To: Bassler, Rachel[Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov]; Kelley, Jeff[kelley.jeff@epa.gov]; Rowan, Anne[rowan.anne@epa.gov]
From: Lee, Monica
Sent: Fri 1/6/2017 10:13:41 PM
Subject: Re: Care to Comment Why EPA Official Said No Lead In East Chicago, Indiana Water?

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 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

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.

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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?

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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

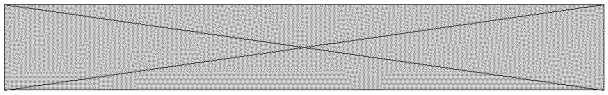
TYT Political Reporter

(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

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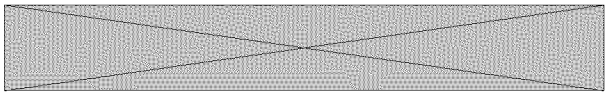

Four Billion Views | Six Million Subscribers

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=PLqSpk99bLYITfOjUr3SL73G4UgTt5QyPC&index=5

"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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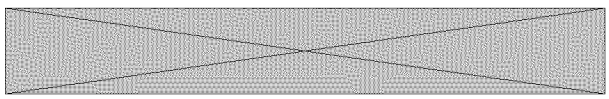

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Hi Jeff,

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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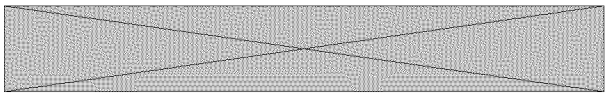

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"It's not similar to Flint, this is not a water pathway issue. They get Lake Michigan water, so there's no groundwater usage, so the water they are getting is not like from a well. They're looking at soil lead and kids playing in the dirt, getting 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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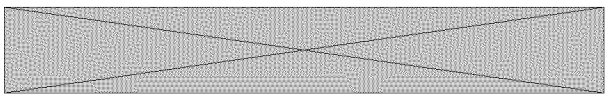

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