To: Bollweg, George[bollweg.george@epa.gov]
Cc: Siegel, Kathryn[siegel.kathryn@epa.gov]; Coughlin, Justin[coughlin.justin@epa.gov]
From: Breneman, Sara
Sent: Mon 8/7/2017 7:16:33 PM
Subject: FW: WTTW article

From: Singer, Joshua
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 2:11 PM
To: Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Cc: Nam, Ed <nam.ed@epa.gov>; Furey, Eileen <furey.eileen@epa.gov>; Breneman, Sara <breneman.sara@epa.gov>; Miller, Patrick <miller.patrick@epa.gov>; Smith, Molly <Smith.Molly@epa.gov>; Marshall, Sarah <marshall.sarah@epa.gov>; Cantello, Nicole <cantello.nicole@epa.gov>; Nelson, Leverett <nelson.leverett@epa.gov>; Beckmann, Ronna Erin <beckmann.ronna@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: WTTW article

FYI. Here is another article from WTTW, it may be updated again to reflect the NOV.

http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2017/08/07/epa-sh-bell-chicago-violation-manganese-emission-standard

EPA: S.H. Bell Chicago in Violation of Manganese Emission Standard

Alex Ruppenthal | August 7, 2017 1:21 pm

A bulk storage operator on Chicago's Southeast Side has exceeded a federal threshold for emissions of toxic manganese dust, according to new air monitoring data published Monday by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA's Region 5 press office confirmed the findings from air monitors at S.H. Bell Co. in a statement sent to Chicago Tonight.

Air monitoring data collected at S.H. Bell from March 1 through June 30 show an

average manganese concentration of 0.32 micrograms per cubic meter, which exceeds the EPA's minimal risk level for chronic inhalation exposure to manganese of 0.3 micrograms per cubic meter, according to the EPA. The risk level is used to protect those who face regular exposure to industrial sources of manganese.

Manganese is a metal used in steelmaking that can affect brain and motor function at high exposures, and can even lead to neurological symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease, according to the EPA and other published research.

"EPA has reached out to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the City of Chicago and community groups to notify them of the levels and coordinate a response," the EPA said in its statement. "EPA is committed to protecting public health by ensuring S.H. Bell complies with the Clean Air Act."

Last summer, environmental regulators first detected potentially dangerous levels of manganese dust near S.H. Bell Co., one of a handful of bulk storage operators along the industrialized Calumet River.

The data released Monday represent the first time the EPA has found average manganese concentrations that exceed the standard used by the agency to determine health risks.

Nearly 20,000 people, including more than 6,000 children, live within 1 mile of the facility in predominantly low-income and minority neighborhoods.

A Notice of Violation against S.H. Bell was expected to be announced later Monday. As of early Monday afternoon, a representative from S.H. Bell was still drafting a response to the EPA's findings.

Contact Alex Ruppenthal: @arupp | aruppenthal@wttw.com | (773) 509-5623

From: Singer, Joshua
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2017 1:21:01 PM
To: Rowan, Anne; Kelley, Jeff
Cc: Nam, Ed; Furey, Eileen; Breneman, Sara; Miller, Patrick; Smith, Molly; Marshall, Sarah; Cantello, Nicole; Nelson, Leverett
Subject: WTTW article

FYI. Here is the article from WTTW. I already sent him the statement, press release should go out soon, so maybe he will update his story later today. Thanks.

http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2017/08/07/chicago-expands-investigation-manganese-sources-southeast-side

Chicago Expands Investigation of Manganese Sources on Southeast Side

Alex Ruppenthal | August 7, 2017 12:32

Chicago's Department of Public Health is widening its investigation of companies that emit toxic manganese dust on the city's Southeast Side, the city announced Monday.

The department began a study this spring to pinpoint industrial sources of manganese, a metal used in steelmaking that can affect brain and motor function at high exposures, and can even lead to neurological symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease, according to the Environmental Protection Agency and other published research.

Last summer, environmental regulators first detected potentially dangerous levels of manganese dust near S.H. Bell Co., one of a handful of bulk storage operators along the Calumet River.

In a press release on Monday, the city said it will increase scrutiny of companies that handle manganese and evaluate options for penalizing those that violate local and federal standards.

"Holding these companies accountable is about protecting the health of our children, our communities and our environment," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel in the press release. "Just as we held petcoke handlers to high standards, we will ensure that companies either clean up or shut down."

More: *Read our full series on manganese on Chicago's Southeast Side*

In 2014, community members launched a series of protests over uncontrolled black dust from sites that store petroleum coke, or petcoke, which led to new city regulations requiring bulk storage facilities to minimize dust emissions.

The manganese study, which is being conducted by a city consultant, will include modeling of particulate matter, soil and air sampling near homes in the area, along with an assessment of potential health risks to residents, according to the city. Particulate matter is defined by the EPA as a mixture of small particles and liquid droplets that if inhaled can have serious negative effects on the heart and lungs.

As part of the study, the city will evaluate if increased dust control measures for bulk material handlers would lead to decreased manganese exposure for residents, according to the press release. The city said it will also begin increased inspections of S.H. Bell and other industrial sites on the Southeast Side.

A CDPH spokesperson declined to identify the consultant managing the investigation for the city.

"Ensuring that residents are breathing clean air is our top priority," said Public Health Commissioner Julie Morita in the press release. "We are committed to completing a thorough and rigorous study so we are able to then make data-informed regulatory recommendations as needed."

Recently published data from air monitors installed this year at S.H. Bell indicate higher levels of manganese than previously record

The levels measured both in the past and this spring at the company's facility, however, are within the limit now used by the EPA to determine health risks. The limit is six times more lenient than the threshold previously used by the agency.

But in March, one of the world's leading experts on the health effects of manganese – neurologist Brad Racette of Washington University's School of Medicine in St. Louis – told Chicago Tonight that there is a "strong argument" that existing limits are not protecting people who are exposed to the metal.

Since reports of elevated manganese levels became public earlier this year, environmental advocacy groups have demanded that Chicago ban the storage or handling of manganese in residential areas.

About 20,000 residents, including more than 6,000 children, live within 1 mile of S.H. Bell in predominantly low-income and minority neighborhoods, according to EPA data.

"The people of the Southeast Side have a long and proud history," said 10th Ward Ald. Susan Sadlowski Garza in the city's press release. "We will not allow any company, no matter how big, to put the health and safety of our community at risk. We will continue to work together, with city leaders and community activists, to ensure our air, water and soil are clean."

This spring, Garza said she would wait until more data was collected before deciding whether to support an ordinance limiting or prohibiting manganese storage.

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