To: Cannon, Phillippa[Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov]
Cc: Rowan, Anne[rowan.anne@epa.gov]; Arcaute, Francisco[Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov]; Korleski, Christopher[korleski.christopher@epa.gov]; Bassler, Rachel[Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov]; Kelley, Jeff[kelley.jeff@epa.gov]
From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Fri 1/6/2017 10:37:57 PM
Subject: Re: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

Who can this be attributed to?

Monica Lee
202-713-6902

On Jan 6, 2017, at 5:32 PM, Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov> wrote:

Here it is. It is a little long, but the information in the video was so confused that I think we need to explain why conducted the drinking water testing pilot.:

A recent study in Chicago indicated that heavy construction near and around lead water service lines could cause scale in the lines to become dislodged, allowing lead from the service lines to enter drinking water. In view of soil excavation work being conducted at residences located at the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago, EPA decided to conduct a pilot study at the site to determine if soil excavation work could be having an impact on drinking water lead levels at residences where the excavation was taking place. EPA continues to analyze data from the pilot study and has not yet come to any conclusions regarding the effect of excavation work on lead service lines. However, testing done as part of the pilot study uncovered an issue unrelated to the Superfund work: drinking water samples taken from a number of homes even before EPA began any soil excavation work had lead levels above EPA's 15 parts per billion action level. There are two primary reasons for the high lead levels detected: the presence of lead in service lines and plumbing materials, and insufficient orthophosphate levels in the drinking water system at the time the samples were taken. For homes with lead service lines pipes or plumbing components, there is always the possibility of lead leaching into the drinking water. Replacing lead service lines is an effective but costly and time-intensive solution. Increasing the orthophosphate level to coat the pipes and fixtures is a less costly and more immediate solution.

After EPA notified the city of East Chicago and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management about the elevated lead levels, the city boosted the amount of orthophosphate added at the water treatment plant. This step should coat the interior surfaces of plumbing materials and decrease the amount of lead released into the drinking water.

Residents concerned about possible lead levels in their drinking water may want to install an NSF/ANSI-53 filter specifically certified for lead removal. EPA has learned from its experience in Flint, Michigan that filters are effective in removing nearly all the lead from drinking water.

Only water from the cold-water tap should be used for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead. Run cold water until it becomes as cold as it can get. Follow manufacturer's instructions about regularly cleaning hot water filters.

Bathing and showering should be safe adults and children, even if the water contains lead over EPA's action level. Human skin does not absorb lead in water. For more information, see CDC's "Sources of Lead: Water" Web page. There is more information about lead and drinking water on EPA's web site: www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto

Phillippa Cannon

Chief, Community Involvement Section

U.S. EPA Region 5

312-353-6218

From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2017 4:28 PM
To: Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>
Cc: Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

Yes thanks for the quick turn around everyone

Monica Lee

202-713-6902

On Jan 6, 2017, at 5:21 PM, Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks VERy much for jumping into action on this response!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2017, at 4:20 PM, Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov> wrote:

Almost ready to send.

Phillippa Cannon

Chief, Community Involvement Section

U.S. EPA Region 5

312-353-6218

From: Rowan, Anne
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2017 4:19 PM
To: Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>; Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Cc: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

Monica-Phillippa, R5 Water Director Chris Korleski and Cisco are working on a response to be attributed to Chris. Phillippa, can you forward the latest version? Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 6, 2017, at 4:13 PM, Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov> wrote:

Checking back on this

Monica Lee

202-713-6902

On Jan 6, 2017, at 2:43 PM, Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov> wrote:

+ Anne

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 5:28 PM
To: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

Here are some draft responses based Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

1) If digging up soil can potentially activate lead in the water pipes, doesn't that indicate a bigger issue with the infrastructure?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

2) What are the requirements for testing for lead, bacteria, chloroform and other toxins post-water treatment plant? Doesn't matter if water is good post-treatment plant if it gets contaminated in the pipes.

3) Why isn't the EPA testing home water heaters? If it's possible for lead to activated into the water stream by digging up soil, it would seem to make sense to test the water heaters and shower. My understanding is that hasn't been done in E. Chicago or Flint.

4) There's been tests done by Wayne State in Flint showing concern over bacteria in the water, both pathogenic and non-pathogenic). Has the EPA been testing for bacteria in Flint and E. Chicago, and if not, how can it tell people it's safe to drink water or shower?

5) Where do I find the detailed test reports for the EPA's testing done in E. Chicago to date. So far, there's been about 40 homes tested, correct?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

6) Is the EPA concerned about orthophosphates being used in the water distribution system? Experts tell me this is food for bacteria.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

7) How is it that Gov. Snyder/EPA is telling people it's safe to shower in Flint, but to my knowledge, you haven't been testing the shower water or water heaters?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

8) What has been Gov. Pence and the EPA's communication since this issue came to light in July, 2016. When was he first made aware of the problem and has he granted extra resources and relief funds from the EPA?

Rachel Bassler

Press Officer

U.S. EPA Region 5

bassler.rachel@epa.gov

p: 312-886-7159

c: 312-914-3393

From: Kelley, Jeff
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 2:38 PM
To: Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

We may need to involve Miguel or someone

Jeff Kelley
Director, Office of External Communications
U.S. EPA Region 5
ph: 312-353-1159

On Thu, Jan 5, 2017 at 2:35 PM -0600, "Bassler, Rachel" <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov> wrote:

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Thanks,

Rachel

Rachel Bassler

Press Officer

U.S. EPA Region 5

bassler.rachel@epa.gov

p: 312-886-7159

c: 312-914-3393

From: Kelley, Jeff
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>
Cc: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Jeff Kelley
Director, Office of External Communications
U.S. EPA Region 5
ph: 312-353-1159

From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 2:24 PM
To: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

Left him a message and sent an email. Stay tuned.

I forget, are we working on written answers or a statement? Or do we prefer putting someone else on the phone? Your guys' call.

Monica Lee

202-713-6902

On Jan 5, 2017, at 9:57 AM, Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov> wrote:

https://tytnetwork.com/2016/12/31/how-lead-poisoning-in-east-chicago-indiana-might-pop-flint-crisis-wide-open/

Jeff Kelley
Director, Office of External Communications
U.S. EPA Region 5
ph: 312-353-1159

From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 8:53 AM
To: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

I'm free until 1

From: Kelley, Jeff
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 9:32 AM
To: Lee, Monica <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

We should touch base today about this and about NOVA … what time works for you? I'm in Flint meeting most of day.

Jeff Kelley
Director, Office of External Communications
U.S. EPA Region 5
ph: 312-353-1159

From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 6:25 PM
To: Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Benenati, Frank <benenati.frank@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Monica Lee

202-713-6902

On Jan 3, 2017, at 7:06 PM, Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov> wrote:

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Jeff Kelley
Director, Office of External Communications
U.S. EPA Region 5
ph: 312-353-1159

From: Bassler, Rachel <bassler.rachel@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2017 6:01 PM
Subject: FW: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

To: Grantham, Nancy <grantham.nancy@epa.gov>, Lee, Monica <lee.monica@epa.gov>, Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>, Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Thanks,

Rachel

Rachel Bassler

Press Officer

U.S. EPA Region 5

bassler.rachel@epa.gov

p: 312-886-7159

c: 312-914-3393

From: Jordan Chariton [mailto:jordanchariton@tytnetwork.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 5:49 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

Sorry about that--just deleted some. Respectfully, I'd like to speak with the head of District 5, which is him, and get an on the record response. If he's not available, I can always say the EPA could not provide an on the record

response.

Below are several questions. Unless I'm missing something, it seems reckless to be telling folks in Flint and E. Chicago it's Ok to shower and bathe without testing shower water or home water heaters—the home I tested in E. Chicago, which the EPA found lead in the sink water, did not have shower or water heater checked.

1) If digging up soil can potentially activate lead in the water pipes, doesn't that indicate a bigger issue with the infrastructure?

2) What are the requirements for testing for lead, bacteria, chloroform and other toxins post-water treatment plant? Doesn't matter if water is good post-treatment plant if it gets contaminated in the pipes.

3) Why isn't the EPA testing home water heaters? If it's possible for lead to activated into the water stream by digging up soil, it would seem to make sense to test the water heaters and shower. My understanding is that hasn't been done in E. Chicago or Flint.

4) There's been tests done by Wayne State in Flint showing concern over bacteria in the water, both pathogenic and non-pathogenic). Has the EPA been testing for bacteria in Flint and E. Chicago, and if not, how can it tell people it's safe to drink water or shower?

5) Where do I find the detailed test reports for the EPA's testing done in E. Chicago to date. So far, there's been about 40 homes tested, correct?

6) Is the EPA concerned about orthophosphates being used in the water distribution system? Experts tell me this is food for bacteria.

7) How is it that Gov. Snyder/EPA is telling people it's safe to shower in Flint, but to my knowledge, you haven't been testing the shower water or water heaters?

8) What has been Gov. Pence and the EPA's communication since this issue came to light in July, 2016. When was he first made aware of the problem and has he granted extra resources and relief funds from the EPA?

Jordan

Jordan Chariton

TYT Political Reporter

(Cell) 516-650-2865 (Work) 516-350-4783

JordanChariton@tytnetwork.com

@JordanChariton

YouTube.com/TYTPolitics

Four Billion Views | Six Million Subscribers

On Tue, Jan 3, 2017 at 5:44 PM, Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Jordan,

I just tried to call you but your mailbox was full. Bob is out of the office on leave this week. Could you give me a call when you have the chance? Also, here is a link to an interview Bob did last week discussing the water issue (this story covers more than just the water issue so he doesn't start until a few minutes in):http://www.nwitimes.com/digital/audio/byline/podcast-byline---checking-in-on-the-east-chicago/audio_33c29509-d504-584d-979b-20a9344a9ffb.html

Thanks,

Rachel

Rachel Bassler

Press Officer

U.S. EPA Region 5

bassler.rachel@epa.gov

p:312-886-7159

c:312-914-3393

From: Jordan Chariton [mailto:jordanchariton@tytnetwork.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 2:57 PM
To: Kaplan, Robert <kaplan.robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

Good Afternoon Robert,

We should be getting our test results back tomorrow. Hope you have an answer by then before we report on the largest online news show in the world.

Jordan

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 30, 2016, at 11:44 AM, Jordan Chariton <jordanchariton@tytnetwork.com> wrote:

> And why did EPA officials tell this family it's safe to shower without testing the shower water or home water heater?
>
> Jordan

Jordan Chariton

TYT Political Reporter

(Cell)516-650-2865 (Work) 516-350-4783

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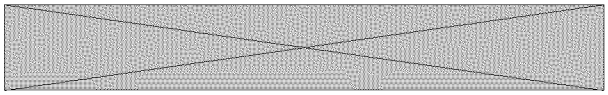

Four Billion Views | Six Million Subscribers

On Fri, Dec 30, 2016 at 11:39 AM, Jordan Chariton <jordanchariton@tytnetwork.com> wrote:

Good Morning Robert,

My name is Jordan Chariton, and I'm a reporter for the online news program The Young Turks.

In my reporting in East Chicago, Indiana in August, EPA official Brad Benning told me the lead issue was not impacting the water. See below for where you can find his statement in our interview.

3:37-3:59

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7ET6hSChHI&list=PLqSpk99bLYITfOjUr3SL73G4UgTt5QvPC&inde

"It's not similar to Flint, this is not a water pathway issue. They get Lake Michigan water, so there's no groundwater usage, so the water they are getting is not like from a well. They're looking at soil lead and kids playing in the dirt, getting it in their hands, putting their hands in their mouths, ingesting it, and possible inhalation from any dust from that topsoil."

As recent news reports have shown, this isn't true. I also spoke with a family last night in East Chicago who the EPA tested their home, only checking sink water and ground soil. Well, I drew water from the home water heater, which resulted in discolored water. Why is it that the EPA is not testing home water heaters in both East Chicago AND Flint, where in the latter, private tests have already uncovered bacteria.

Jordan

Jordan Chariton

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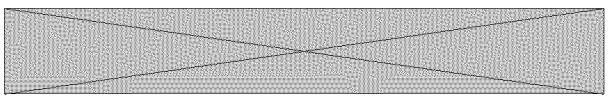

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Hi Jeff,

I saw this in Bob's email and thought you should be aware. Let me know if you would like me to reach out to Bob or do anything else.

Rhi

From: Jordan Chariton [mailto:jordanchariton@tytnetwork.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 2:57 PM
To: Kaplan, Robert <kaplan.robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

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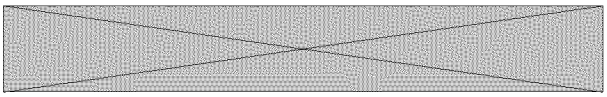

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7ET6hSChHI&list=PLqSpk99bLYITfOjUr3SL73G4UgTt5QyPC&index=

"It's not similar to Flint, this is not a water pathway issue. They get Lake Michigan water, so there's no groundwater usage, so the water they are getting is not like from a well. They're looking at soil lead and kids playing in the dirt, getting it in their hands, putting their hands in their mouths, ingesting it, and possible inhalation from any dust from that topsoil."

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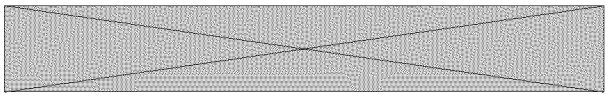

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