To: Behringer, Caroline[Behringer.Caroline@epa.gov]
From: schafer, joan
Sent: Tue 1/21/2014 3:47:57 PM
Subject: Fw: SEJ, SPJ Say Agency Media Obstacles Hurt Public Confidence in Water, Safety
SEJStatementWVWater3.doc

From: Heron, Donna
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 10:39:13 AM
To: Garvin, Shawn; Ryan, Daniel; duteau, helen; Hodgkiss, Kathy; Smith, Bonnie; Seneca, Roy; Sternberg, David; White, Terri-A; schafer, joan
Subject: FW: SEJ, SPJ Say Agency Media Obstacles Hurt Public Confidence in Water, Safety

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From: Joseph Davis Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 3:26 PM
To: gina@epa.gov
Cc: Reynolds, Thomas; Johnson, Alisha; Hull, George; R3 RA; Heron, Donna
Subject: SEJ, SPJ Say Agency Media Obstacles Hurt Public Confidence in Water, Safety

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

Attached is a letter from the Society of Environmental Journalists and the Society of Professional Journalists. SEJ and SPJ complain, on behalf of their members, of lack of access to agency officials and experts during the water contamination crisis this month in Charlotte, WV.

We are asking EPA and other agencies to remove obstacles to public information erected by the public affairs office. These obstacles harm public confidence in drinking water and chemical safety. We urge EPA to adopt greater transparency during crises of this kind.

Sincerely,

Beth Parke, Executive Direcftor
Society of Environmental Journalists

Linda Petersen, Chair, Freedom of Information Committee
Society of Professional Journalists

Joseph A. Davis, Ph.D, Director
SEJ Watchdog Project

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Joseph A. Davis, Ph.D., Editor, WatchDog
Society of Environmental Journalists
h/o: (301) 656-2261 cel: (301) 448-6364