Message

From: Cisar, Elizabeth [Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/6/2021 3:39:19 PM
To: Clark, Liesl (EGLE) [ClarkL20@michigan.gov]
CC: Fox, Radhika [Fox.Radhika@epa.gov]; Katims, Casey [Katims.Casey@epa.gov]; Newton, Cheryl [Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Fong, Tera [Fong.Tera@epa.gov]; Keatley, Aaron (EGLE) [KeatleyA@michigan.gov]; Wadlington, Christina [Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Statement being released today by EPA
Attachments: Benton Harbor NR.pdf

Liesl:
Thank you for sharing this draft press release. I have looped in Cheryl Newton and Tera Fong from Region 5. I wanted to confirm that EPA has cleared the statement about the filter study in the draft press release before it goes out..

Elizabeth Cisar
Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov
Phone: (202)-564-4382; Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Clark, Liesl (EGLE) <ClarkL20@michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Cisar, Elizabeth <Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Cc: Fox, Radhika <Fox.Radhika@epa.gov>; Katims, Casey <Katims.Casey@epa.gov>; Keatley, Aaron (EGLE) <KeatleyA@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Statement being released today by EPA

Hi Elizabeth,

Sharing the press release I mentioned yesterday going out shortly from the State of Michigan.

Best,
Liesl

Liesl Eichler Clark
Director
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
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From: Cisar, Elizabeth <Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Clark, Liesl (EGLE) <ClarkL20@michigan.gov>

Cc: Fox, Radhika <Fox.Radhika@epa.gov>; Katims, Casey <Katims.Casey@epa.gov>
Subject: Statement being released today by EPA

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Hi Liesl:
Glad we were able to touch base briefly this morning.

As we discussed, EPA will be releasing the following statement today:

EPA Statement
EPA is committed to following the best science to address lead in drinking water. Lead is a toxic metal that is harmful to human health, even at low exposure levels. Lead can cause irreversible and life-long health effects, especially to children, including decreasing IQ, focus, and academic achievement.

EPA received a petition from Benton Harbor community organizations requesting the agency to intervene to address lead in drinking water. The agency shares the serious concerns expressed by the community about lead in Benton Harbor's drinking water. In response to these concerns, EPA staff from headquarters and Region 5 have mobilized to ensure there is prompt action to address the community's public health needs. EPA enforcement, technical, and community engagement staff are working with Michigan EGLE, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Berrien County Department of Public Health, the City of Benton Harbor, and community groups. To support a quick and comprehensive response, EPA is focused on providing oversight, technical support, and other assistance. The agency is also communicating regularly with the petitioners, concerned residents, community groups, and local officials.

EPA is providing support and oversight of Michigan's actions, including the delivery of bottled water, to ensure an expeditious and effective response to the immediate and pressing water issues in Benton Harbor. We also are working with Michigan's state agencies, the City of Benton Harbor and the drinking water system on long-term solutions, which are essential to ensuring the community's health and well-being.

EPA scientific experts and technical staff are fully engaged. The agency is deploying staff as appropriate to speak with Benton Harbor residents and help ensure that residents are aware of the issues and are receiving needed assistance. The agency will continue to be involved to support and monitor the effectiveness of the immediate interventions and development of long-term solutions in Benton Harbor.

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