Message

From: Sanders, Amy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C8C3424E1C874447AA2629C6EBED66F3-ASANDE02]
Sent: 1/21/2021 9:59:44 PM
To: Newton, Cheryl [Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Weekly Update (Sent to R5 EPA)

I think this was nice.

From: Newton, Cheryl <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 3:59 PM
To: 'John.J.Kim@Illinois.gov' <John.J.Kim@Illinois.gov>; 'bpigott@idem.in.gov' <bpigott@idem.in.gov>; 'ClarkL20@michigan.gov' <ClarkL20@michigan.gov>; Laura.Bishop@state.mn.us; 'Laurie.Stevenson@epa.ohio.gov' <Laurie.Stevenson@epa.ohio.gov>; 'preston.cole@wisconsin.gov' <preston.cole@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: todd.rettig@illinois.gov; brockens@idem.in.gov; keatleya@michigan.gov; laura.factor@epa.ohio.gov; 'Tester, Peter (MPCA)' <Peter.Tester@state.mn.us>; todd.ambs@wisconsin.gov; Sanders, Amy <Sanders.Amy@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Robert <kaplan.robert@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Weekly Update (Sent to R5 EPA)

Good afternoon everyone - As the transition gets into full swing here at EPA, I thought you would be interested in some information I shared with Region 5 earlier today. Although I don't know when a new Region 5 Administrator will be named, a number of new appointees have already been sworn in and started work in our headquarters. For as long as I'm the acting regional administrator, I intend to continue with the established principles and practices that have helped us strengthen the working relationships between our agencies. This includes the regular calls to discuss emerging issues. I believe we've started reaching out to plan for a next state director call, and I look forward to using that opportunity to share more of what we know by then and other topics of interest.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if I can be any assistance. Thanks and have a good evening!

From: Newton, Cheryl <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 3:17 PM
Subject: Weekly Update (Sent to R5 EPA)

Dear Region 5,

Yesterday, I stepped into a new role as the Acting Regional Administrator/Deputy Regional Administrator. It's my honor to serve in this capacity as we transition to the Biden Administration. While we were unable to have a traditional regional reception, we used several recent remote meetings to express our appreciation to Kurt. While Kurt's tenure as Regional Administrator was brief, I appreciate his energy, hard work and professionalism as he led us over the past year.

At its core, my job during this time is to ensure the Region continues to protect public health and the environment, while also supporting a smooth and informed transition to the new team and a future new RA. That means I am relying on our entire senior leadership team to continue to help prioritize and manage our work, including the communication and problem-solving that is foundational to so much of what we do. It also means I am relying on all of you.

In transitions before this one, it was customary for the DRA to temporarily occupy the RA position and for another manager to move temporarily to the DRA position. This time, however, the Office of General Counsel advises that DRAs are to remain in their DRA positions, although another manager may take on some of the DRA's duties in a senior advisor capacity. As I assume the responsibilities of the RA, I'll therefore retain some elements of my current DRA role,

including my national role supporting our tenure as Lead Region for the Office of Research and Development, serving as our Regional Ethics Official, and oversight of personnel matters.

As noted above, I am fortunate to be able to rely on a strong, permanent senior leadership team to support this new understanding of the Acting RA and DRA roles. The Division Directors will continue to identify priority matters, elevate concerns and facilitate robust briefings and analysis so we can continue to make decisions and progress in our programs. As our Mission Support Division Director, Amy Sanders will be the focal point for internal operations, including participating on certain national calls which typically target DRA's; she will continue to bring those matters directly to me and our team. I've also asked Bob Kaplan to take on certain responsibilities, while continuing to support our continuous improvement efforts and transition preparedness. Bob will work with Jeff Kelley, Charmagne Ackerman and others to ensure we continue regular meetings with our state, tribal and agriculture partners, and will be an extra set of eyes on program documents needing my signature. I appreciate Amy's and Bob's support and everyone's patience and flexibility as we continue adapt to meet the needs and expectation of the new team.

I'm looking forward to serving the Region in this new capacity. I have always viewed transitions as an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned, best practices to retain as well as potential new ideas that will further our ability to deliver environmental protection across Region 5. Kurt's practice of a "Weekly" email to the Region sharing news and highlights is one I will retain. I look forward to sharing more news next week. As a reminder, per Amy's January 14th email, it our understanding that the Metcalfe building will return to normal entrance/exit operations next week.

Stay safe; stay well; and thank you for all that you do.

Cheryl L. Newton
Acting Regional Administrator/Deputy Regional Administrator, R5
312-353-6730