Message

From: Salvatore, Brian [Brian.Salvatore@lsus.edu]
Sent: 1/30/2023 9:53:01 PM
To: mimss@aol.com
CC: BRENDA VALLEE [bfvallee Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Jay Luneau [jay@luneaubecklaw.com]; Jennifer Richmond-Bryant [jrbryan3@ncsu.edu]; jirvin6@lsu.edu; Margaret A Reams [mreams@lsu.edu]; Chuqi Guo [cguo23@ncsu.edu]; Tammy R Dugas [tammydugas@lsu.edu]; Smith, Melissa [Smith.Melissa@epa.gov]; Vaughn, Gloria [Vaughn.Gloria@epa.gov]; Gonzalez, Iris [Gonzalez.Iris@epa.gov]; Dwyer, Stacey [Dwyer.Stacey@epa.gov]; Osbourne, Margaret [osbourne.margaret@epa.gov]; Khushi [kdesai@earthjustice.org]; John Richardson [jwrichar Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) ; John Munsen [beeman Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) ; Devin Lowell [dlowell@tulane.edu]; info@cswab.org; Dolores blalock [dblalock@csuchico.edu]; John Martel [jem Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) t]; russel.honore Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Bill Wieger [bwieger Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) ; Jimmy Hodges [snjhodges Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) ; Cephas Bowie [cbowieir Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) n]; Billy O'Neal [boshrine Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Ron Hagar [hagaron Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Donna Tyler [donna Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) ; Lou Brown [terrylou Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) ; Gabe Firment [gfirment@legis.la.gov]; Louie Bernard [sen31@legis.la.gov]; Avery Hamilton [averyhamilton Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) ; david.holcombe@la.gov; Karen Richardson [karen. Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) ; Mary Jo Smith [mjdsmit Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Shawn Martin [dlsdmartin Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Martha Voda [skivoda Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Louis Swafford [louisswafford Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Peggy Laird [peggrock Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Frances Madeson [francesmadeson Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; ben@cenlainterfaith.org
Subject: Re: Colfax Article

I continue to write to the Governor and the First Lady to not let this continue another day! I am very disappointed that he has xallowed this to go on. One day, I hope it finally sinks in and he wields his authority to shut this place down.

Brian

On Jan 26, 2023, at 6:39 PM, Samuel Mims <mimss Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) wrote:

John Bel Edwards and Chuck Care Brown are the real criminals here! I think I've got an idea!

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

On Thursday, January 26, 2023, 13:41, BRENDA VALLEE <bfvallee Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) wrote:

This article was sent to our local newspaper today. I asked that it be published. Feel free to print it and give to others or email to others.

Brenda Vallee

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Zach Kanzler <zach@leanweb.org>
To: BRENDA VALLEE <bfvalle Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Cc: Michael Orr <michael@leanweb.org>; Marylee Orr <marylee@leanweb.org>; Wilma Subra <subracor Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) >
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 11:00:08 AM CST
Subject: Colfax Article

Hello Brenda,

Today I will be making a post across LEAN's social media concerning the recent meeting in Colfax with the EPA. This will be shorter to fit social media formats. Here are the links to those posts:

https://twitter.com/laenviro/status/1618653371174637568?s=20&t=FBs6433gNBXcA6GLb8-zMw
https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaEnvironmentalActionNetwork
https://www.instagram.com/p/Cn4sksxpgv-/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet

LEAN is still working on the exact date of their next proper publication, however I have reserved space in that publication for a longer piece on Colfax and CHC.

If you need something for your local paper, I have written this (which has been reviewed by Wilma)

On January 11th, 2023, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) delegates from Region 6 and Washington DC met a coalition of concerned citizens at the Morning Star Baptist Church in Colfax, LA. Just outside the church lies the majority African American community named the Rock, and just beyond the Rock lies the subject of the meeting, Clean Harbors Colfax (CHC). CHC is the last commercial open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) facility in the country and is responsible for the disposal of waste too explosive or toxic for landfills. Unlike other facilities that handle these types of waste, CHC burns or detonates the material in the open air, often by dousing the material in diesel fuel. The US military, federal government, and all state governments have banned the OB/OD disposal method; however, CHC has continued to operate as an exception.

OB/OD has been widely banned because exposure is linked to health effects such as cancer, thyroid issues, skin/eye irritation, and hair loss. OB/OD also results in seismic disturbances that shake homes and damage foundations. Citing these well-documented problems, and offering their own experiences, local residents have begun to organize and protest around the issue. They have discovered that CHC has been blatantly abusing their air permit with no regard for local environmental or health impacts. Their hard work has created an opportunity for change as the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) reviews CHC's RCRA (Hazardous Waste Permit) and prepares to renew it. It seems that LDEQ will require CHC to build a contained burn unit which will lower emissions drastically. If LDEQ does require this, CHC will have two years to build the unit and will continue business-as-usual until then.

The meeting on the 11th began with a presentation by Louisiana Environmental Action Network's (LEAN) Technical Advisor Wilma Subra. Subra explained that CHC releases numerous toxic chemicals into the community and has a history of non-compliance with state and federal regulations. She also shared data collected by the LSU Superfund Research Center which finds that numerous residents are facing severe health issues, most of which are associated with the chemicals the center has found in the air surrounding CHC. After Subra, Dr. Nance and Melissa Smith from EPA Region 6 presented the comments they prepared for LDEQ on CHC's hazardous waste permit renewal. Their comments included a wishlist of further restrictions of CHC's hazardous waste permit, including increased monitoring and shorter/less burns. While they both had words of encouragement for the community, they made it clear that LDEQ has the final say on the hazardous waste permit. Next, the EPA delegate from Washington spoke and expressed that he was deeply disturbed by CHC's non-compliance and would do everything in his power to protect the community. Sadly, he affirmed that there is little the EPA can do other than advise LDEQ. LDEQ did not respond to the community or the EPA when asked to attend this meeting.

After the EPA finished their presentation, community members had a chance to speak. Those who live in the Rock spoke powerfully about their experiences with skin rashes, hair loss, cancer, and thyroid problems. They demanded the EPA

take action and shut CHC down before things get any worse. The EPA delegates answered by once again stating that they had little to no authority on the issue. The meeting ended with community leaders thanking EPA for visiting, and calling on the other residents not to give up. They cited the fact that Senator Jay Luneau, D-Alexandria, has said he would set a meeting with Gov. John Bel Edwards to discuss the issue.

The permitting process will continue and, with the help of the EPA's comments, could end in favor of the local community. Either way, the process is far from over, and as resident Avery Hamilton noted, by the time the permit process is done in two years, Louisiana will have a new governor and the country may have a new president, both of which could affect LDEQ and the EPA.