Message

From: Kondreck, Robert [kondreck.robert@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/18/2023 8:08:57 PM
To: Linduska, Rachel [Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov]; Biggs, Kim [Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov]; Ruesch, Paul [ruesch.paul@epa.gov]; Brent Bader [b.bader@lasalle-il.gov]; Falconio, Tony [Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov]
CC: Kelley, Jeff [kelley.jeff@epa.gov]; Opie, Jodie [opie.jodie@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

Thanks Rachel and everyone,
What websites will link to this document? (i.e. City of La Salle Facebook, response.epa.gov, etc....). I wanted to let a concerned citizen know where to find this information.

From: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 2:06 PM
To: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>; Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

I'm good too. I made the changes, removed the watermark and made a few AP Style changes. Attached are the final versions – the PDF should be 508 compliant. If there are any changes needed, I also attached the Word doc.

Thanks, all!

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
312-965-8901
Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov

From: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 1:46 PM
To: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>; Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

Looks good. Thanks.

From: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>; Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: [External] RE: Quick follow-up call

Good catch I fixed that Kim. Also, I think Brent is right avg person is not going to know about PM2.5 vs PM10, re-worded that in the attached (highlighted).

Paul Ruesch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5

Superfund Division
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois, USA 60604-3590
Office: 312-886-7898
Cell: 312-919-4382
ruesch.paul@epa.gov

From: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:46 PM
To: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>; Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

Just a minor edit that didn't get picked up in from an early version:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture recommended washing your pet's paws and coat when they returned from outside in the days following the fire. Following the fire, pet owners were advised to look for any skin irritation, difficulty breathing, or vomiting/diarrhea. If ~~the following~~ those symptoms arise, owners should contact their veterinarian for a follow-up. A Fact Sheet was developed by and ~~which~~ is posted on the Illinois Department of Agriculture's website at…

Thanks.

From: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:18 PM
To: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>; Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: [External] RE: Quick follow-up call

OK here is the latest draft w/ edits from Brent, Kim and Rachel incorporated. I also ran the chemistry parts past Nick, who made some good suggestions. Can you please read this quick so I can pull the watermark off and we can post. Thank you.

Paul Ruesch
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Cell: 312-919-4382
ruesch.paul@epa.gov

From: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 10:08 AM
To: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>

Cc: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

I have added a few comments, primarily for three questions that were duplicates with different responses.

From: Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 8:50 AM
To: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: [External] RE: Quick follow-up call

I added the additional questions to the document and made a few edits. The updated version is attached. I'm good with all previous edits.

Also, below is the Toledo Blade's story:

Fire at Illinois chemical plant could affect water treatment operations in Toledo

The Blade, Tom Henry, January 17, 2023, 3:46pm

A massive fire at a chemical plant in northern Illinois last week could make it more difficult for Toledo to remove algal toxins from raw western Lake Erie water next summer.

Toledo's Collins Park Water Treatment Plant got a large shipment of potassium permanganate from the Carus LLC chemical plant in LaSalle, Ill., a week or so before it caught fire on Jan. 11.

Potassium permanganate is one of the more common products used by water-treatment plants in their multi-pronged strategy for purifying water, especially when algal blooms are present.

"We were fortunate in our timing and topped off our potassium permanganate inventory in the week or so before the fire," Andrew McClure, Collins Park water treatment plant administrator, said Monday. "This is the only chemical we purchase from Carus. Under normal usage, we have enough to last until June."

But plant officials are now thinking about cutting back on or suspending their use of potassium permanganate this winter, to the degree that's possible, to ensure they'll have enough on hand for the summer bloom season, when it's going to be more needed.

"We are giving serious consideration to suspending permanganate feed for the winter to conserve inventory," Mr. McClure said.

They should be able to do that because of some overlap in treatment methods, which also include carbon-activated powder and ozone.

The latter was the largest type of treatment installed at the Collins Park Water Treatment Plant after Toledo's 2014 water crisis, when an algal toxin made the city's tap water unsafe to drink the first weekend of August that year.

The ozone technology went operational at Collins Park on June 24, 2021.

"Since we became confident in our ability to reliably feed ozone, we have been incrementally changing application rates of these chemicals so we can monitor for any unintended consequences

that could affect water quality," Mr. McClure said. "The [Carus] fire accelerates this planned work to adjust chemical usage.

"While it certainly makes sense to conserve permanganate as much as possible for the summer, we are taking a little time to consider potential outcomes so we are making as informed a decision as possible before shutting it down," he said.

The move is in response to a word of caution the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published in the aftermath of the Carus plant fire. The agency said in a news release that the fire could result in shortages.

"Water and wastewater systems that receive chemicals that are produced at the Carus chemical facility in LaSalle, Ill. may experience supply chain disruptions, and the domestic market for these chemicals will likely experience challenges until the lost production capacity is restored," the U.S. EPA stated.

Although the United States imports some of its potassium permanganate from India, the Carus plant is by far the largest for U.S. production of it. The plant also produces other chemicals used by water-treatment and sewage plants.

Toledo became aware of the potential for shortages soon after the fire, Ed Moore, the city's public utilities director, said.

The blaze began following an explosion about 9 a.m. in the warehouse area of the Carus plant. Fire crews had it under control by noon, according to a company statement.

LaSalle is about 100 miles southwest of Chicago.

A joint statement Friday from the city of LaSalle, the U.S. EPA, the Illinois EPA, and others said the plant entered a long-term cleanup phase once the fire was out. Nearby residents were urged to shelter in place and were given instructions on how to remove airborne potassium permanganate from their clothing, their skin, their pets, and their cars.

Ottawa County Sanitary Engineer J. Kelly Frey agreed the fire has the potential to make water treatment more challenging in this and other parts of the country.

"It's reminiscent of the baby formula shortage last year when Abbott's plant was closed," he said.

The Ottawa County Regional Water Treatment Plant, which serves the city of Port Clinton, the village of Oak Harbor, and portions of seven Ottawa County townships, has about three weeks of sodium permanganate on hand. It is seeking alternative suppliers or use of potassium permanganate "but this shortage is an issue if we can't find alternative suppliers," Mr. Frey said.

"Obviously, this problem is large scale and I would expect a reaction from the state and federal government to help resolve the shortage," he said.

Doug Wagner, Oregon water treatment plant superintendent, said that the community has enough potassium permanganate on hand for the next seven to eight months.

"We could go into conservation mode and stretch it out to nine months," he said.

Oregon, like other cities, used potassium permanganate mostly for controlling zebra mussels until finding other uses for it.

The city added ozone technology to its plant in late 2017. Mr. Wagner said he's even more glad it did now, because it has reduced Oregon's reliance on potassium permanganate.

Barry S. LaRoy, Monroe water & wastewater utilities director, said the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy made that system aware of the fire but said the impact will likely only result in a four-day delay in the delivery of zinc orthophosphate, which is used for corrosion control.

That's the only product Monroe buys from that plant, and the building used to manufacture it wasn't involved in the fire.

A delivery for zinc orthophosphate scheduled for Jan. 23 is now expected on Jan. 27. Mr. LaRoy said Monroe has "enough product on hand to handle this delay in product delivery."

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
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Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov

From: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 7:54 AM
To: Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

I had a few additional comments/edits for consideration.

From: Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 6:07 PM
To: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: [External] RE: Quick follow-up call

Thanks, all. Minor revisions included.

Brent Bader
Director of Public Relations and Community Development
Deputy City Clerk
FOIA Officer
City of La Salle
745 Second Street
La Salle, IL 61301-2501
P: 815-223-3755 x 5028
F: 815-223-9508
www.lasalle-il.gov

From: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:52 PM
To: Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Cc: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

From: Ruesch, Paul
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:48 PM
To: Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Cc: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

FYI the Potassium Permanganate supply chain story just posted at:

https://www.toledoblade.com/local/city/2023/01/17/fire-illinois-chemical-plant-could-affect-water-treatment-operations-toledo/stories/20230116093

It's protected so read fast!

Paul Ruesch
312-919-4382

From: Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:06 PM
To: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Cc: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick follow-up call

I'm good with it. My only suggestion would be that the county's emergency operations plan could be mentioned as part of the City's plan in addressing preparedness. Fred would be able to give more on that. Thanks!

Tony Falconio | Manager
Office of Emergency Response
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Address:	1021 N. Grand Ave. East, Springfield, IL 62794		
Office:	(217)558-1673	**Email:**	Tony.Falconio@illinois.gov

From: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 4:56:37 PM
To: Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Cc: Biggs, Kim <Kim.Biggs@Illinois.gov>; Falconio, Tony <Tony.Falconio@Illinois.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Linduska, Rachel <Linduska.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: [External] RE: Quick follow-up call

All - Here is a DRAFT FAQ document based on these and other questions received today. Please take a look and let's try to clear this for posting on the websites tomorrow morning if possible. Any feedback, input is welcome, just please do in Track Changes.

Paul Ruesch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
Superfund Division
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois, USA 60604-3590
Office: 312-886-7898
Cell: 312-919-4382
ruesch.paul@epa.gov

From: Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 3:47 PM
To: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick follow-up call

Hi Paul,

Thanks again for the call. I have included the one statement from a local chemist.

I've also included other questions we have received or heard and my answers below, feel free to review:

What happens next?
The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are directly working with Carus Chemical as they cleanup their property. Weekly meetings are occurring as of Thursday between the organizations and the company. The City of La Salle will also be present in those meetings for informational purposes.

What do I do about stains or damage to my property?
Carus Chemical has established a hotline and plan to address residents' needs as they arise. You can call 815-224-6662 for more information. Carus Chemical has partnered with local car cleaning and home cleaning services as well as vehicle detailing companies. As of Tuesday, the company has seen over 200 calls with roughly 47 vehicles cleaning and five homes having been pressure washed.

Are my animals safe?

The Department of Agriculture recommended washing your pet's paws and coat when they returned from outside in the days following the fire. Following the fire, pet owners were advised to look for any skin irritation, difficulty breathing, or vomiting/diarrhea. If the following symptoms arise, owners should contact their veterinarian for a follow-up.

Why are fire departments expected to dispose of the clothing or equipment due to exposure to this material, but cleaning is all that is required for me?
The amount of material in the environment and on the ground at the facility was much higher on scene at the Carus Chemical site where our first responders were operating. The fallout from the firefighting effort resulted in the material being at a far reduced amount compared to exposure at the site.

Was the City prepared for such an event?
The City of La Salle took the initiative to create a Disaster Maintenance Plan around a decade ago. The plan is not event-specific but is to be used as a general guide for City responsibilities and roles following a major disaster. It is updated and reviewed, generally, every couple of years following an election or when many new City staff members are appointed and are needed to be updates on the plan. This plan was last updated and reviewed in January 2021. This plan will also be updated in the coming months as part of our biannual review as well as to discuss how to improve our response.

Thanks,

Brent Bader
Director of Public Relations and Community Development
Deputy City Clerk
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745 Second Street
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F: 815-223-9508
www.lasalle-il.gov

From: Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 2:35 PM
To: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick follow-up call

No worries, thanks for the update.

Brent Bader
Director of Public Relations and Community Development
Deputy City Clerk
FOIA Officer
City of La Salle

745 Second Street
La Salle, IL 61301-2501
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F: 815-223-9508
www.lasalle-il.gov

From: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 2:34 PM
To: Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

Give me 30 min we're on with Joe MCNamara right now

From: Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 2:31 PM
To: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick follow-up call

Just double checking if you'd be free. Not urgent, but was awaiting your call when you emailed back saying in a minute.

I understand if other things got in the way and it may be longer.

Thanks,

Brent Bader
Director of Public Relations and Community Development
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From: Brent Bader
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:47 PM
To: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

Cell if you could Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) thanks.

Brent Bader
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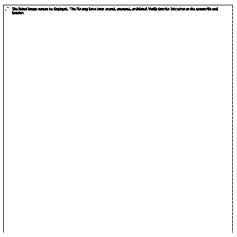

From: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:45 PM
To: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>; Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick follow-up call

Yes I will call Brent here in a minute.

From: Kondreck, Robert <kondreck.robert@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov>
Cc: Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Quick follow-up call

Hey Paul,
Could you handle this, we're about to take off here. Should land at 3:30ish.
Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 17, 2023, at 1:09 PM, Brent Bader <b.bader@lasalle-il.gov> wrote:
>
> Hi Paul and Robert,

We've had some follow-up questions from the public, and expect we will for some time. Would one or both of you be free for a quick conversation regarding some of what we've heard to see if we can address it in a Q & A of sorts on our website?

Additionally, we've received a FOIA request for all documents and correspondence relating to Carus Chemical. Some of the material you provided us would qualify, under my understanding. I plan to go through the material and make redactions as necessary but let me know if you want me to work with one of your FOIA officers as well.

Appreciated,

Brent Bader
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