Message

From: David Leffler [dleffler@publichealthwatch.org]
Sent: 11/18/2022 6:47:49 PM
To: Sullivan, Melissa [sullivan.melissa@epa.gov]
CC: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Interview request — Mr. Daniel Hoyt

Hi Melissa,

It's good to hear from you. Yes, that would be great. Definitely works for me.

Feel free to let me know what next steps are/which dates and times work best on your end. I'm happy to adjust to any scheduling preferences your team/Mr. Hoyt/Mr. Schneider may have.

Best,
David

On Fri, Nov 18, 2022 at 8:07 AM Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov> wrote:

> Good morning David,
>
> We can provide an interview with Dan and Matthew on background.
>
> Does that work for you?
>
> 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: David Leffler <dleffler@publichealthwatch.org>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 12:02 PM
To: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Interview request — Mr. Daniel Hoyt

Hi Shayla,

Perfect — thank you. Don't hesitate to reach out if any questions arise on your end.

One quick (and random) question: Who is the best press contact for NEIC inquiries? I'm having trouble tracking that information down.

Best,
David

On Mon, Nov 14, 2022 at 10:07 AM Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hi David –
>
> Confirming receipt. 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 10:39 AM
To: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Interview request — Mr. Daniel Hoyt

Hi Shayla,

Thanks for the speedy response. I hope your morning is going great. Absolutely — more information below:

Story deadline: 11/29

Sample questions:

- What first drew your attention to ITC/lead to the facility's inspection in 2012? Essentially, what compelled Region 6 to visit the facility that fall?
- Had you been out to ITC before? Or was it your first time there?
- The inspection report is very detailed, but I'm hoping to better understand what your experience on the ground was like. What was your process like during the inspection? What kind of tools did you use (FLIR cameras, etc.)? I'm hoping to, from a narrative perspective, understand what it's like to be a part of one of those inspections.
- The inspection notes potentially high emissions from a number of tanks. Can you contextualize these findings in any way for me? I'm just hoping to better understand the scale/severity of these emissions (since there are so many factors that go into measuring them), what you + your team were seeing, etc.
- Your team also saw high emission levels at Vopak, correct? How did those compare with those found at ITC, in terms of scale, scope, and frequency?
- Who was your team's main contact at ITC at the time?
- Looking back, what stood out to you most about the facility and inspection? Any takeaways that stick out in your mind?

Please let me know if you need any clarification on these, Shayla, or if there are specific inquiries you have concerns about. I'm happy to flesh them out or simplify them.

Thanks again,

David

On Mon, Nov 14, 2022 at 9:23 AM Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov> wrote:

Good morning, David,

Thank you for your email. Can you please send a list of questions you'd like to ask and your deadline, please?

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 10:22 AM
To: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Interview request — Mr. Daniel Hoyt

Good morning,

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 culture and history, including past violations and similar aspects of EPA and TCEQ oversight.

During my research, I came across Mr. Daniel Hoyt's inspection of the facility in the fall of 2012. (Mr. Hoyt is currently an environmental engineer at EPA headquarters in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.) 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. Hoyt. Just hoping to learn more about his experience during the inspection and what stood out to him most at the time.

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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Reporter

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David Leffler
Reporter