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February 10, 2014

Mr. Gregory Sayles, Acting Center Director
National Homeland Security Research Center
Environmental Protection Agency
Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center
26 W. Martin Luther King Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45268

Re: Charleston, West Virginia Chemical Spill Investigation

Dear Director Sayles:

I'm the United States Attorney in the Southern District of West Virginia. As I'm sure you know, we recently had a chemical spill into a local river, just upstream from the sole water treatment facility for 300,000 people in this area. The chemical made it through the water treatment facility and into the public water supply, ultimately resulting in a multi-day ban on water use and to safety concerns that persist more than a month after the spill. My office is directing an investigation into the matter and will be seeking to hold accountable any company or individual who was criminally responsible. The EPA is involved in the response and investigative effort.

Perhaps more important, however, is a longer-term goal: making sure something like this doesn't happen again. Frankly, it is alarming that this chemical was able to get through our water treatment facility. I've reached out to some academics who report that based on their knowledge of the water treatment apparatus in this country, Charleston is not necessarily in an unusual position with regard to our limited ability to remove chemical contaminants from the water supply, a lack of substantial clean water reserves and a lack of redundancies. I see that you direct the EPA's Homeland Security Research Center. From the description of your work on your center's website, you look to be in a unique position to help us with this longer-term goal.

At the outset, I am particularly looking for vulnerability assessments that have been done in the area of water treatment. Very important for our inquiry is what the standard is—or should be—on appropriate safeguards for water treatment facilities. I also believe we need to know what the standard is—or should be—in the industry for monitoring and screening source water. Given that there are still small amounts of the chemical in our water system, is there any research on what can

be done to make sure the system is totally "clean?" Finally, for the future, what information can we glean from this incident to prevent something like this from occurring again, here or elsewhere—and how could we better respond if it does?

All of these areas of inquiry look to be within your center's purview. I would be grateful if you would give me a call directly to discuss what assistance you could provide.

Sincerely,

R. BOOTH GOODWIN II
United States Attorney