Message

From: Motilall, Christina [Motilall.Christina@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/27/2020 3:54:47 PM
To: Bohnenblust, Eric [Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov]; Mendelsohn, Mike [Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov]
Subject: Urgent: Oxitec Congressional Inquiry
Attachments: Letter for EPA- Meagan Hull.pdf; Letter of Inquiry 5-4-20.pdf; Privacy Form 5.5.2020.pdf

Hi there,

We got a congressional inquiry about Oxitec. Two letters from stakeholders are attached, along with a letter from the Congresswoman saying she does not support our actions. As you can tell, this is pretty heavy-handed, but not entirely unexpected. Please read the letters and provide input for the more technical points. Questions on how we answer public comments and overall messaging will be handled by my team. Once I can get a firm grasp of the technical answers, I will send you a draft response for your review.

We don't have a formal deadline but with congressional responses we try to move them asap. Please let me know if you have any questions. As always, I appreciate your help!

Best,
Christina

From: Kaiser, Sven-Erik <Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:43 PM
To: Grable, Melissa <Grable.Melissa@epa.gov>; Hanley, Mary <Hanley.Mary@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell Inquiry on Oxitec Letter from Florida Keys Environmental Coalition

Oxitec team – please see an additional document forwarded by Rep. Mucarsel-Powell - the May 11 letter from Meagan Hull. Please let me know our response to the overall inquiry and if an interim response or a call would be helpful. Best,
Sven

Sven-Erik Kaiser
U.S. EPA
Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (1305A)
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2753 (o)
202-591-0619 (c)

From: Kaiser, Sven-Erik
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Grable, Melissa <Grable.Melissa@epa.gov>; Hanley, Mary <Hanley.Mary@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>; Washam, Todd <Washam.Todd@epa.gov>; Kolb, John (JohnMark) <kolb.john@epa.gov>
Cc: Tyler, Tom <Tyler.Tom@epa.gov>
Subject: Rep. Mucarsel-Powell Inquiry on Oxitec Letter from Florida Keys Environmental Coalition

Oxitec team – heads up on an inquiry from Rep. Mucarsel-Powell on Oxitec forwarding a letter on behalf of the Florida Keys Environmental Coalition. The Coalition's letter went to the Administrator, so I expect it will be

coming your way if it hasn't already. Please let me know our response to Rep. Mucarsel-Powell. Could be along the lines of "we received the Coalition's letter and are preparing a response, in the meantime here is some information on the Oxitec EUP... ". Mucarsel-Powell is the only impacted house member, Sens. Rubio and Rick Scott staff are also tracking Oxitec. Thanks,
Sven

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From: Reyes, Christopher <Christopher.Reyes@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 11:23 AM
To: OCIRmail <OCIRmail@epa.gov>
Subject: Constituent Request - Office of Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell: Ms. Meagan Hull

To Whom it May Concern,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing from the Office of Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell on behalf of one of our constituents, Ms. Meagan Hull, regarding her concerns with the EPA's approval of the EUP for Oxitech to release a genetically modified subspecies of mosquitos in the Florida Keys.

The constituent stated she is concerned with the approval of this EUP because there are significant environmental risks and human health concerns not formally addressed by the agency. The constituent is concerned that the mosquitos may not be sterile and the experiment may be releasing female population mosquitos in the environment that may transfer the artificially modified material into human population. The Constituent was also concerned about the comment period transparency and documentation from Oxitech, and further elaborated on issues that may arise over individual rights of constituents in our district.

Attached please find the letter of inquiry detailing the information being requested from the agency. Can you please provide our office with guidance on how we can best assist our constituent with this request?

Your full and fair consideration, consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, is greatly appreciated. I have attached a Privacy Release form and the necessary documents for your review. If you have any further questions regarding this case, please contact me at the number or email shown below.

Warmest Regards,

Christopher Reyes
Deputy Director of Constituent Services
Office of Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
U.S. House of Representatives, Florida District 26
Phone: (305) 222-0160
Email: christopher.reyes@mail.house.gov