Message

From: David Haws [davidh@co.yakima.wa.us]
Sent: 1/27/2022 11:01:12 PM
To: Levo, Brian [Levo.Brian@epa.gov]
CC: Lisa Freund [lisa.freund@co.yakima.wa.us]; joe.stump@co.yakima.wa.us
Subject: RE: Lower Yakima Valley GWMA - County liaison David Haws
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Brian,

February 11th at 9:30AM works the best for us. We will look for your MS Teams invite.

Thanks,

David Haws, P.E., CFM
Yakima County Public Services
Environmental Services Director
Front Desk: (509) 574-2300
Fax: (509) 574-2301
david.haws@co.yakima.wa.us

From: Levo, Brian [mailto:Levo.Brian@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 2:00 PM
To: David Haws <davidh@co.yakima.wa.us>
Subject: RE: Lower Yakima Valley GWMA - County liaison David Haws

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hi David, that you for your help coordinating. Proposed dates/start times that work for EPA:

- February 1st, 3pm
- February 7th, 2pm or 2:30pm
- February 9th, 9am, 2pm, or 3pm
- February 10th, 1pm or 3pm
- February 11th, Anytime between 9am and 3pm (except 11am-noon)

We're envisioning needing 1 hour and having EPA staff that work on drinking water issues from our Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division, Water Division, and our Office of Regional Counsel, participate in the meeting. We can send you specific topics we think we'll want to start with ahead of the meeting but, in general, all questions are in the scope of getting a better understanding of the nitrate contamination in the Lower Yakima Valley and Yakima County's efforts to address it.

I don't think there is an expectation that all questions we might have will be answered but having individuals that are broadly knowledgeable that can point us in the right direction will be useful.

Brian Levo
NPDES Enforcement Coordinator
Surface Water Enforcement Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10

1200 6th Avenue, Suite 155, MS 20-C04, Seattle, WA 98101
Phone: (206) 553-1816, Fax: (206) 553-4743

From: David Haws <davidh@co.yakima.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 1:24 PM
To: Lisa Freund <lisa.freund@co.yakima.wa.us>; Levo, Brian <Levo.Brian@epa.gov>; Shawn Magee <shawn.magee@co.yakima.wa.us>
Cc: Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Lower Yakima Valley GWMA - County liaison David Haws

Brian,

I would appreciate having your proposed dates or a doodle poll to find a date that works for everyone. Do you already have a list of questions or items you would like to discuss that you can send? Or anything else that you think would be beneficial for the County to prepare for or have on hand for the meeting?

Thanks,

David Haws, P.E., CFM
Yakima County Public Services
Environmental Services Director
Front Desk: (509) 574-2300
Fax: (509) 574-2301
david.haws@co.yakima.wa.us

From: Lisa Freund
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Levo, Brian <Levo.Brian@epa.gov>; Shawn Magee <shawn.magee@co.yakima.wa.us>
Cc: Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>; David Haws <davidh@co.yakima.wa.us>
Subject: RE: Lower Yakima Valley GWMA - County liaison David Haws

Good morning Brian,
Thanks for you email. I have asked David Haws, Yakima County's Environmental Service Director, to be our liaison for upcoming meetings. He will ensure the appropriate County staff is included. His email address is above.

We look forward to working with EPA to provide you the information you need.

Thank you.
Lisa

From: Levo, Brian [mailto:Levo.Brian@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 2:41 PM
To: Lisa Freund <lisa.freund@co.yakima.wa.us>; Shawn Magee <shawn.magee@co.yakima.wa.us>

Cc: Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Lower Yakima Valley GWMA

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Lisa and Shawn,

Jeff KenKnight has asked me to help facilitate scheduling a meeting between EPA and Yakima County following-up from the GWMA presentation on Jan 13th. As mentioned at that meeting, in reviewing the Petition for Emergency Action that EPA received, Region 10 is attempting to ensure we're considering all pertinent information. This involves follow-up meetings to be able to have more substantive discussion with individual GWMA agencies.

We're envisioning a 1 hour MS TEAMS call and having staff that work on drinking water issues from our Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division, Water Division, and our Office of Regional Counsel, participate in the meeting. We will propose a more specific agenda before the meeting, but in general, our focus is getting more information regarding nitrate contamination in the Lower Yakima Valley and Yakima County's efforts to address it.

I know we will want to follow-up with Yakima County and Yakima Health District and it may be beneficial to have a joint meeting with the relevant county agencies, but we look for your input on who would be best to invite and overall approach.

I'm also happy to provide proposed dates and start times for consideration, if you have a general sense of how far out we should plan for.

Thank you,

Brian Levo
NPDES Enforcement Coordinator
Surface Water Enforcement Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 155, MS 20-C04, Seattle, WA 98101
Phone: (206) 553-1816, Fax: (206) 553-4743

From: Lisa Freund <lisa.freund@co.yakima.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 8:08 AM
To: Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>
Cc: Lisa Freund <lisa.freund@co.yakima.wa.us>
Subject: RE: Lower Yakima Valley GWMA

Good morning Mr. Kenknight,
Thank you for your correspondence. Yes, I am the appropriate Yakima County contact for the LYV GWMA. I am not, however, the contact for the Yakima Health District, which plays a key role in protecting public health and is also an active participant in the LYV GWMA.

Questions: will January's meeting include the GWMA's multiple partners? (e.g., Yakima Health District—a separate agency from Yakima County—Ecology, South Yakima Conservation District, et al). Each have a different knowledge base relative to the information your are seeking.

In addition, can you please share the process EPA will follow sufficient for me to brief the Board of County Commissioners on what the County can expect? (Who will be at the table, what information will be sought, how the information will inform any action by EPA, duration of process, etc)

I look forward to hearing from you.
Lisa Freund, Public Services Director

From: Kenknight, Jeff [mailto:Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Lisa Freund <lisa.freund@co.yakima.wa.us>
Subject: Lower Yakima Valley GWMA

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Ms. Freund – I am contacting you to verify that you are the appropriate contact for matters related the Lower Yakima Valley GWMA. On October 26, 2021, the Center for Food Safety, Friends of Toppenish Creek, and Food and Water Watch (Petitioners) submitted a Petition (attached) to the EPA Administrator and Acting Region 10 Regional Administrator to exercise the Agency's emergency powers under Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act to address groundwater nitrate contamination that presents a risk to the health of residents of the Lower Yakima Valley (LYV).

EPA requests the County's cooperation in providing additional information related to nitrate contamination in the LYV and the actions that County is, or will be taking to protect public health. For example, EPA seeks information related to any recent testing of residential wells, the County's estimate for the number of residential wells with nitrate concentrations exceeding the maximum contaminant level, any recent efforts to provide residents with alternative water, and the status of funding and implementing the actions that were recommended by Groundwater Advisory Committee in 2019.

I would like to set up an initial meeting with the County in January, 2022. Please let me know if you would like to designate a staff person to assist in the scheduling of the meeting.

I look forward to communicating with you more on this issue.

Jeff KenKnight
Chief, Water Enforcement and Field Branch
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155, 20-C04
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-6641