Message

From: Rosen, Alex [Rosen.Alex@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2022 12:59:18 PM
To: Kuklinski, Teresa [Kuklinski.Teresa@epa.gov]; Kasman, Mark [Kasman.Mark@epa.gov]; Buckley, Katherine [Buckley.Katherine@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: possible resources re FW: Ukraine Environment Task Force Update

I'll draft an introductory note for Hayley and send it to Teresa to review,

Best,

Alex

From: Kuklinski, Teresa <Kuklinski.Teresa@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 8:57 AM
To: Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>; Buckley, Katherine <Buckley.Katherine@epa.gov>; Rosen, Alex <Rosen.Alex@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: possible resources re FW: Ukraine Environment Task Force Update

Always the case 😊

From: Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 8:48 AM
To: Kuklinski, Teresa <Kuklinski.Teresa@epa.gov>; Buckley, Katherine <Buckley.Katherine@epa.gov>; Rosen, Alex <Rosen.Alex@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: possible resources re FW: Ukraine Environment Task Force Update

I would just be careful about managing any expectations there may be about there being immediate work for them to do at this stage. We are at the very beginning stages of this engagement and while I know we all want to help, I do not want them to be disappointed if there isn't an immediate outlet for their enthusiasm.

From: Kuklinski, Teresa <Kuklinski.Teresa@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 7:26 AM
To: Buckley, Katherine <Buckley.Katherine@epa.gov>; Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>; Rosen, Alex <Rosen.Alex@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: possible resources re FW: Ukraine Environment Task Force Update

Great idea. I would contact the RPCVs@EPA coordinator, Gross, Hayley <gross.hayley@epa.gov> . The group has a database of all over 600 EPA RPCVs and could sort by country and then Hayley or Alex could send a note to those or the whole listserv. I would be happy to help craft an email or review if Alex wants to draft one.

The other idea is to contact the Peace Corps External Partnerships Coordinator, Adams, Ted <tadams2@peacecorps.gov> if we'd like Ukraine RPCVs that have served in positions that had an environmental focus (but don't work at EPA currently).

By the way, our MOU "expired" at the end of 2021. We were waiting until the new Director is confirmed so that Regan could meet that person and sign together. As you recall, we renewed about 9 months after the last one expired so we are on track. I do hope it happens in 2022 though (no nominee yet).

Best, Teresa

From: Buckley, Katherine <Buckley.Katherine@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 5:53 PM
To: Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>; Kuklinski, Teresa <Kuklinski.Teresa@epa.gov>; Rosen, Alex <Rosen.Alex@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: possible resources re FW: Ukraine Environment Task Force Update

+ Alex – as I believe he is our coordinator with Peace Corps in case coordination is needed with Peace Corps down the road. Alex may also know Ukraine-linked RPCVs.

Thanks,
Katherine

From: Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 5:49 PM
To: Kuklinski, Teresa <Kuklinski.Teresa@epa.gov>
Cc: Buckley, Katherine <Buckley.Katherine@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: possible resources re FW: Ukraine Environment Task Force Update

Teresa,

Are you still our RPCV coordinator? Is there a useful way to engage?

Mark

From: Novikoff, Joshua <Novikoff.Joshua@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 3:17 PM
To: Taylor, Andrew <Taylor.Andrew@epa.gov>; Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>
Cc: Wintersteen, Jennifer (she) <Wintersteen.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: possible resources re FW: Ukraine Environment Task Force Update

Thank you, Andrew.

I am passing your note to Mark.

From: Taylor, Andrew <Taylor.Andrew@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 2:48 PM
To: Novikoff, Joshua <Novikoff.Joshua@epa.gov>
Cc: Wintersteen, Jennifer (she) <Wintersteen.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: possible resources re FW: Ukraine Environment Task Force Update

Josh,
I'm sure OIA has already considered this but there are likely several EPA returned Peace Corps volunteers ("RPCV"s in Peace Corps parlance) that served in Ukraine and may make good ad hoc advisors to any EPA workgroup being considered as OIA moves forward on this topic.
I'll leave it to you to decide if this is worth elevating. If there is interest and a need for an assist to round up the Ukraine RPCVs I'd be happy to help.
I did not serve in Ukraine, but as an RPCV myself, I know that our deep knowledge of the countries we served, the passion we have for those countries, and if lucky, the language skills we acquired there, stay with us.

Andrew

Andrew Taylor (he/him)

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US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic: WV, VA, PA, MD, DE, DC, and 7 federally recognized tribes)
taylor.andrew@epa.gov
215-814-2482

From: Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2022 11:33 AM
To: OITA-International Coordinators-ALL <OITAInternational_CoordinatorsALL@epa.gov>
Cc: Buckley, Katherine <Buckley.Katherine@epa.gov>
Subject: Ukraine Environment Task Force Update

In response to a letter form the Ukrainian Environment Minister to Administrator Regan and Secretary of State Blinken, the State Department has set up a Ukraine Environment Task Force to assist Ukraine evaluate and address the environmental damage caused by Russia's unprovoked invasion. I have been asked to serve as the EPA point-of-contact on this interagency Task Force which will meet every other Monday. The first meeting took place this past Monday. EPA's National Incident Coordination Team (NIC-T) was convened yesterday to identify EPA's capabilities that could be applicable to Ukraine's needs.

The Ukrainian Environment Minister currently has three top priorities: 1) assistance to evaluate ecosystem services and harm to these ecosystems; 2) immediate and long term waste management including military ordinance, fuel spills, massive debris removal/disposal/reuse, hazardous waste, and mass disposal of human remains; 3) legal redress against Russia from environmental damage they have inflicted on Ukraine. We asked the Minister why water and wastewater were not listed. It turns out they are covered by another Ministry, but that we should expect a request for assistance in those areas to come forward as well in the near future.

I wanted to alert you to this effort especially if any requests from Ukraine come directly to EPA regions or program offices. Please forward any requests to Katherine Buckley and myself so we can assure a coordinated response. Katherine Buckley is EPA's Europe Program Manager and currently serves as Acting Senior Advisor for Asia Pacific and Europe Programs.

OIA will be regularly reporting requests for assistance and potential responses to the Administrator's office through Chief-of-Staff Dan Utech. The Administrator is interested in EPA supporting Ukraine any way we practically can. I want to make clear that we will not be deploying any EPA staff to Ukraine while hostilities are still under way, but there are EPA resources that might be helpful and some remote assistance that would be valuable in the meantime, while the Ministry continues to try to do its work despite the war.

I continue to be impressed by everyone's interest to lean-in to help Ukraine recover from Russia's attacks. This will be with us for a long time, probably in ways we do not totally comprehend yet. Thank you in advance for your help in a whole-of-Agency response to Ukraine.

Best regards, Mark

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