Message

From: Bohnenblust, Eric [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0331C49AEB404367AD226F6BD10D795D-BOHNENBLUST]
Sent: 6/17/2020 5:09:19 PM
To: Wakefield, Benjamin J. [wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov]; Mendelsohn, Mike [Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov]
CC: Kaczmarek, Chris [Kaczmarek.Chris@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Advocates Challenge First Ever Genetically Engineered Mosquito Release
Attachments: Letter 93167-EUP-2 043020.pdf

Ben,

The signed issuance letter for the EUP is attached and is dated April 30. I think the date in the OPP update was a typo and the notice of issuance typically comes out after we issue so that is not the date of issuance.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks.

Eric Bohnenblust, Ph.D
Senior Biologist
Emerging Technologies Branch (ETB)
Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD)
Phone: 703-347-0426
Email: Bohnenblust.eric@epa.gov

From: Wakefield, Benjamin J. <wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 12:09 PM
To: Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov>; Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaczmarek, Chris <Kaczmarek.Chris@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: Advocates Challenge First Ever Genetically Engineered Mosquito Release

Eric,

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

Ex. 5 Attorney Client (AC)

Thanks.

- Ben

From: Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov>; Reynolds, Alan <Reynolds.Alan@epa.gov>; Milewski, Elizabeth <Milewski.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Wozniak, Chris <wozniak.chris@epa.gov>; Kough, John <Kough.John@epa.gov>; Striegel, Wiebke <Striegel.Wiebke@epa.gov>; Pierce, Amanda <pierce.amanda@epa.gov>; Kirk, Cassandra <kirk.cassandra@epa.gov>; Welch, Kara <welch.kara@epa.gov>; Moyer, Adam <moyer.adam@epa.gov>; Kaczmarek,

Chris <Kaczmarek.Chris@epa.gov>; Wakefield, Benjamin J. <wakefield.benjamin@epa.gov>; Huskey, Angela <Huskey.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Media inquiry: Advocates Challenge First Ever Genetically Engineered Mosquito Release

FYI

From: Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:47 PM
To: McNally, Robert <Mcnally.Robert@epa.gov>; Overstreet, Anne <overstreet.anne@epa.gov>; Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Media inquiry: Advocates Challenge First Ever Genetically Engineered Mosquito Release

FYI

From: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:35 PM
To: Dunn, Alexandra <dunn.alexandra@epa.gov>; Cole, Joseph E. <cole.josephe@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Bolen, Derrick <bolen.derrick@epa.gov>
Cc: Goerke, Ariadne <Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov>
Subject: Media inquiry: Advocates Challenge First Ever Genetically Engineered Mosquito Release

Are folks comfortable with an EPA does not comment on pending litigation response?

From: Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:32 PM
To: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; OPP FEAD CSB <OPP_FEAD_CSB@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Advocates Challenge First Ever Genetically Engineered Mosquito Release

Hi all, Would you care to respond to this? Deadline 3 pm

From: Rachel Frazin <rfrazin@thehill.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Advocates Challenge First Ever Genetically Engineered Mosquito Release

Hi there,

Would you all like to comment on this notice of intent to sue? My deadline is about 3 p.m

Best,

Rachel Frazin
Energy and Environment Reporter, The Hill
561-212-2815

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Center for Food Safety** <pr@centerforfoodsafety.org>
Date: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 8:00 AM
Subject: Advocates Challenge First Ever Genetically Engineered Mosquito Release
To: <rfrazin@thehill.com>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 15, 2020

CONTACT:

Victoria Yundt, Staff Attorney, Center for Food Safety, (541) 419-2344, tyundt@centerforfoodsafety.org

Jaydee Hanson, Policy Director, Intl Center for Technology Assessment, (703) 231-5956, jhanson@centerforfoodsafety.org

Advocates Challenge First Ever Genetically Engineered Mosquito Release

Releasing more than a billion GE organisms, Trump administration fails to consider any risks to dozens of endangered species from novel experiment

Washington, D.C.—On Friday, environmental and other public interest organizations filed a formal pre-litigation notice with the Trump Administration stating their intention to sue the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its approval of the release of over a billion genetically engineered (GE) mosquitoes in Florida and Texas. The open air experiment would be the first ever in the United States. Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), EPA was required to consult the expert wildlife agencies on the potential impacts to protected species. Instead, the administration summarily dismissed any possible environmental risks in granting the approval.

"With all the urgent crises facing our nation—the COVID-19 pandemic, racial injustice, climate change—the administration has used tax dollars and government resources for a Jurassic Park experiment, except without the island," **said Jaydee Hanson, policy director at the International Center for Technology Assessment and Center for Food Safety.** "What could possibly go wrong? We don't know, because they unlawfully refused to seriously analyze environmental risks."

"The Florida Keys and Houston and the surrounding communities are home to some of the most diverse and threatened species in our country. Once again, the Trump administration is callously disregarding scientific experts and the will of communities to force this risky experiment through," **said Dana Perls, Program Manager, Food and Technology Campaign, Friends of the Earth U.S.**

If EPA does not cure these violations within sixty days, the listed organizations intend to file suit against the responsible agencies and officials to enforce the ESA. The organizations are Center for Food Safety (CFS), Florida Keys Environmental Coalition, GMO Free USA, Foundation Earth, Friends of the Earth, and the International Center for Technology Assessment (ICTA).

Background:

On November 9, 2016, residents of Key Haven, Florida, the initial proposed release site of the GE mosquitoes, voted against the release of the insects, which were not adequately assessed for risk before being approved by the FDA. In 2017, residents of the Florida Keys again protested Oxitec's application to EPA to release GE mosquitoes in their community. Now, in 2020, Florida Keys and Houston residents are protesting EPA's approval of Oxitec's Experimental Use Permit (EUP) to release more than a billion GE mosquitoes in their communities.

The lack of independent scientific research on the release of GE mosquitoes constitutes a most troubling factor in the drive to release hundreds of millions of these insects. While the desire to control mosquito-borne viral diseases like zika and dengue is understandable, Oxitec, the company manufacturing the GE mosquitoes, has not demonstrated that its release of the mosquitoes in Brazil, Cayman Islands, Panama, and Malaysia has reduced disease.

In addition to potential threats to endangered and protected species and sensitive ecosystems, and a lack of evidence to support the GE mosquitoes' efficacy at minimizing the spread of disease, there is little information about what ingesting these insects could do to people. In Brazil, so many mosquitoes were released in the Oxitec trials (millions are released multiple times a week) that people complained of being forced to breathe in and eat mosquitoes.

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Center for Food Safety's mission is to empower people, support farmers, and protect the earth from the harmful impacts of industrial agriculture. Through groundbreaking legal, scientific, and grassroots action, we protect and promote your right to safe food and the environment. Please join our more than 950,000 advocates across the country at www.centerforfoodsafety.org. Twitter: @CFSTrueFood, @CFS_Press

The International Center for Technology Assessment (CTA) is a non-profit, bi-partisan organization committed to providing the public with full assessments and analyses of technological impacts on society. CTA is devoted to fully exploring the economic, ethical, social, environmental and political impacts that can result from the applications of technology or technological systems.

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The Center For Food Safety, 660 Pennsylvania Ave SE #402, Washington, DC 20003 United States