Thanks,

David Sternberg
Press Officer
U.S. EPA

From: Chase, Randall <rchase@ap.org>
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 1:04 PM
To: Mandell, Alexander <mandell.alexander@epa.gov>
Cc: Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>
Subject: Superfund site-Blades, Del.

Hi Alexander,
Can you please provide a status report and timeline on the remedial investigation that began Dec. 18, 2020 for this site, Docket No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2019-0484?
Thank you,
Randall Chase
Associated Press
302-632-2250
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