Message

From: McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/24/2020 4:20:34 PM
To: Jenkins, Brandi [Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov]; Goerke, Ariadne [Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov]; regionalpress [regionalpress@epa.gov]
CC: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Risley, David [Risley.David@epa.gov]; Conrad, Daniel [conrad.daniel@epa.gov]; Wise, Allison [Wise.Allison@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: PRESS REGION 4: Tampa Bay Times request -- Florida/404 permitting

gtg

From: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Goerke, Ariadne <Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; regionalpress <regionalpress@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>; Conrad, Daniel <conrad.daniel@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS REGION 4: Tampa Bay Times request -- Florida/404 permitting

Thanks. The program is good with these edits.

Brandi

From: Goerke, Ariadne <Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 11:01 AM
To: McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; regionalpress <regionalpress@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>; Conrad, Daniel <conrad.daniel@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS REGION 4: Tampa Bay Times request -- Florida/404 permitting

OGC's suggested edits below:

Proposed Response:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ariadne Goerke
Acting Associate Deputy General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Enviromental Protection Agency
202-564-5471 *office*
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) *cell*

From: McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 10:58 AM
To: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; regionalpress <regionalpress@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>; Goerke, Ariadne <Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov>; Conrad, Daniel <conrad.daniel@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: PRESS REGION 4: Tampa Bay Times request -- Florida/404 permitting

GTG from OPA pending OGC.

From: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 9:08 AM
To: regionalpress <regionalpress@epa.gov>
Cc: McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>; Goerke, Ariadne <Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov>; Conrad, Daniel <conrad.daniel@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>
Subject: PRESS REGION 4: Tampa Bay Times request -- Florida/404 permitting

Below is the draft response approved by OW. I'm also adding OGC for a quick review. Note the reporter's deadline is noon today.

- Brandi

Inquiry:
working on a story about public comments submitted for Florida's proposal to assume 404 permitting duties. I'm on deadline and am looking for a response by tomorrow (11/24) at noon.

Of the 446 comments available online earlier this month that I was able to review, at least 394 were opposed to the state taking over the programming. Among the criticisms were that the state environmental agency is beholden to developers and political influence, has seen staffing reductions including vacant positions and has not provided a clear breakdown of the exact waters it will seek to oversee.

I'm hoping for comment from EPA on the thrust of these comments. How will the agency consider these comments in its decision? What weight are they given? Additionally, when does it plan to make its decision? Is it possible the EPA could extend the current timeline, including leaving the decision to a future administration?

Proposed Response:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Zachary Sampson <zsampson@tampabay.com>
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Tampa Bay Times request -- Florida/404 permitting

Hello,

I'm the environmental reporter at the Tampa Bay Times working on a story about public comments submitted for Florida's proposal to assume 404 permitting duties. I'm on deadline and am looking for a response by tomorrow (11/24) at noon.

Of the 446 comments available online earlier this month that I was able to review, at least 394 were opposed to the state taking over the programming. Among the criticisms were that the state environmental agency is beholden to developers and political influence, has seen staffing reductions including vacant positions and has not provided a clear breakdown of the exact waters it will seek to oversee.

I'm hoping for comment from EPA on the thrust of these comments. How will the agency consider these comments in its decision? What weight are they given? Additionally, when does it plan to make its decision? Is it possible the EPA could extend the current timeline, including leaving the decision to a future administration?

My cell is 401-474-2585.

Thanks,
Zack

Zack Sampson
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Tampa Bay Times
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Email: zsampson@tampabay.com | Twitter: @zacksampson