Message

From: Hubbard, Joseph [Hubbard.Joseph@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/13/2020 2:49:52 PM
To: mdmitchell@theadvocate.com
CC: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: EPA awards Louisiana over $311,000 to assess air pollutants in St. John Parish Grant funding

Hi David,

I will give you a call in a bit. Please note, Monday was a Federal holiday. Also, DEQ/LDH are the grantees and will have the best information on how they will use the grant.

Cheers,

Joe Hubbard
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
OFFICE: 214-665-8476
Hubbard.joseph@epa.gov

From: Mitchell, David
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 9:41:23 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: R6Press
Subject: FW: EPA awards Louisiana over $311,000 to assess air pollutants in St. John Parish Grant funding

I was wondering if I could talk to someone today about exactly what this grant money will be used to do. I called yesterday and again this morning and haven't heard back. The folks down here in Louisiana are giving me conflicting stories. I was wondering if you could help, in particular, on the DEQ piece. Is this money related to an "audit," or companion survey, of the La. Tumor Registry that was started in reaction to a student community survey, suggesting cancer rates in the St. John the Baptist area could be higher than the registry indicates. The student survey was among people living near the Denka plant and trying to analyze the impact of chloroprene emissions.

DEQ says that is what the money is for, but the Tumor Registry says it isn't. Please call today. Thanks. On my cell.

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From: Baurick, Tristan <tbaurick@theadvocate.com>
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2020 10:48 AM
To: Mitchell, David <dmitchell@theadvocate.com>
Subject: Re: EPA awards Louisiana over $311,000 to assess air pollutants in St. John Parish Grant funding

Go for it. Thanks.

From: Mitchell, David <dmitchell@theadvocate.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:55 PM
To: Russell, Gordon <grussell@theadvocate.com>; Schleifstein, Mark <mschleifstein@theadvocate.com>; Baurick, Tristan <tbaurick@theadvocate.com>
Subject: RE: EPA awards Louisiana over $311,000 to assess air pollutants in St. John Parish Grant funding

I can get unless you want, Tristan.

THE ADVOCATE

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From: Russell, Gordon <grussell@theadvocate.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2020 5:46 PM
To: Schleifstein, Mark <mschleifstein@theadvocate.com>; Baurick, Tristan <tbaurick@theadvocate.com>; Mitchell, David <dmitchell@theadvocate.com>
Subject: RE: EPA awards Louisiana over $311,000 to assess air pollutants in St. John Parish Grant funding

Tristan or David, one of you guys in a position to write this up tomorrow? I figure Mark gonna be on weather duty.

From: Schleifstein, Mark <mschleifstein@theadvocate.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:43 PM

To: Baurick, Tristan <tbaurick@theadvocate.com>; Russell, Gordon <grussell@theadvocate.com>; Mitchell, David <dmitchell@theadvocate.com>
Subject: FW: EPA awards Louisiana over $311,000 to assess air pollutants in St. John Parish Grant funding

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From: EPA South Central <no_reply@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Schleifstein, Mark <mschleifstein@theadvocate.com>
Subject: EPA awards Louisiana over $311,000 to assess air pollutants in St. John Parish Grant funding

EPA awards Louisiana over $311,000 to assess air pollutants in St. John Parish

Grant funding prioritized for areas facing air quality challenges

Contact: Joe Hubbard or Jennah Durant at 214-665-2200 or r6press@epa.gov

DALLAS (Oct. 8, 2020) – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently awarded the state of Louisiana two grants for a total of $311,012. The grants will help the state determine health risks from toxic air pollutants in the community near the Denka Plant in St. John the Baptist Parish, La.

"Through these grants, EPA supports states as they develop programs and projects to address localized environmental concerns," **said EPA Regional Administrator Ken McQueen.** "EPA has been working with the State of Louisiana and the local leadership in St. John the Baptist Parish for several years to reduce chloroprene emissions. We look forward to further assisting the community through these grants, which will promote the health of its citizens and the environment."

The two grants were awarded to La. state agencies in partnership with Louisiana State University. EPA awarded $224,931 to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and $86,081 to the Louisiana Department of Health to assess the health risks associated with Chloroprene exposure in the community near the Denka Plant.

Chloroprene is a chemical used in the production of neoprene. Neoprene has a variety of uses, such as in wetsuits, gaskets, hoses and adhesives. Chloroprene is classified as a likely carcinogen by several agencies, including EPA.

As EPA pursues its mission to protect human health and the environment, the agency periodically awards grants to help state, local and tribal air agencies conduct air quality monitoring projects to address localized air toxics issues. Air toxics, also known as hazardous air pollutants, may be linked to cancer or other serious health effects. Under the Clean Air Act, EPA currently regulates 187 listed air toxic pollutants.

Congress created the MPG program in 2016, and appropriated funds to this program in fiscal year (FY) 2018, FY 2019, and FY 2020. This MPG program is for the $13 million Congress appropriated in FY 2020. The Explanatory Statement accompanying the 2020 Act suggested that states and tribes might use the MPG funds to address emerging contaminants such as PFAS, but directed the Agency "to continue to give maximum flexibility to States and Tribes so that they, not the Agency, may determine where funds from this grant program are of most value."

For more information on Denka and EPA actions in the community, please visit: https://www.epa.gov/la/laplace-louisiana-background-information

For more information on Chloroprene in Louisiana visit: https://www.epa.gov/la/laplace-louisiana-frequent-questions

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