Message

From: Furey, Eileen [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5AAA3A0EE58047D983897C53C1EB283E-EFUREY]
Sent: 2/23/2022 3:41:56 PM
To: Sanders, Amy [Sanders.Amy@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Shout Out for the RMG Team!

Hi. I don't know how much you're involved in Debra's weekly shout outs, but I imagine she will want to put one out about the RMG decision. Here's something she can crib from if she would like.

ELF

From: Furey, Eileen <furey.eileen@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 9:29 AM
To: R5 ARD ALL (EPA & NON-EPA) <R5_ARD_ALL_EPA__NONEPA@epa.gov>
Cc: Geller, Andrew <Geller.Andrew@epa.gov>; Barzyk, Timothy <Barzyk.Timothy@epa.gov>; Hoffman, Joel <Hoffman.Joel@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; Miller, Kristina <miller.kristina@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Cunningham, Michael <cunningham.michael@epa.gov>; Beckmann, Ronna Erin <beckmann.ronna@epa.gov>; Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>; Caudill, Motria (ATSDR/OAD/OCHHA) <ldu1@cdc.gov>; mkj5@cdc.gov; Klassman, Debra <klassman.debra@epa.gov>
Subject: Shout Out for the RMG Team!

Good morning everyone! You will hear more about this important news from John at today's Coffee & Doughnuts, but I wanted to acknowledge the efforts of the large number of people who contributed to an important milestone in the journey for environmental justice.

On Friday, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced that it denied RMG's permit application to operate a scrap metal recycling facility on the southeast side. The decision was reached following an analysis, recommended by EPA, aimed at assessing the environmental justice implications and potential environmental health effects of the proposed facility. Last May, Administrator Regan sent a letter to Mayor Lightfoot suggesting that the City complete an environmental justice analysis, such as a health impact assessment (HIA), before making a decision on the RMG permit. Later that day, Mayor Lightfoot announced that the RMG permit was on an indefinite hold until the City of Chicago could complete a HIA.

Since then, EPA has worked hand-in-hand with CDPH. This support has taken many forms…and many of you!

- I'd like to start by thanking the original team that reviewed IEPA's draft construction permit during the summer of 2020 – **David Ogulei, Michael Langman, and Phuong Nguyen.** David and Michael's work resulted in significant additional requirements in the state's construction permit, including a feedstock management plan, initial and periodic testing for capture efficiency, and an O&M plan with specific operating parameters and inspection and maintenance practices.
- Many of our technical experts helped CDPH characterize the impacts of the proposed facility on the nearby community. More thanks to **David Ogulei** for conducting two sites visits with CDPH and advising them on the RMG processes and their impacts, **Frank Acevedo** and **Mike Leslie** for answering questions about mobile source emissions, **Melissa Sheffer** for providing modeling expertise, and **Nathan Frank** and **Karina Kuc** for helping CDPH calculate shredder emissions.
- To learn more about makes an HIA successful, we consulted with ORD's **Andrew Geller, Tim Barzyk** and **Joel Hoffman**. They provided expert advice to CDPH on its HIA process and framing. These lessons have not only helped the City of Chicago, but will also shape how other cities and states will conduct environmental justice analyses. You can read the HIA summary report here.
- An important input into the HIA was our Southeast Chicago Ambient Air Quality Report, which was released last October. It found that while southeast Chicago is still meeting the PM2.5 national air quality standard,

daily values of this pollutant are one of the two highest in the Chicago area. It also found that concentrations of PM10 have increased over the past three years, while all other pollutants have either decreased or remained the same. Kudos go to **Michael Compher**, **Justin Coughlin, Ed Delisio, Marta Fuoco, Robin Katz** and **Allison Smalley** for doing a masterful job conveying complex information about air quality data to various stakeholders.

- Next up, thanks to **Yana Genchanok** for running with the information in the air quality report and investigating potential sources of the increase in PM10 concentrations. Her analysis determined that, based on available data, the unpermitted foundry sand operation at RMG is located in the same area that the PM10 is coming from. Importantly, her work was featured in the city's denial letter and HIA.
- When CDPH measured high lead concentrations in the soil at RMG, **Sam Borries, Kristina Miller and Mike Ribordy** of our Superfund Division and **Mike Cunningham** of our Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division jumped in, helping interpret the results and make recommendations to the City. Thanks Superfund and ECAD!
- Shout out to our partners **Mark Johnson** and **Motria Caudill** at the Agency for Toxics Substances and Disease Registry for releasing a health consult, in response to a federal petition to investigate whether PM and metals pollution on the southeast side is harming people's health. They found that, based on recent monitoring data, breathing PM2.5 and PM10 could be harmful for highly sensitive people who have pre-existing heart and lung health conditions like asthma, heart disease or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- A very special thank you also goes to honorary ARDers **Ronna Beckmann, Alan Walts, and Deb Klassman.** Their leadership and expert navigation through many complex issues enabled us all to deliver on the Administrator's promise last May to work collaboratively with the City to improve the health of all its residents.
- Finally, last but certainly not least, I want to extend a special thank you to **Katie Siegel.** I don't often mention ARD managers in these shout outs, but without Katie's superb organization and communication skills, the efforts of this large team may well have foundered at a few junctures. All of us came to rely heavily on her considerable wits and grace under pressure – thank you Katie.

Administrator Regan summed it up when he said last Friday, "This is what environmental justice looks like: All levels of government working together to protect vulnerable communities from pollution in their backyards. As we did in Chicago, EPA stands ready to work hand-in-hand with local and state partners to fix environmental wrongs and achieve shared goals of protecting all people from pollution."

ARD and Region 5 have been at the cutting edge of the agency's EJ work. It has been thrilling and I, for one, can't wait for what's next!

Eileen