Message

From: Sullivan, Melissa [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=54F0DE262EE645199291218AE02AC210-SULLIVAN, M]
Sent: 11/21/2022 4:10:05 PM
To: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]
CC: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]; Egan, Patrick [egan.patrick@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Interview request — Mr. Matthew Schneider

Good morning George,

The reporter is available all day on Tuesday.

Is there a time that works best for Matt and Dan?

As we discussed on Friday, given the holiday this week, a joint interview would be the most expedient option.

Thank you,
Melissa

Melissa A. Sullivan (She/Her/Hers)
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202 913 3840
Sullivan.Melissa@epa.gov

From: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Cc: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>; Egan, Patrick <egan.patrick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview request — Mr. Matthew Schneider

Thanks, Melissa. We really hadn't discussed whether the reporter wants two separate interviews or one. I think Dan and Matt each conducted an inspection without the other on different dates. Do you have any preference or insight on whether it would be better to do interview with both of them together or split it into two? - George

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From: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Cc: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>; Egan, Patrick <egan.patrick@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Interview request — Mr. Matthew Schneider

Good afternoon George,

The reporter is OK with a background interview for David and Matthew.

Please let me know what works best in terms of scheduling.

Thank you,
Melissa

Melissa A. Sullivan (She/Her/Hers)
Office of Public Affairs

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202 913 3840
Sullivan.Melissa@epa.gov

On Nov 17, 2022, at 2:04 PM, Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov> wrote:

Melissa,
I checked with Matthew and Dan's managers. They are not comfortable with the interviews if they are for attribution. They are comfortable if they are done on background. If you could check with the reporter if that would work, that would be great.

From: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 10:10 AM
To: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Egan, Patrick <egan.patrick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview request — Mr. Matthew Schneider

Good morning George,

Following-up about this interview request.

Can I proceed to scheduling or are we planning to respond in writing?

Thank you,
Melissa

Melissa A. Sullivan (She/Her/Hers)
Office of Public Affairs
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202 913 3840
Sullivan.Melissa@epa.gov

From: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 7:42 AM
To: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Egan, Patrick <egan.patrick@epa.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview request — Mr. Matthew Schneider

Hi George,

Thanks for the update. The reporter wants to interview Daniel and Matthew.

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Public Affairs/Office of the Administrator
(Office) 202-564-1976
(Mobile) 202-573-5349

From: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 5:34 PM
To: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>; Egan, Patrick <egan.patrick@epa.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview request — Mr. Matthew Schneider

Thanks, Shayla. I shared the reporter's questions with Dan Hoyt. He said that the questions looked straight forward and that he would be comfortable either speaking with the reporter or writing answers. I'm going to touch base with his supervisor tomorrow to make sure he would be comfortable with having Dan interviewed.

One question, does the reporter want to interview both Dan Hoyt and Matthew Schneider?

From: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 5:28 PM
To: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Egan, Patrick <egan.patrick@epa.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview request — Mr. Matthew Schneider

Hi George and Pat,

I briefly talked to the reporter this afternoon. As the reporter shared in their initial email, they are working on a story looking back at the 2019 fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company's (ITC) facility in Deer Park, Texas. The reporter wants to better understand the facility's culture and history, compliance issues. The reporter has been in touch with James Murdock and Nathan Wilkes in Region 6. The reporter also has the April 2012 inspection report and has FOIA requests pending. The reporter is talking to Deer Park community members about their experiences.

The reporter is interested in talking to Matt and Daniel about their experience on the ground, how they work, what was it like, what instruments were used, etc. The reporter has the April 2012 inspection report but said it's kind of "dry," and hopes talking to Matt and Daniel will contextualize the report. The reporter understands that some questions may be off limits.

The reporter's deadline is Nov. 29 but has talked to their editor about an extension.

Melissa returns tomorrow. Thanks!

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Public Affairs/Office of the Administrator
(Office) 202-564-1976
(Mobile) 202-573-5349

From: Powell, Shayla
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Egan, Patrick <egan.patrick@epa.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Interview request — Mr. Matthew Schneider

Hi George and Pat,

I'm going to contact the reporter to see if I can get more information on this project. More to follow.

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Public Affairs/Office of the Administrator
(Office) 202-564-1976
(Mobile) 202-573-5349

From: David Leffler <dleffler@publichealthwatch.org>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 7:29 PM
To: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Interview request — Mr. Matthew Schneider

Hi Shayla,

Thanks for this response — really appreciate it. Correct, the types of questions and inquiries we're looking for are generally similar to those I sent over earlier. As I mentioned before, feel free to let me know if there are concerns about any of them/if your team needs any clarification about the story and its scope.

Best,
David

On Mon, Nov 14, 2022 at 4:36 PM Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hi David,
>
> Acknowledging receipt. Are your questions for Matthew Schneider similar/same as sample questions shared earlier today?
>
> Thanks.

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell

Office of Public Affairs/Office of the Administrator

(Office) 202-564-1976

(Mobile) 202-573-5349

From: David Leffler <dleffler@publichealthwatch.org>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Interview request — Mr. Matthew Schneider

Good afternoon,

My name is David Leffler and I'm a reporter with Public Health Watch, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization focused on threats to America's well-being.

I'm currently working on a story looking back at the 2019 fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company's (ITC) facility in Deer Park, Texas. Specifically, I'm hoping to better understand the facility's maintenance and history, including past violations and similar aspects of EPA and TCEQ oversight.

During my research, I came across Mr. Matthew Schneider's inspection of the facility in the fall of 2016 on behalf of NEIC. (Mr. Schneider informed me that you two are the appropriate people to direct this request to, but please let me know if this is not the case.) His inspection itself has been very helpful for the story, but I have a few follow-up questions that I'd like to, if at all possible, run by Mr. Schneider. Just hoping to learn more about his experience during the inspection, what stood out to him most at the time, and similar inquiries about the inspection.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration here. Feel free to let me know if you have any questions or concerns that I can help address, or if you'd like more information about this project.

Best regards,
David Leffler
512-947-6436

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David Leffler

Reporter

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David Leffler
Reporter