Message

From: Swenson, Peter [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=EAF7E8D916134568BA23121A89260045-PSWENSON]
Sent: 4/27/2015 2:36:13 PM
To: Melgin, Wendy [melgin.wendy@epa.gov]; Burdick, Melanie [Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov]
CC: Wester, Barbara [wester.barbara@epa.gov]; Kenney, Thomas [kenney.thomas@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Meeting with Medical Professionals Regarding Assessment of PolyMet Health Impacts
Attachments: Branfireun_ExpertOpinion_PolyMetSDEIS(3-10-14).pdf

Wendy and Melanie

Please take a look at this paper.

Peter Swenson (WW-16J)
Chief, Watersheds and Wetlands Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-886-0236
swenson.peter@epa.gov

From: Hyde, Tinka
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2015 3:12 PM
To: Swenson, Peter
Cc: Henry, Timothy
Subject: FW: Meeting with Medical Professionals Regarding Assessment of PolyMet Health Impacts

Peter - FYI - Let's discuss next week. Thanks

From: Paula Maccabee [mailto:pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2015 3:02 PM
To: Walts, Alan
Cc: Hyde, Tinka
Subject: Re: Meeting with Medical Professionals Regarding Assessment of PolyMet Health Impacts

Hi Alan -

We are aware that the Minnesota DNR is making an effort to consider public health comments in the NEPA process. Thank you for follow through with the Minnesota DNR to facilitate this process.

However, we believe that the EPA's meeting with concerned doctors and public health professionals is pertinent to the EPA's review of the PolyMet proposal under Clean Water Act Section 404(c), which is independent of and likely to be prior to the point when an NPDES permit application has been submitted. The best scientific information available to us, reflected in the attached expert opinion of Dr. Brian Branfireun in his comments on the PolyMet SDEIS, suggests that PolyMet's proposed wetlands destruction and hydrologic alterations are likely to affect mercury methylation and, thus, impact human health. These concerns would not be part of the NPDES permit process, although they are vital considerations for Section 404(c) review.

It may be helpful for us in Minnesota to better understand the EPA process. Does the responsibility for Section 404(c) review rest with Water Division or only with OECA? Several Duluth doctors have asked me to reach out to whatever division at EPA Region 5 is willing to meet with them and better understand their concerns.

We look forward to hearing from you soon, and will continue to share your communications with the core group of doctors concerned about the potential adverse effects of the PolyMet project on human health.

Best regards,
Paula

Paula Maccabee, Esq.
JUST CHANGE LAW OFFICES
1961 Selby Ave.
St. Paul MN 55104
phone: 651-646-8890
fax: 651-646-5754
Cell: 651-775-7128
e-mail: pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com
http://www.justchangelaw.com

Advocacy Director/Counsel for WaterLegacy

From: , Alan Walts <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Date: Friday, April 24, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Paula Maccabee <pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Medical Professionals Regarding Assessment of PolyMet Health Impacts

Hi Paula - I'm following up in response to your recent voicemail. I've discussed this request internally, and we would like to revisit the request for a meeting and make a decision at the point when a NPDES permit application has been submitted. As I mentioned to you before, I have also talked to Minnesota DNR and understand that these public health comments are receiving full consideration, including through consultation with MDH regarding how the co-leads will address health impacts-related comments in the Final EIS.

You also asked for follow-up on your question about the plans for the EIS comment period. I expect to be able to get back to you on this early next week, maybe as soon as Monday.

Thanks,
Alan

Director, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Paula Maccabee [mailto:pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 10:04 PM
To: Walts, Alan
Subject: Meeting with Medical Professionals Regarding Assessment of PolyMet Health Impacts

Hi, Alan:

The letter and attachments included with this email follow up on our conversation last week regarding the doctors, nurses and public health professionals who have been asking for an evaluation of the health impacts of the PolyMet sulfide mine project since March 2014.

As we discussed on the phone, several of the medical professionals who live in Duluth have asked for an opportunity to meet with EPA representatives to explain their concerns and ask for your assistance. You suggested that it might be possible to convene a meeting at EPA offices in Duluth. WaterLegacy would be pleased to assist your staff in coordinating a meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the attached materials, and please suggest what would be helpful next steps to begin a dialogue with local doctors and other health professionals. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Paula

Paula Maccabee, Esq.
JUST CHANGE LAW OFFICES
1961 Selby Ave.
St. Paul MN 55104
phone: 651-646-8890
fax: 651-646-5754
Cell: 651-775-7128
e-mail: pmaccabee@justchangelaw.com
http://www.justchangelaw.com

Advocacy Director/Counsel for WaterLegacy