To: Clark, Becki[Clark.Becki@epa.gov]; Travers, David[Travers.David@epa.gov]
From: Burneson, Eric
Sent: Wed 1/29/2014 11:17:56 PM
Subject: Fw: Scott Simonton presentation unfounded

From: Loop, Travis
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 5:51:52 PM
To: Stoner, Nancy; Kopocis, Ken; Grevatt, Peter; Burneson, Eric; Senn, John; Lopez-Carbo, Maria
Subject: Fw: Scott Simonton presentation unfounded

Travis Loop
Director of Communications
Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-870-6922

From: Behringer, Caroline
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 5:41:12 PM
To: Loop, Travis
Subject: FW: Scott Simonton presentation unfounded

FYI

Caroline Behringer

Deputy Press Secretary

Office of the Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office: (202) 564-0098

Cell: (202) 760-1732

From: White, Terri-A
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 5:38 PM
To: Behringer, Caroline
Cc: Garvin, Shawn; Bloomgren, David; Jones, Enesta; Johnson, Alisha; Werner, Lora

Subject: FW: Scott Simonton presentation unfounded
Importance: High

FYI…sent to us by EPA R3's WV liaison.

From: Ferrell, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 5:33 PM
To: Capacasa, Jon; Pomponio, John; Wisniewski, Patti-Kay; Melvin, Karen; Hodgkiss, Kathy; Arguto, William; Burns, Francis; Nelson, Mark; Snyder, Raquel; Miller, Linda; White, Terri-A; Heron, Donna
Subject: Fw: Scott Simonton presentation unfounded

From: Adler, Allison C <Allison.C.Adler@wv.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 5:17:47 PM
Subject: Scott Simonton presentation unfounded

Statement from Dr. Letitia Tierney, Commissioner for the State Bureau for Public Health and State Health Officer

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Scott Simonton's presentation to the West Virginia Joint Legislative Committee today is totally unfounded and does not speak to the health and safety of West Virginians.

Subject matter experts who have been assisting West Virginia through this entire emergency response state that the only way possible for formaldehyde to come from MCHM is if it were combusted at 500°F.

The World Health Organization (WHO) states formaldehyde is the most frequent aldehyde found in nature and is naturally measurable in air and water. Formaldehyde is created through the normal breakdown cycle of plants and animals. Formaldehyde dissolves easily in water and does not last a long time in water.

Additionally, formaldehyde is naturally produced in very small amounts in our bodies as a part of our normal, everyday metabolism and causes no harm. It can also be found in the air that we breathe at home and at work, in the food we eat, and in some products that we put on our skin.

Formaldehyde is found in many products used every day around the house such as antiseptics, medicines, cosmetics, dish-washing liquids, fabric softeners, shoe-care agents, carpet cleaners, glues and adhesives, lacquers, paper, plastics, and some types of wood products.

We are unaware of the specifics of how this study was conducted, including sampling procedures, protocol and methodology, and would also be interested in the possibility of some other issue affecting the testing of water at the establishment indicated.

Everyone has been affected by this water crisis and public health is of the utmost importance. Mr. Simonton has not been part of the integral team of water testing officials from numerous state, local and private agencies working non-stop since January 9. His opinion is personal but speaks in no official capacity.

# # #

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Allison C. Adler

Director of Communications

Office of Cabinet Secretary Karen L. Bowling

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