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Subject: FW: EPA Desk Statement: SE Portland Metals Contamination 2/9
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FYI – This is what we are using to respond to inquiries to EPA. Sending encouragement your way for tonight's big public meeting. Judy

Desk Statement: SE Portland Metals Contamination

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality found a significant "hot spot" of cadmium and arsenic during air sampling in Portland, Oregon near SE 22nd Ave. and Powell Blvd. DEQ is collecting additional air samples in the affected area, and is working collaboratively with county, state and federal health agencies (Oregon Health Authority, Multnomah County Health Department, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) to assess and mitigate impacts to public health. EPA is keeping fully informed about this developing situation and is ready to support and assist ODEQ as needed. EPA and ATSDR are evaluating these findings in relation to EPA health standards.

Additional information, including a link to air sampling data and a map of the affected area, can be found at: http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/metalsemissions.htm. DEQ's initial findings are that the monthly average is 49 times greater than the state air toxics benchmark for cadmium and 159 times the state air toxics benchmark for arsenic.

Questions and Answers

How is EPA involved?
EPA Region 10 was briefed on the situation by ODEQ one-week prior to the February 3, 2016 press release. We remain ready to support DEQ, OHA, MCHD and ATSDR in assessing, monitoring or communicating about the situation as needed.

If so, what is our role?
EPA Region 10 is looking at our records to identify other potential sources in the affected area. We are also comparing federal regional screening levels (RSL) with the ODEQ state health benchmarks in relation to the amount of contamination found in the study. In addition to EPA, the ATSDR is working with DEQ, OHA and Multnomah County Heath to communicate the potential impact on the community from the monitored levels of contamination.

Are we determining or confirming the air pollution and/or the source?
ODEQ is keeping EPA informed of their actions to monitor the situation and exposure levels. As of Friday, February 5, they were proceeding with additional particulate monitoring at nearby schools and day care centers.

Why isn't this source regulated by EPA?
When EPA adopted the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for glass manufacturing facilities in 2007, art glass facilities were not known to be a source of significant emissions. EPA is evaluating what next steps may be appropriate based on the recent discovery of cadmium and arsenic pollution in Portland, Oregon.

Do we know any more about the USFS role or study mentioned in the news media?
EPA is reviewing this study, which was a collaborative study between US Forest Service and DEQ to better understand the sources and distribution of toxic metals, including arsenic and cadmium, air pollution in Portland.