From: Hudson Slay
To: Christina Yin
Subject: Fw: RE: Lahaina - DRAFT re: media advisory/news brief
Date: 11/19/2012 02:27 PM

-----Forwarded by Hudson Slay/R9/USEPA/US on 11/19/2012 12:27PM -----

To: Nancy Woo/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
From: "Gill, Gary L." <Gary.Gill@doh.hawaii.gov>
Date: 11/16/2012 05:25PM
Cc: Hudson Slay/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, "Okubo, Watson T" <watson.okubo@doh.hawaii.gov>, "Wong, Alec Y" <alec.wong@doh.hawaii.gov>, "Yamada, Stuart H" <stuart.yamada@doh.hawaii.gov>, "Okubo, Janice S." <janice.okubo@doh.hawaii.gov>
Subject: RE: Lahaina - DRAFT re: media advisory/news brief

Nancy,

Thanks for the heads up.

I appreciate being kept in the loop.

I have two questions on the draft release.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->Why is EPA releasing a preliminary report before any final conclusions have been drawn? I think it is a good idea to keep the public up to date on the study but the release creates the risk that members of the public could misinterpret the preliminary data and sound unfounded alarm or draw incorrect allegations from preliminary numbers. I think it is in everyone's interest, especially because this issue is politically charged and litigious, to avoid misinformation and speculation.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->I would like to know how the following statement is supported by fact: According to the interim report, the researchers were able to document that the submarine seep discharge is predominately treated wastewater from the Lahaina facility.

My understanding is that the small trace of the dye found at the seep indicates that the wastewater is very much diluted compared to its source at the injection well. The statement above implies that most of what seeps into the ocean at our sample point is wastewater not ground water. Really? Please clarify.

Mahalo again,

Gary

Gary Gill

Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration
Hawaii State Department of Health
(808) 586-4424

From: Woo.Nancy@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Woo.Nancy@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2012 3:04 PM
To: Gill, Gary L.
Cc: Slay.Hudson@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Fw: Lahaina - DRAFT re: media advisory/news brief

Here is a draft version of the media advisory. Target date for release looks like November 26th. It lacks the Jared quote which will be forthcoming.
Good luck in your budget discussions.
nw

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Nancy Woo
Deputy Director, Water Division
U.S. EPA, Region 9
Work (415) 972-3409
Fax (415) 947-3537

EPA Environmental News

For Immediate Release: November XX, 2012 DRAFT
Contact: Dean Higuchi, 808-541-2711, higuchi.dean@epa.gov

NEWS BRIEF
Interim results from investigation of injection wells at the Lahaina wastewater facility

HONOLULU – Interim results from an ongoing investigation by federal and state agencies to evaluate the fate and transport of effluent injected at the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility near the Kaanapali coast of Maui are being made available.

Funded by the U. S. EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Hawaii Department of Health, the University of Hawaii has been studying the effluent flow from Maui County's Lahaina injection wells to the near-shore ocean water. Starting in July 2011, researchers injected two fluorescent dyes into different injection wells, monitored known shallow water coastal seeps for discharge of the dyes, and studied other physical/chemical properties of the seep discharges, ambient coastal water, and groundwater.

The interim results, documented in a recently completed 513-page report, show that one of the two tracer dyes injected was definitively detected at the coastal seeps, located roughly one-half mile SW of the Lahaina facility and between 3 and 25 meters from shore. Initial results indicate that it took just under three months for the tracer dye to first appear at the seeps, however, the results suggest an average time of travel from the injection wells to the submarine springs in excess of seven months.
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The interim report notes that the dye detection positively establishes a hydrologic connection between the Lahaina facility's injection wells and the monitored submarine seeps, while cautioning that the results do not preclude the possibility of other discharge points, including locations further from shore and in deeper water. The studies to date are inconclusive for detection of the second tracer dye, although data collection at the submarine seeps is continuing.

According to the interim report, the researchers were able to document that the submarine seep discharge is predominately treated wastewater from the Lahaina facility. Additional key results in the interim report include findings of the temperature, salinity, pH, nutrient concentrations, and discharge rate of the monitored submarine seep discharge. The report also notes a large 167-acre area in the vicinity of the coastal seeps where the sea surface temperature is warmer than the ambient ocean water.

UH researchers and Hawaii Department of Health staff will continue to collect data from water samples at identified ground water discharge points through the end of the year. UH researchers will also continue their data analysis and modeling in an effort to clarify the processes that affect the transport of the Lahaina injected wastewater effluent and its eventual discharge into the marine environment. A final report on the results of the tracer dye study is expected in June 2013.

To see the Interim Report please visit: WEBSITE
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David Albright
Manager, Ground Water Office

USEPA, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
Mail Code: WTR-9
San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: 415.972.3971
Fax: 415.947.3549
Email: albright.david@epa.gov

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