Message

From: Hull, George [Hull.George@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/15/2022 10:33:58 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

--

David Leffler

Reporter

--
David Leffler
Reporter