Message

From: Berkoff, Michael [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F347C01A92D7424FA840C24F6B7FBF6B-MBERKOFF]
Sent: 1/11/2016 9:32:16 PM
To: Cannon, Phillippa [Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Interview request from Kalamazoo radio reporter about bioremediation technologies and the Allied Paper Landfill

We don't have something scheduled as of now. The city is going to meet with BioPath tomorrow on their own tomorrow. EPA had the option to attend, but I declined for various reasons. The city will fill me in on what transpires.

From: Cannon, Phillippa
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Berkoff, Michael <berkoff.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview request from Kalamazoo radio reporter about bioremediation technologies and the Allied Paper Landfill

We provided the Gazette with answers a few weeks ago. It seems like she may be interested in doing an interview and longer story around the time you meet with the city to discuss this proposal. Do you know when that will be?

Phillippa Cannon
Superfund Division
U.S. EPA Region 5
312-353-6218

From: Berkoff, Michael
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:08 PM
To: Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview request from Kalamazoo radio reporter about bioremediation technologies and the Allied Paper Landfill

Phillipa,
Should we reach out to the Gazette to do a similar interview? She had wanted one.
Michael

From: Tanaka, Joan
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:01 PM
To: Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Berkoff, Michael <berkoff.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview request from Kalamazoo radio reporter about bioremediation technologies and the Allied Paper Landfill

Tomorrow before 9 or between 2 and 5.
Wed before 9, between 1 and 3, between 4 and 5.
Thurs before 12 noon and between 3 and 5

Joan Tanaka
Remedial Response Branch 1 Chief
Superfund Division
USEPA Region 5
telephone: 312-353-5425

From: Cannon, Phillippa
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Tanaka, Joan <Tanaka.Joan@epa.gov>; Berkoff, Michael <berkoff.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Interview request from Kalamazoo radio reporter about bioremediation technologies and the Allied Paper Landfill

Rick would like both of you to sit in on the call with Greg Gervais. Are there times in the next couple of days that are better for you? I'll try to match those times with Greg's and the reporter's availability.

Phillippa Cannon
Superfund Division
U.S. EPA Region 5
312-353-6218

From: Karl, Richard
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 2:33 PM
To: Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Interview request from Kalamazoo radio reporter about bioremediation technologies and the Allied Paper Landfill

I'd like both Joan and Michael to sit in.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2016, at 11:50 AM, Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov> wrote:

> Greg Gervais, the Technology Assessment Branch chief (in OSRTI's Technology Innovation and Field Services Division) was contacted by a reporter with WMUK radio, Kalamazoo, who requested an interview on a paper he wrote with ORD on bioremediation technologies and PCBs. He thinks RPM Michael Berkoff should also participate since Greg wrote the paper for the Allied Paper site. Greg referred the reporter to me. The reporter told me she is interested in talking to Greg about his paper because of the claims by the Biopath company that it can use microorganisms to break down PCBs at the Allied site. She does not have a firm deadline for her story. Greg Gervais is willing to talk to the WMUK reporter. Can Mike Berkoff also participate in the interview? If so, does Joan also want to participate?
>
> As a reminder, these are the answers EPA provided to the Kalamazoo Gazette last month about the Biopath proposal:
>
> **My editors agree that we would like to do a more comprehensive story about the processes when your scientists become available, perhaps around the time Kalamazoo city staff meets with you folks and Biopath to discuss the proposal further?**
>
> EPA Region 5 staff is willing to work with Biopath to facilitate a bench-scale study which would determine whether the technology could work for the wastes at Allied Landfill.
>
> **Meanwhile, for the purposes of this story, can you give me some sense of the EPA's level of interest in the proposal?**
>
> EPA is always interested in exploring treatment technologies. Superfund seeks to treat waste whenever possible.

As I understand it, the general technology of using microorganisms to break down PCBs has been around for quite a while. Are there concerns that this site presents obstacles that might be too difficult for this method to overcome?

Yes. The nature of waste at Allied Landfill makes any kind of treatment very difficult. The PCBs are tightly bound to clay and wood pulp that make up the former paper waste. EPA previously reviewed the known treatment technologies and their potential applicability to Allied Landfill. Our evaluation of technologies concluded that none of the technologies (including bioremediation) were a match for the waste at Allied Landfill. These studies are available on our site Web page.
http://www3.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/alliedpaper/

Or has Biopath introduced something new that makes this an exciting possibility?

EPA does not know. That can only be determined with a bench-scale study that meets rigorous standards. Our understanding of the Biopath technology to-date factored into our past conclusions that bioremediation would not be effective at the site.

Phillippa Cannon
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