Message

From: Starfield, Lawrence [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=8A89D6CD217D4254A5879ABECB3F314E-STARFIELD, LAWRENCE]
Sent: 1/28/2021 4:53:17 PM
To: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry; Associated Press

Lindsay might want to consider adding a statement like the following:

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Larry

From: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:26 AM
To: Starfield, Lawrence <Starfield.Lawrence@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Media Inquiry; Associated Press

Larry,
OPA just sent me the email below. OPA has developed a general statement to respond to an Associated Press reporter who is asking how the agency will be able to do more (including enforcement) with reduced resources. OPA asked for your approval for the statement. I think they would also welcome anything we want to add on enforcement. - George

From: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:15 AM
To: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Subject: Media Inquiry; Associated Press re scientific capacity

Hi George,

We are running this statement and background by the principals in OAR, ORD and OECA. The reporter is asking how can we do more with less (people) in the areas of climate, research and enforcement. Can you run it by Larry, please? The new DDL is 3 p.m. today.
Thanks,
Enesta

Draft Statement: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Background: ORD had 1,703 full-time equivalents in FY 2016 and 1,513 at the end of calendar year 2020, with a reduction of 190 full-time equivalents.

From: "Webber, Tammy" <TWebber@ap.org>
Date: January 19, 2021 at 4:06:30 PM EST
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>, "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>, stclair.christie@epa.gov
Cc: mbrown@ap.org
Subject: Associated Press questions - scientific staff

Hello Enesta, Christie, EPA press staff:

I'm an Associated Press reporter working on a story about declines in scientific capacity at federal agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and hoping to get some responses to what we have found. We'd like to interview someone directly about these topics, but welcome whatever response you can provide by Thursday. Please let us know as soon as possible.

- EPA payroll data shows a loss of almost 650 EPA science jobs since 2016 and almost 4,000 since 2000. How has that affected the agency's mission, including enforcement, rulemaking and scientific research?
- We have heard from current and former EPA staffers that remaining staff members are taking on more work and that there is little time to train newer employees. Some also say they have been told to take a softer approach with industry enforcement and some researchers say they were told to avoid mentioning climate change. Can you respond to concerns about workload, training, enforcement and concerns about climate language in research?
- --what is the EPA doing to bring on more scientists? Are there plans to hire more people?

I'd be grateful for any help you can provide. Please reply all, so responses will also go to my colleague Matthew Brown, cc'd here.

Thank you,

Tammy Webber
312-259-5645

Tammy Webber
The Associated Press
312-920-3633, office
312-259-5645, cell/Signal
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