Message

From: Risley, David [Risley.David@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/20/2021 9:24:00 PM
To: Cisar, Elizabeth [Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Fox, Radhika [Fox.Radhika@epa.gov]; Best-Wong, Benita [Best-Wong.Benita@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Inquiries from E&E

Thanks Elizabeth, here's the updated version. Radhika, is this good to go? I meant to mention, this is for Hannah Northey.

1.) Has EPA hired a Chesapeake Bay advisor and if not, can you tell me if there's a timeline for doing so or a reason that hire has been delayed? Similarly, has EPA hired an environmental justice advisor?

Response (new, approved by Elizabeth Cisar): The Chesapeake Bay is a treasured resource and EPA is in the process of considering a range of additional steps that we can take to advance Bay protections, informed by science and the law.

2.) Can you please tell me if EPA has any comment on next steps for the Yazoo flood-control pump project after it was revealed the last administration ignored concerns of career scientists? What are EPA's options for that project and potential next steps?

Response (previously approved as a statement when FOIA was released): Under the Biden-Harris Administration, EPA is committed to following the science and the law to develop and implement policies to protect our vital waters. All our federal partners share these commitments and we will pursue them in our joint projects. The agency is aware of the concerns regarding review of the Yazoo project under the previous administration. EPA intends to work with its federal, state, and local partners to develop durable solutions to address flooding in the Mississippi.

3.) Has EPA responded yet to the petition from residents and advocates in Benton Harbor for emergency action to address high lead levels in drinking water there? This petition was submitted on Sept. 9 - https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/benton-harbor-sdwa-petition-20210909.pdf.

Response (used last week in response to petition inquiries): EPA has received the petition and is carefully considering the issues and concerns raised by this community in the petition. We are closely monitoring lead-related health issues in Benton Harbor. The agency is in active communication with concerned residents, community groups and the State. Benton Harbor was one of 10 communities to participate in roundtable discussions with EPA highlighting the experience of the cities with lead in drinking water as part of EPA's review of the Lead and Copper Rule revisions.

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