From: Kelly Zito
To: Jane Diamond; Daniel Meer; Joshua Wirtschafter
Cc: Bill Keener
Subject: Fw: KQED Interview @ 11 AM
Date: 08/10/2012 01:31 PM

FYI - Info I pulled together for an interview Jared has later this morning...

Kelly

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----- Forwarded by Kelly Zito/R9/USEPA/US on 08/10/2012 10:31 AM -----

From: Kelly Zito/R9/USEPA/US
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Date: 08/10/2012 10:26 AM
Subject: KQED Interview @ 11 AM

Jared – Here's some info for the KQED interview at 11 a.m. with Mina Kim (pronounced MEE-na). Her number is: 415-553-2898. This is a taped interview for a story aired under "The California Report" that will air statewide at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. You should be able to hear the report at KXJZ-90.9 FM out of Sacto. Mina's questions will focus on EPA's role in the investigation following the incident.

******LATEST NEWS 8/10/12: BAAQMD late yesterday said that some of their data on air pollution following the incident was *incorrect*. See AP story just below*****

AP - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District originally said that air samples taken during Monday's fire showed that toxic air contaminants were below levels considered safe by federal health officials.On Thursday the district said its "initial statement was incorrect." In one of eight samples taken throughout Richmond, levels of the toxic compound acrolein were above the federal standard. The air district also says the refinery fire generated smoke containing particulate matter that is the likely source of health complaints by Richmond residents. After the fire erupted and sent plumes of black smoke into the sky Monday night, hundreds of people showed up at local hospitals complaining of respiratory problems.

EPA info on ACROLEIN: Acrolein is primarily used as an intermediate in the synthesis of acrylic acid and as a biocide. It may be formed from the breakdown of certain pollutants in outdoor air or from the burning of organic matter including tobacco, or fuels such as gasoline or oil. It is toxic to humans following inhalation, oral or dermal exposures. Acute (short-term) inhalation exposure may result in upper respiratory tract irritation and congestion. No information is available on its reproductive, developmental, or carcinogenic effects in humans, and the existing animal cancer data are considered inadequate to make a determination that acrolein is carcinogenic to humans.

TALKING POINTS ON EPA's ROLE IN PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT CHEVRON REFINERY

What is EPA's role in ACCIDENT PREVENTION at the Chevron Refinery?

1. **The facility is required by federal and state law to design and maintain a safe facility and to take necessary steps to prevent releases and to minimize the consequences of accidental releases**. Federal and state law also require the facility to have a Risk Management Plan (RMP).

2. **Because accidents at refineries can have large consequences, EPA policy calls for inspection of refineries at least once every three years. Region IX usually inspects refineries even more frequently.**

3. **EPA's Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Program last inspected Chevron's Richmond Refinery in December, 2010. Based on observations at that time, no RMP violations were identified.**

4. EPA also reviews annual inspection reports from the Contra Costa County agency that oversees the California Accidental Release Prevention Program (Cal ARP). These inspections enabled EPA to determine that Chevron has developed plans and

procedures as required by law.

5. **EPA has launched an investigation into whether Chevron followed its accident prevention procedures prior to the incident on August 6, and EPA is also investigating whether Chevron followed its emergency response plan during and following the incident (typical investigation.**

6. **If our investigation concludes that Chevron had not followed its accident prevention procedures prior to the incident on Aug. 6, EPA could issue an order requiring compliance with EPA chemical accident prevention rules. The facility also could be subject to substantial fines, depending on the seriousness of any violations found, the duration and the impact of the penalty considering size of the business.**

7. **In Region 9, one of our most significant fines under EPA's chemical accident prevention rules was the Columbus Foods sausage factory in South San Francisco, which was fined for ammonia leaks in 2009. The company earlier this year agreed to spend $6 million upgrading its refrigeration facilities and paid nearly $700,000 in fines.**

What's EPA's role IN INCIDENT RESPONSE at the facility?

1. The **lead response agencies for this release are state and local first responders**. EPA sent two on-scene coordinators to offer technical assistance and additional resources, if needed. EPA staff arrived at approximately 8:00 pm Pacific Time on August 6 and were briefed by the Chevron emergency response personnel. The OSCs also coordinated with Bay Area Air Quality Management District, United States Coast Guard, the Richmond Fire Department and the Contra Costa Health Department.

2. **EPA confirmed that the local agencies had the resources necessary to respond to the incident, and that air sampling and monitoring had been done. EPA will review the results from the analysis of this sampling and determine next steps.**

BAAQMD PRESS RELEASE ON AIR POLLUTION DATA – 8/9/12

The Air District is continuing its investigation and analysis of air monitoring data from the Chevron fire on August 6.

The Air District recently released the results of eight air samples taken during the Chevron fire. In all but one sample the District measured 23 compounds. One sample contained trace amounts of four aldehyde compounds in addition to the 23 compounds identified in the other samples.

In a previous statement, it was reported that Air District and Contra Costa County air sample results showed all toxic air contaminants were below Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment Reference Exposure Levels, or RELS. That initial statement was incorrect. Although all sample results were within the background levels of compounds found in Bay Area air, acrolein was above OEHHA's Reference Exposure Level.

Levels of acrolein throughout the Bay Area are commonly above the Reference Exposure Level. Levels routinely range between 1 and 4.5 parts per billion. The level of acrolein in one of 8 samples was 3.2 parts-per-billion. Levels of acrolein in the other seven samples taken throughout Richmond and nearby locations were below the Reference Exposure Level. Acrolein is an oxygenated hydrocarbon similar to ethanol.

While air samples taken near the facility detected normal background levels of toxic air contaminants, there was the potential for significant smoke in the area that impacted residents in the downwind neighborhoods. The likely source of health impacts from the fire is particulate matter from smoke.

Stationary real-time particulate matter monitors in upwind areas did not pick up elevated levels of the particulate matter during the fire. Filter-based data from an air quality monitoring station in San Pablo, two miles from the Chevron facility, was collected following the fire and is being analyzed for particulate matter levels. Results are expected in the next two weeks.

Particulate matter has immediate health impacts – itchy, watery eyes, increased respiratory symptoms such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing and aggravated asthma.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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