Message

From: Henry, Tala [Henry.Tala@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/14/2021 5:31:32 PM
To: Nesci, Kimberly [Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov]; Dennis, Allison [Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]; Messina, Edward [Messina.Edward@epa.gov]
CC: Ozmen, Shamus [Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov]; Siedschlag, Gregory [Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov]; Lara, Rhina [Lara.Rhina@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: FINAL: EPA Takes Action to Investigate PFAS Contamination

I reviewed and also Kimberly's edits below and are good with it

Tala R. Henry, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
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From: Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Henry, Tala <Henry.Tala@epa.gov>
Cc: Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FINAL: EPA Takes Action to Investigate PFAS Contamination

Allison, minor suggestions to be more comprehensive on the lab testing for your consideration.

Thuy is actively working on the data memo. I've provided one round of comments and asked for a complete package to send up for review by 1:00.

From: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Henry, Tala <Henry.Tala@epa.gov>
Cc: Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Siedschlag, Gregory <Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov>; Lara, Rhina <Lara.Rhina@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FINAL: EPA Takes Action to Investigate PFAS Contamination

FYI!

From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Bodine, Susan <bodine.susan@epa.gov>; Dunn, Alexandra <dunn.alexandra@epa.gov>; Hoverman, Taylor <hoverman.taylor@epa.gov>; Voyles, Travis <Voyles.Travis@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Johnson, Taylor <Johnson.Taylor.C@epa.gov>; Deziel, Dennis <Deziel.Dennis@epa.gov>
Cc: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Gutro, Doug <Gutro.Doug@epa.gov>; Deegan, Dave <Deegan.Dave@epa.gov>; Szaro, Deb <Szaro.Deb@epa.gov>; Richardson, RobinH <Richardson.RobinH@epa.gov>
Subject: FINAL: EPA Takes Action to Investigate PFAS Contamination

Hi all—

Thank you so much for your work and input on this release. I am including what I believe to be the final version of the press release that should incorporate everyone's edits. If there are any edits that I've missed or that need to be made, please make them in red to the version in this email below.

All: Please make any last minute edits by **1:00pm.**

Taylor: Can you mock up a preview after 1:00pm?

All: I'd suggest that we go at 2:00pm, so we can wrap up web edits.

EPA Takes Action to Investigate PFAS Contamination

WASHINGTON – As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) extensive efforts to address PFAS, today the agency is making new information available about EPA testing that shows PFAS contamination from fluorinated containers.

Through a coordinated effort with both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a pesticide manufacturer, the agency has determined that fluorinated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers that are used to store and transport a mosquito control pesticide product contain PFAS compounds that are getting into the pesticide product.

While the agency is early in its investigation and has not come to any conclusions about health risks, the affected pesticide manufacturer has voluntarily stopped shipment of any products in fluorinated HPDE containers and is conducting its own testing to confirm EPA results and product stability in un-fluorinated containers. In addition, EPA has issued a request for information under the Toxics Substance Control Act (TSCA) to the company that fluorinates the containers used by certain pesticide manufacturers. The TSCA subpoena requests information about the fluorination process used to treat the containers.

As EPA evaluates this issue, the agency asks that pesticide companies (and other companies) using fluorinated containers and entities that fluorinate containers engage in good product stewardship and examine their distribution chains to uncover potential areas for contamination. EPA will also continue to work closely with the entities involved and their supply and distribution chains, mosquito control districts, the pesticide and packaging industry, federal partners, states, and tribes that may be affected to provide information and guidance on next steps. EPA understands the need to provide guidance to states and tribes as they prepare to purchase mosquito control products for 2021 and will provide more information as it continues its investigation.

EPA will update the following webpage with information as it becomes available: *insert PFAS pesticide packaging webpage*

Background

Since first becoming aware of the PFAS contamination issue in early September 2020 through citizen science testing of a pesticide product for mosquito control, EPA has been working to investigate the source of the contamination. Throughout October and November 2020, EPA has worked diligently in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to request samples of the pesticide product and analyze the identified product at different steps of production and manufacturing to determine whether PFAS are present, including issuing an information request to the pesticide registrant on October 5, 2020 seeking information on the affected pesticide's production, sales, and distribution.

In late December 2020, EPA studied the fluorinated HDPE containers used to store and transport the product and determined the containers are a possible source of PFAS contamination. EPA has been in close contact with Massachusetts, the pesticide registrant and the fluorinated HDPE container treatment company to discuss the issue, as well as to obtain the materials needed to ~~detect~~ test for PFAS in the product and the fluorinated HDPE containers.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA is charged with approving active and inert ingredients in the registered pesticide products sold in the United States. EPA has confirmed that PFAS is not a known ingredient or additive in the company's affected product and is collaboratively working with the registrant as EPA laboratories test samples of the product at different steps of production and manufacturing, in addition the agency's study of the containers themselves.

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