Message

From: Chu, Rebecca [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=527CD5B55E9A465894BD6756BD3B291E-CHU, BECKY]
Sent: 8/17/2020 2:40:00 PM
To: McGrath, Patricia [mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov]
CC: Vaughan, Molly [Vaughan.Molly@epa.gov]; Hough, Palmer [Hough.Palmer@epa.gov]; Szelag, Matthew [Szelag.Matthew@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Pebble letter

Thanks Patty. I know how incredibly hard you all worked to coordinate this complex review across programs in a very short timeframe.

I would ask that before anyone respond on this one to OFA- let me reach out to leadership.

There was a lot of time and planning into the process for getting the letter to leadership, and I know that the intent was to wait for feedback at this point from Chris and his counterparts.

Let me follow up with Andrew.

From: McGrath, Patricia <mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 8:17 AM
To: Chu, Rebecca <Chu.Rebecca@epa.gov>
Cc: Vaughan, Molly <Vaughan.Molly@epa.gov>; Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>; Szelag, Matthew <Szelag.Matthew@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Pebble letter

Rebecca-

Cindy's first sentence is correct that this is frustrating. Most of her edits are not problematic and are helpful. What is frustrating is that OFA did not follow the schedule that was agreed to by career leadership by providing us with written comments by COB Tuesday. Instead general comments were provided on Monday and OFA did not consolidate and provide comments as indicated in the August 6 email (attached).

The excuse for this is that with all the edits going on, this was the first time she could see the letter more completely. I agree that there were a lot of edits going on, but we all had to deal with this. We received precise line-by-line edits from everyone else, it is not clear why OFA was not able to do this. If OFA desired an additional read through before it went to Brittany she could have told us that and we could have added in some time for that. Next time you talk to Cindy please relay that yes we are frustrated, not with the comments, but with not doing the line-by-line editing during the allotted time period and sending these comments late.

Marthea was helping Molly so Molly can weigh in on how helpful that was in light of these comments from OFA.

I know this is a pointed email, but we have been trying really hard to work within the regional and headquarters programs as a team.

Thanks for your support,
Patty

Ps. I am out on Monday, back in on Tuesday.

From: Barger, Cindy <Barger.Cindy@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 6:23 PM
To: Kaiser, Russell <Kaiser.Russell@epa.gov>; Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>; Vaughan, Molly <Vaughan.Molly@epa.gov>; Chu, Rebecca <Chu.Rebecca@epa.gov>; McGrath, Patricia <mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov>; Szelag, Matthew <Szelag.Matthew@epa.gov>
Cc: Rountree, Marthea <Rountree.Marthea@epa.gov>
Subject: Pebble letter

Hi All – I know this is going to be frustrating for R10 and I apologize. It was difficult to give a full read through with all the edits going this week and this was the first time I felt I could see the final letter more completely.

I have Marthea and the team doing another check on top of this as well but I wanted to forward this to you in case anyone is working late. There were several areas of tone in the detailed comments that I know Brittany is going to be highly sensitive too. I tried to provide recommended edits to these rather than just bubbles. Also there were several areas that didn't have the full connection to the rationale of the NEPA issue or the 404 issues as we had provided guidance so I also tried to make that clear. Where I put them in the paragraphs may not be the best locations but it gives you feedback on where this connection needs to be to make sure that the paragraph of concern connects to the recommendation.

I can talk on Monday if needed.

Thanks
Cindy

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