Message

From: Lyons, John [Lyons.John@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/29/2021 9:22:17 PM
To: Alpern, Michael [Alpern.Michael@epa.gov]; Chesnutt, John [Chesnutt.John@epa.gov]; Huang, Judy [Huang.Judy@epa.gov]; Manzanilla, Enrique [Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: SEMD, requesting help - follow ups from Bloomberg on deep ocean DDT

How's this?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:08 PM
To: Lyons, John <Lyons.John@epa.gov>; Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>; Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Manzanilla, Enrique <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>
Subject: SEMD, requesting help - follow ups from Bloomberg on deep ocean DDT

Hi SEMD,
Can you take a first hack at responses to the media questions below? Unfortunately deadline is ASAP.

Thanks!
Mike

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Hi Mike,
This is helpful, thanks.
Can you say when the review began? And will it look at legal and illegal dumping? My understanding is there is a mix.
Also, has EPA done other briefings on this? I didn't find anything on your website but I could have missed that.
Thanks for getting back to me so quickly.
Emily

From: Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Dooley, Emily <edooley@bloombergindustry.com>
Subject: RE: Media query re DDT barrels of Santa Catalina island

Hi Emily,
Here's our EPA Region 9 response:

EPA continues to work in close collaboration with federal and state agency partners on the DDT deep ocean disposal issue. This month we've met twice with California EPA, the California Natural Resources Agency, the State Water Quality Control Board, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, NOAA, and the US Department of the Interior to chart a path forward.

We are aware of the recent Scripps Institute findings, and based on the most recent scientific research we and the aforementioned agencies have adopted an approach that begins with assessing the legacy of waste disposal at Disposal Site #2, northeast of Catalina. EPA is committed to leveraging our programs and resources to support this assessment, and we have already launched an initial review of the available historical record of disposal of acid waste containing DDT. In addition, we have been in regular contact on this complex challenge with Senator Feinstein, California EPA Secretary Blumenfeld and other federal, state and local officials.

Mike Alpern - Director, Public Affairs
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From: Dooley, Emily <edooley@bloombergindustry.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 10:16 AM
To: Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Media query re DDT barrels of Santa Catalina island

Hi Mike,
As soon as possible if that's workable, given that the assembly passed a resolution on the issue today.
Thanks, Emily

From: Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 10:14 AM
To: Dooley, Emily <edooley@bloombergindustry.com>
Subject: RE: Media query re DDT barrels of Santa Catalina island

Hi Emily,
What's your deadline?

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From: Dooley, Emily <edooley@bloombergindustry.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 10:06 AM
To: Alpern, Michael <Alpern.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: Media query re DDT barrels of Santa Catalina island

Hi Michael,
Hope you are well.
Can you provide an update on any EPA response to the latest findings from Scripps Institute of Oceanography that mapped 25,000 barrels in waters between Santa Catalina Island and LA. The research was part of an overall look at DDT contamination in the area.

Background: https://scripps.ucsd.edu/news/scripps-oceanography-completes-seafloor-survey-using-robotics-finds-thousands-possible-targets
Has EPA issued any orders, investigations, queries, or other actions based on this latest data?
Also, the California Assembly today passed a resolution https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AJR2 urging Congress and EPA to take action related to the DDT dumping. Can you comment on this development?

Thanks, Emily
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Emily C. Dooley
She/Her/Hers

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