Message

From: Singer, Joshua [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F29C3A13F65447AE887EDD3BDC89D77A-JSINGE02]
Sent: 2/1/2018 10:21:39 PM
To: Diedrich, John [John.Diedrich@jrn.com]
Subject: RE: Update

John,

The first point I sent to you was provided in coordination with the national press office:

EPA Region 5 and Headquarters have been in close communication on these issues. Specific concerns identified in, or tips provided to, Region 5 have been shared across all of the EPA regions. The agency is following up in coordination with our state partners.

I will check to see if we can comment on your other questions. Thanks.

Josh Singer
U.S. EPA, Region 5
phone: 312-353-5069
singer.joshua@epa.gov

From: Diedrich, John [mailto:John.Diedrich@jrn.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 11:35 AM
To: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Update

Josh,

Thanks for this. As I think the agency was aware, we featured Meyer Steel in a piece we did on problems at other drum refurbishers. Do you know if there have been any other inspections in Region 5 of refurbishers? Also, can you tell me if inspectors were able to get into Meyer immediately and if there were any concerns about whether they were seeing true operations or "staged" as was the case in Milwaukee area plants? Are there any violations from the Dec. 15 inspection that you can share?

Also, have you heard back from National EPA to see if I can get a comment about what they are doing on the issue of drum refurbishers?

Thanks,
John

John Diedrich
Reporter and Assistant Investigations Editor
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
414-224-2408 (direct)
jdiedrich@journalsentinel.com
@john_diedrich

From: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2018 10:58 AM
To: Diedrich, John
Subject: RE: Update

John,

Please see the response below and attribute to U.S. EPA. Thank you.

EPA Region 5 and Headquarters have been in close communication on these issues. Specific concerns identified in, or tips provided to, Region 5 have been shared across all of the EPA regions. The agency is following up in coordination with our state partners.

EPA Region 5 performed an unannounced Clean Air Act inspection at Meyer Steel Drum at 3201 S. Millard Avenue in Chicago on December 15, 2017.

EPA declines to comment further on specific inspections due to enforcement confidentiality. In general, EPA performs inspections unannounced.

Josh Singer
U.S. EPA, Region 5
phone: 312-353-5069
singer.joshua@epa.gov

From: Diedrich, John [mailto:John.Diedrich@jrn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:27 PM
To: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Update

Thanks. If it is later in the day, that is fine too but wanted to get a response tomorrow if at all possible.

Thanks, John

John Diedrich
Reporter and Assistant Investigations Editor
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
414-224-2408 (direct)
jdiedrich@journalsentinel.com
@john_diedrich

From: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:24 PM

To: Diedrich, John
Subject: RE: Update

Thanks, John. We will try to meet that deadline but cannot guarantee it.

Josh Singer
U.S. EPA, Region 5
phone: 312-353-5069
singer.joshua@epa.gov

From: Diedrich, John [mailto:John.Diedrich@jrn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:23 PM
To: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Update

Tomorrow at noon would be great. Thanks

From: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:20 PM
To: Diedrich, John
Subject: RE: Update

John,

What is your deadline? Thanks again.

Josh Singer
U.S. EPA, Region 5
phone: 312-353-5069
singer.joshua@epa.gov

From: Diedrich, John [mailto:John.Diedrich@jrn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:04 PM
To: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Update

Josh,
Thanks for the update.
John

John Diedrich
Reporter and Assistant Investigations Editor
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
414-224-2408 (direct)
jdiedrich@journalsentinel.com
@john_diedrich

From: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 3:44 PM
To: Diedrich, John
Subject: RE: Update

John,

Good to meet you, too. We are working on responses to your questions for Region 5, and I've forwarded your last question to our national press office. Thank you.

Josh Singer
U.S. EPA, Region 5
phone: 312-353-5069
singer.joshua@epa.gov

From: Diedrich, John [mailto:John.Diedrich@jrn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 1:38 PM
To: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Update

Hi Josh,

Good to meet you Saturday. I had a follow up from Mike Harris' comment on Indy Drum. He indicated that EPA was planning to inspect that plan but it closed first. Can you tell me when the planned inspection was and if the plant was aware that EPA was coming? Is EPA planning to assess the site now that it is closed for contamination issues?

Also, has EPA inspected any other barrel plants in Region 5 based on the increased scrutiny Mike described the agency is giving to these facilities in light of what was found at CLCM Wisconsin plants.

Finally, I would like to know if EPA HQ is giving these facilities a closer look and how that is indicated? (ie more inspections etc?)

Thanks,
John

John Diedrich
Reporter and Assistant Investigations Editor
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
414-224-2408 (direct)
jdiedrich@journalsentinel.com
@john_diedrich

From: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 10:56 AM

To: Diedrich, John
Subject: RE: Update

John,

Sorry we haven't gotten back to you yet.

I will be at the meetings tomorrow, so if you are there too, we can get in touch then.

Thank you.

Josh Singer
U.S. EPA, Region 5
phone: 312-353-5069
singer.joshua@epa.gov

From: Diedrich, John [mailto:John.Diedrich@jrn.com]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:46 PM
To: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Update

Josh,
Thanks for getting back to me. Please let me know what you hear.

On your second question, we would not provide data, documents, and notes used in the newsgathering for the investigation besides what was posted online or published in print as part of the investigation.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,
John

John Diedrich
Reporter and Assistant Investigations Editor
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
414-224-2408 (direct)
jdiedrich@journalsentinel.com
@john_diedrich

From: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:02 PM
To: Diedrich, John
Subject: Re: Update

John,

Thanks for the email. We are working on responding to your questions.

Also, in reference to the article you published Dec. 19, could you please send us the complete laboratory results and any work plan, sampling plan or quality assurance project plan (QAPP) your contractor developed for the sampling?

Thank you.

Josh

From: Diedrich, John <John.Diedrich@jrn.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 9:25:20 AM
To: Singer, Joshua
Subject: Fw: Update

In advance of the meeting Saturday, can you look into the questions I sent below? I don't believe I heard back on these. Also, it now appears that the CLCM smokestack on the St. Francis facility has new equipment installed. I am wondering if this is part of what the company meant when it said it was discussing "long-term solutions" on the air emissions violations. And since one of the violations was a failure to monitor emissions, I wondered if that new equipment relates to that position.

Any other updates you can provide are appreciated. Also, can you tell me who from the agency will be there Saturday?

Thanks,
John

John Diedrich
Reporter and Assistant Investigations Editor
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
414-224-2408 (direct)
jdiedrich@journalsentinel.com
@john_diedrich

From: Diedrich, John
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 3:21 PM
To: Singer, Joshua
Subject: Update

Hi Josh,
I see the meeting where your folks will be on hand to discuss CLCM case here in Milwaukee has been set. Can you provide an update on the case now or before the meeting?

In particular, the company indicated it may be settling part of the case with EPA. Also, Wisconsin DOJ says US DOJ is working on its own part of the enforcement. Has EPA referred its case to USDOJ?

My deadline on this is next week Monday by lunchtime.

Thanks, John

John Diedrich
Reporter and Assistant Investigations Editor
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
414-224-2408 (direct)
jdiedrich@journalsentinel.com
@john_diedrich

John Diedrich
Reporter and Assistant Investigations Editor
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
414-224-2408 (direct)
jdiedrich@journalsentinel.com
@john_diedrich