Message

From: Sanchez, Yolanda [Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/2/2021 1:41:43 AM
To: Chesnutt, John [Chesnutt.John@epa.gov]; Herrera, Angeles [Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov]
CC: Praskins, Wayne [Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov]
Subject: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework meeting with HQ

Highlighted below is my suggested agenda for our meeting with HQ on Friday. If you agree, I'll move forward with putting this in the meeting invitation. FYI – I just learned Friday is Dana Stalcup's CDO. So, it might be good to drop him a note about the importance of his participation.

Yolanda

From: Sanchez, Yolanda <Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 8:16 PM
To: Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>; Walker, Stuart <Walker.Stuart@epa.gov>; Simes, Benjamin <Simes.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Praskins, Wayne <Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov>; Young, Dianna <Young.Dianna@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework

Below are some times for the follow-up management-level meeting (Enrique level). Can you please look at schedules from your office and let me know if any of these time is a NO. [Stuart, Dana's schedule seems completely full for the next two weeks, so I'm not sure what to do about that. I tried to work around the best I could.]

- Tuesday, Feb 2 from 3-3:30 pm (ET)
- Thursday, Feb 4 from 11:30 am – 12 pm (ET)
- Friday, Feb 5 from 12-1 pm (ET)
- Monday, Feb 8 from 11:30 am – 12 pm (ET)

The suggested agenda is to discuss what HQ has learned regarding our December 23, 2020, email (below):

- Superfund site examples where remediation goals have been set to address radiologically-contaminated buildings for residential use
- Superfund site examples of when the BPRG calculator has been used to provide cleanup values at NPL sites, especially for residential use
- Verify the extent the default values (four exposure factors) in the BPRG calculator to estimate cancer risk from removable radiological contamination (i.e., dust) represent agency-wide values (e.g., the Exposure Factors Handbook or other agency-wide risk assessment approaches)

Again, if folks feel a staff-level meeting prior to this is appropriate, please let us know. I can work with Wayne to set something up.

Yolanda Anita Sanchez, MS, MPA
US Environmental Protection Agency
Community Involvement for Superfund
E-mail: sanchez.yolanda@epa.gov || Desk: 415-972-3880

Be safe. Stay in place. Maintain your space. Cover your face (when interacting).

From: Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 10:34 AM
To: Walker, Stuart <Walker.Stuart@epa.gov>; Simes, Benjamin <Simes.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Sanchez, Yolanda <Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov>

Cc: Praskins, Wayne <Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov>; Young, Dianna <Young.Dianna@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework

Hi all/Yolanda,

If the meeting will be at the same level as the previous meeting (Enrique level), Yolanda, would you please also include Sally Dalzell, Marie Muller, and Karin Leff for FFEO? To the extent there are conflicts (which I imagine there certainly will be with so many participants), participation of the FFEO attendees can be made the lesser priority. As long as I can attend, I can follow up with my management, as needed, on any enforcement issues.

Thank you,
Ava

Ava Azad
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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From: Walker, Stuart <Walker.Stuart@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Simes, Benjamin <Simes.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Sanchez, Yolanda <Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov>; Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>
Cc: Praskins, Wayne <Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov>; Young, Dianna <Young.Dianna@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework

Last meeting from OSRTI it was Dana Stalcup, Brigid Lowery, and Laurence Libelo. I don't know how the new OD will interact on this issue.

I am still putting together material from the last meeting.

Stuart Walker
Superfund Remedial program National Radiation Expert
Science Policy Branch
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W (703) 603-8748
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From: Simes, Benjamin <Simes.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:15 AM
To: Sanchez, Yolanda <Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov>; Walker, Stuart <Walker.Stuart@epa.gov>; Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>

Cc: Praskins, Wayne <Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov>; Young, Dianna <Young.Dianna@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework

Yolanda,

If you are taking the lead, then, yes, I would be the POC for FFRRO. It would be MaryT Cooke, me, David Hockey, and Greg Gervais from our office. I think Stuart was the only one with homework following the last call. Any suggested ideas for the agenda?

Thanks,

Benjamin Simes, CHMM
US EPA, OLEM
Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office
202-564-0527 D
571-302-6189 C
202-564-0771 F

From: Sanchez, Yolanda <Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Walker, Stuart <Walker.Stuart@epa.gov>; Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>; Simes, Benjamin <Simes.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Praskins, Wayne <Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov>; Young, Dianna <Young.Dianna@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework

Happy Monday! I know Enrique wanted to connect, again. So, I'm trying to schedule a meeting for the same players who participated in the 1/15 meeting. If folks feel the need for a staff meeting, please let us know.

Yolanda Sanchez
U.S. EPA || Community Involvement for Superfund
Desk: 415-972-3880

From: Walker, Stuart <Walker.Stuart@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 6:32 PM
To: Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>; Sanchez, Yolanda <Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov>; Simes, Benjamin <Simes.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Praskins, Wayne <Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov>; Young, Dianna <Young.Dianna@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework

Per Ava's email, if this is a staff meeting it would be me.

Stuart Walker
Superfund Remedial program National Radiation Expert
Science Policy Branch
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W (703) 603-8748
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From: Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 5:03 PM
To: Sanchez, Yolanda <Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov>; Simes, Benjamin <Simes.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Walker, Stuart

<Walker.Stuart@epa.gov>
Cc: Praskins, Wayne <Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov>; Young, Dianna <Young.Dianna@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework

Hi Yolanda,

I would be the best contact for coordinating with FFEO. Thank you for checking.

If the follow-up meeting(s) is at the staff level, I will likely be the only one from FFEO to participate. Given the highly technical nature of the issues here, FFRRO and OSRTI are really the key offices. If we have higher level meetings or any legal issues arise, I can bring in our senior counsel and other managers.

Thanks,
Ava

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From: Sanchez, Yolanda <Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Simes, Benjamin <Simes.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>; Walker, Stuart <Walker.Stuart@epa.gov>
Cc: Praskins, Wayne <Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov>; Young, Dianna <Young.Dianna@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework

Ben, Ava, and Stuart,
One of the follow-up action items from this meeting on 1/15 was to schedule a future time to connect with the same players. Would you be the best contact to coordinate schedules between EPA Region 9 Superfund and FFRRO, OFFEO, and OSRTI? If not you, please let me know who I should reach out to in your office.

I recommend we start identifying availability on January 28 and the first week of February.

Thank you,

Yolanda Anita Sanchez, MS, MPA
US Environmental Protection Agency
Community Involvement for Superfund
E-mail: sanchez.yolanda@epa.gov || Desk: 415-972-3880

Be safe. Stay in place. Maintain your space. Cover your face (when interacting).

From: Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Manzanilla, Enrique <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Gervais, Gregory <Gervais.Gregory@epa.gov>
Cc: Leff, Karin <Leff.Karin@epa.gov>; Lowery, Brigid <Lowery.Brigid@epa.gov>; Libelo, Laurence <Libelo.Laurence@epa.gov>; Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Praskins, Wayne <Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov>; Sanchez, Yolanda <Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov>; Fairbanks, Brianna <Fairbanks.Brianna@epa.gov>; Cooke, Maryt <Cooke.Maryt@epa.gov>; Simes, Benjamin <Simes.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Young, Dianna <Young.Dianna@epa.gov>; Hockey, David <Hockey.David@epa.gov>; Tso, Jonathan <Tso.Jonathan@epa.gov>; Walker, Stuart <Walker.Stuart@epa.gov>; Dalzell, Sally <Dalzell.Sally@epa.gov>; Fitz-James, Schatzi <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework

Hello all,

In addition to the Region 9 asks to HQ included in Enrique's below email, I wanted to highlight some of our objectives for today's call:

- Ensure HQ understands the necessity and urgency of its involvement towards a solution to achieve a protective radiological remedy for buildings at the site
- Clarify whether HQ is open to making modifications to the underlying risk assessment framework of the BPRG calculator (not necessarily site specific inputs)
- Who will the Region be working with to prepare for conversations with the Navy

Also, FYI, the Navy's response to Enrique's Dec 22, 2020 letter is attached.

Thanks,

John

From: Manzanilla, Enrique <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 1:07 PM
To: Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Gervais, Gregory <Gervais.Gregory@epa.gov>
Cc: Leff, Karin <Leff.Karin@epa.gov>; Lowery, Brigid <Lowery.Brigid@epa.gov>; Libelo, Laurence <Libelo.Laurence@epa.gov>; Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>; Herrera, Angeles <Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov>; Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>; Praskins, Wayne <Praskins.Wayne@epa.gov>; Sanchez, Yolanda <Sanchez.Yolanda@epa.gov>
Subject: Hunters Point Buildings Radiological Rework
Importance: High

Dana and Greg,

I'm writing to update you on our efforts at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard site (HPNS) to come to agreement with the Navy on the protectiveness of the radiological building remedial goals (RGs) included in the site RODs. Last year the Navy proposed to use RESRAD BUILD (RRB) in lieu of EPA's BPRG calculator to support their protectiveness determinations. That initiated our radiological consultation with EPA HQ. Following that consultation, in August 2020, Region 9 relayed EPA's concerns to the Navy regarding the use of RRB, emphasizing that through our review/consultation we were unable to concur with the Navy's conclusion that the Hunters Point radiological building remedial goals are protective under CERCLA. We proposed a path forward using the BPRG calculator which would greatly lower some of the remedial goals.

The Navy sent a letter to the Region on December 11 (attached) and we responded yesterday (attached). The Navy continues to oppose the use of the BPRG calculator, claiming that EPA's proposed BPRG values for removable contamination (i.e., dust) are below background and too low to detect with state-of-the-art equipment. The Navy again requested that EPA support the Navy's RRB analysis, describing RRB as "refined, complete, and appropriate" and the "most extensively tested, verified, and validated tool used for ... radiological risk assessment."

We agree with the Navy that the BPRG calculator, when used with default inputs, generates conservative risk estimates and conservative remediation goals. For the radionuclides of concern at HPNS, the BPRG calculator estimates risks several orders of magnitude higher than RRB. We have worked with the Navy, unsuccessfully, to determine whether less conservative site-specific inputs are appropriate which would generate lower risk estimates and higher remedial goals. We have also worked with the Navy to try to resolve our concerns about their use of RRB at Hunters Point. Those efforts have also, to date, been unsuccessful.

Here's where we need your assistance in helping us prepare for further discussions and/or a formal dispute with the Navy: Given the BPRG calculator is a national tool, we need to continue close coordination with your offices as we work to resolve our differences with the Navy to ensure your interests in the BPRG calculator are represented. There are three issues that we already know we need your support with, so are elevating them to you now:

1) It would be helpful to know of other Superfund cleanup examples where remediation goals have been set to address radiologically-contaminated buildings for residential use (whether using BPRG, RRB, or another risk model).

2) We do not have a clear sense of how many times the BPRG calculator has been used to provide cleanup values at NPL sites, and the circumstances in which it has been used (e.g., radionuclides, target risk, RGs, building use). We are especially interested in examples where the planned use was residential.

3) We expect that one of the primary topics of discussion in a dispute will be the level of conservatism designed into the RRB and BPRG calculators for removable radiological contamination (i.e., dust) and the much higher risks estimated by the BPRG calculator. The BPRG calculator estimates risk by multiplying a contaminant concentration by four exposure factors. We encourage you to be prepared to explain the basis for the default values for these four factors, the use of the product of the four factors to estimate risk, and examples where HQ has supported site-specific modifications to the calculator to estimate risk from radiologically contaminated dust.

Thanks for your support. Let's see if we can schedule a discussion the week of January 4th hopefully when all return from well-deserved breaks.

Happy Holidays!!!

Enrique