To: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller)[Laura_Chambers@rockefeller.senate.gov]; Mark Ferrell[ferrell@newwave.net]
Cc: Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller)[Rochelle_Goodwin@rockefeller.senate.gov]; Orr, Asley (Rockefeller)[Asley_Orr@rockefeller.senate.gov]; Levine, Carolyn[Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov]; Distefano, Nichole[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov]; Snyder, Raquel[Snyder.Raquel@epa.gov]
From: Vaught, Laura
Sent: Fri 1/24/2014 9:03:11 PM
Subject: RE: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Thanks Laura – appreciate it. I'm adding in some of the DC folks working on this as well so that everyone is on the same page. The latest I heard is that folks are trying to track down, but you have asked good/complicated questions! So it is taking a little bit of digging. Bear with us. And EPA folks – can we at least give an end of the day check in/status update?

From: Chambers, Laura (Rockefeller) [mailto:Laura_Chambers@rockefeller.senate.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2014 3:57 PM
To: Vaught, Laura; Mark Ferrell
Cc: Goodwin, Rochelle (Rockefeller); Orr, Asley (Rockefeller)
Subject: Senator Rockefeller follow-up questions regarding WV chemical spill

Hi Laura and Mark,

Thank you so much for your ongoing communication with our office. Senator Rockefeller has a great sense of urgency and interest in doing all he can to protect public health and the environment in light of this crisis, but also moving forward. Senator Rockefeller asked many of the questions below in the first days of the chemical spill, and has asked staff to be in touch with EPA to find answers and get your expertise and help in the spill response. We have had a number of calls with your office, and appreciate the time and explanations. However, there are still several questions that are still outstanding.

People have been told to make their own decisions about how and whether to use the water, and they are struggling with adequate flushing that will eliminate MCHM and PPH from pipes, appliances, filters, hot water heaters and other materials. They are also worried about continued contamination as the chemicals may leach from river banks, carbon filters or plumbing. Senator Rockefeller hopes to be able to help folks as they navigate these challenges, as well as help

prepare better to prevent future incidents. We appreciate any feedback you can provide to the questions below.

Thanks,

Laura

Chemical information (other than health affects)

· What has EPA been able to determine about the composition of Crude MCHM?

· What can EPA tell us about the latest development that a substance known as PPH was also held in the tank in addition to MCHM?

· Your office stated that EPA will be independently testing the contents of the remaining tanks at Freedom Industries that. How quickly will these tests be shared with other agencies working to protect public health and environment?

· What is the difference between PPH and PPH, stripped?

· What is the water solubility of MCHM and PPH / PPH, stripped? We have seen conflicting reports on hydrophobic vs. hydrophilic

· If the carbon filters at WV-American Water were compromised, would they have been sufficient to filter PPH?

· As people try to flush their systems they want to know how these two chemicals behave. Do they cling to materials like glass or metal? Do they permeate plastic/PVC?

· Many constituents are still experiencing a strong MCHM odor and others have been seeing a residue (sometimes oily). Could you help to address the smell and residue issues that are affecting customers at the end of the water lines?

· Could MCHM contain a long-chain polymer that might obscure the ability to detect other substances?

Remediation

· We are hearing of new reports of spikes in MCHM levels in recent days. Have you heard these reports? Could this happening as a result of runoff from the contaminated site? If so, what

is being done to prevent this other than the lined trenches?

· What timeline is appropriate for remediation of this type?

· Are there any prior or ongoing concerns with the remediation that would cause EPA to exercise primacy? How/When would EPA determine that they should step in to managing this event?

Looking Forward

· Following Senator Rockefeller's request to begin a long-term study on the health effects of these chemicals, in conjunction with the CDC, what are your next steps?

· It is our understanding that EPA, along with OSHA, Department of Labor and others, will be looking at bulk chemical storage and transport on a national level. Has this process begun?

· Was EPA supplied a copy of the 2002 study (as part of the Safe Drinking Water Act) that identified Critical Zones of Concern? And do you have any recommendations for protections?

Laura E. Chambers

Legislative Assistant

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