Message

From: Melvin, Karen [Melvin.Karen@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/10/2021 4:47:25 PM
To: Fernandez, Cristina [Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Thanks

KAREN MELVIN, DIRECTOR
ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE DIVISION
US EPA, REGION 3
1650 ARCH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103
215-814-3275

From: Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 10:23 AM
To: Melvin, Karen <Melvin.Karen@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Cristina Fernandez, Director
Air & Radiation Division (3AD00)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2023
Work: (215) 814-2178
Cell: (215) 375-0847

From: Beers, Samantha <Beers.Samantha@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 9:16 AM
To: Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Cristina: it would also be helpful to talk about what questions and data Alice did provide. Some of the questions sound very much like ones asked by Pam Nixon. I am also wondering when you all are planning to have that discussion with Pam, so we can offer support.

Samantha Phillips Beers Director
Office of Communities Tribes and Environmental Assessment
US EPA Region 3
Beers.samantha@epa.gov
215-814-2627

From: Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 8:10 AM

To: Beers, Samantha <Beers.Samantha@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Hi Samantha,

See Alice's message below.

We can't help with the response to the questions. Alice answered everything she could.

Thanks, Cristina

Cristina Fernandez, Director
Air & Radiation Division (3AD00)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2023
Work: (215) 814-2178
Cell: (215) 375-0847

From: Chow, Alice <chow.alice@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 8:08 AM
To: Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

These are the questions I could not answer. He asked about a TRI Scorecard and how they would compare to the NATA info and I had no idea. David Sternberg was supposed to find someone who could speech about the scorecard and somehow Jeff Landis punted to HQ...which probably wasn't necessary. Not sure how this got to Samantha other than that WV is considered an EJ area due to low income.

Alice H. Chow
Chief, Air Quality Analysis Branch (3AD40)
Air & Radiation Division (14-130)
USEPA, Region 3
Phone: 215-814-2144
Cell: 215-817-4380
Email: chow.alice@epa.gov

From: Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Chow, Alice <chow.alice@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Hi Alice,

My password expired and I could not get to my email. Samantha got this on Friday. Could you please take a look and see if we can help with the responses to the questions?

Thanks, Cristina

Cristina Fernandez, Director
Air & Radiation Division (3AD00)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2023
Work: (215) 814-2178
Cell: (215) 375-0847

From: Beers, Samantha <Beers.Samantha@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 4:26 PM
To: Kumar, Chitra <Kumar.Chitra@epa.gov>; Motilall, Christina <Motilall.Christina@epa.gov>; Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>
Cc: Driscoll, Stacie <Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov>; Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Harris, Reggie <HARRIS.REGGIE@EPA.GOV>
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

We are gathering the tri data and I will touch base with Alice Chow, as the email states that she was interviewed about eto. This question and our response is complicated by the combination question here. We will get back to you by 930 am Monday- as I am having issues tracking down everyone this Friday afternoon. **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Samantha Phillips Beers Director
Office of Communities Tribes and Environmental Assessment
US EPA Region 3
Beers.samantha@epa.gov
215-814-2627

From: Kumar, Chitra <Kumar.Chitra@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Motilall, Christina <Motilall.Christina@epa.gov>; Beers, Samantha <Beers.Samantha@epa.gov>; Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Samantha,

Could you please help us with the media request below about Kanawa County, WV?

Chitra

Chitra Kumar
Acting Associate Director
US EPA Office of Environmental Justice
202-564-2232

From: Motilall, Christina <Motilall.Christina@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>; Kumar, Chitra <Kumar.Chitra@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

OPA sent over a media request for OEJ to answer. I am not familiar with the area in question, but if I can get some bullet points I can put a formal response together. Deadline is noon Monday (quick). The question for us is:

What environmental justice concerns, if any, does EPA have about Kanawha County, W.Va., whose poverty rate was nearly 6% higher than the national average in 2019 and which had four of the 41 Census tracts with the highest total cancer risk nationwide in the 2014 NATA?

Thanks,
Christina

From: Joseph, Dominique <Joseph.Dominique@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Motilall, Christina <Motilall.Christina@epa.gov>
Subject: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Hey Christina,

Could you help us with a response to question 4 about the EJ concerns? We think there may be one sentence on the TRI changes that we can link to EJ, but the question is a bit deeper than that and we thought it should probably go through you for the meat of the response. **Deadline is Monday at noon.**

Thanks!

Dominique

Dominique Joseph (she/her/hers)
Senior Communications Advisor
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-805-3635 (cell)
202-564-1767 (office)
joseph.dominique@epa.gov

From: Mike Tony <mtony@hdmediallc.com>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>; Beal, Madeline <Beal.Madeline@epa.gov>; Joseph, Dominique <Joseph.Dominique@epa.gov>
Subject: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Hello:

My name is Mike Tony, and I'm a reporter with the Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette-Mail. I interviewed Alice Chow of EPA's air quality analysis branch last week about EPA and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection air and risk exposure modeling efforts at Union Carbide facilities in Institute and South Charleston, W.Va. She deferred comment on a few toxic release inventory-related questions I had since that's not her focus area, and I wanted to see if you might be able to set up a phone interview sometime next

week with an EPA official who could answer the following questions and perhaps a few others as I continue research on this subject. I can be reached via email or at 304-348-1236. Thanks so much for any help you can provide.

1. The EPA says ethylene oxide releases decreased 29% from 2007 to 2019 nationwide, but according to its facility report, the South Charleston Union Carbide facility released three times more ethylene oxide in 2019 than it did in 2010. Does EPA know what is causing this increase, and does it run counter to ethylene oxide emissions trends nationwide?
2. The RSEI score in 2019 for the Union Carbide facility in Institute, W.Va. was 350,377 and the RSEI score for the Union Carbide facility in W.Va. was 732,408. The U.S. median was 14. How should local residents think about that discrepancy in RSEI scores?
3. The Union Carbide facility in Institute's release of nitrate compounds has increased significantly in recent years, from 171,744 in 2016 to 585,489 in 2019. Does EPA have any insight into why and what the potential health risks are from nitrate compound releases?
4. What environmental justice concerns, if any, does EPA have about Kanawha County, W.Va., whose poverty rate was nearly 6% higher than the national average in 2019 and which had four of the 41 Census tracts with the highest total cancer risk nationwide in the 2014 NATA?