To: R3 Deputies[R3_Deputies@epa.gov]
Cc: Hodgkiss, Kathy[Hodgkiss.Kathy@epa.gov]; Wright, Dave[Wright.Dave@epa.gov]
From: Melvin, Karen
Sent: Fri 1/10/2014 1:55:10 PM
Subject: RICT Courtesy Contact

RICT STAND-BY STATUS – Freedom Chemical Incident

PURPOSE: This note is intended to put the Regional Incident Coordination Team (RICT) on "Stand-by" status and to "Activate" the Response Support Corps (RSC). These actions are taken per the Region's RICT Operating Guidance and Annex J of that Guidance which addresses the activation of the RSC. These actions will help ensure our emergency readiness in anticipation that Freedom Industries Chemical leak may create conditions that require an EPA response under ESF #10.

BACKGROUND: Yesterday, there was a chemical spill from Freedom Industries, which is an old Pennzoil Refinery. The spilled chemical was methylcyclohexane, which is used in coal preparation and processing. Spill into the ELK River occurred sometime earlier in the day and there was an early report of an odor. The Gov of WV declared a state of emergency for at least five counties. The Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant detected the chemical even after the increased carbon treatment effort.

WV issued an order to not drink cook or bathe in the water, which affects approximately 100,000 people. WV is conducting additional water sampling. The Civil Support Team is also deployed to the WVEOC to assist in supplying water to residents. The WV EOC is operational but have not requested EPA assistance. OSC Dennis Matlock has contacted WV DEP Mike Dorsey and offered EPA assistance.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES: EPA OSC Matlock is enroute to Charleston with START contractor to assist in any sampling activities if requested. He has been in contact with FEMA and will meet up with the IMAT (incident management assistance team) upon his arrival. In anticipation that we will need to staff the ESF-10 desk at the FEMA Region 3 Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC), the RRC has sent a request for availability to the RSC membership for volunteers to serve as Watchstander at the FEMA offices here in Philadelphia. Until 7:00 pm this evening, Fred MacMillan from HSCD is scheduled to staff the ESF-10 desk.

As always, we will follow the RICT protocols for deployment of any RSC staff which includes: 1) reminding the RSC members to discuss with their supervisor their interest prior to volunteering; 2) obtaining Deputy Director approval/clearance prior to deployment; and, 3) checking with ORC on whether the employee to be deployed is needed for any enforcement matters.

We plan to provide an update during a RICT meeting to be scheduled for 11:00 today.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.