To: Hooper, Charles A.[Hooper.CharlesA@epa.gov]
Cc: Whitley, Christopher[Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]; Field, Jeff[Field.Jeff@epa.gov]; Hammerschmidt, Ron[Hammerschmidt.Ron@epa.gov]
From: Tapia, Cecilia
Sent: Wed 1/29/2014 8:46:05 PM
Subject: Fw: National Media Inquiry--West Lake--DEADLINE OF 11 A.M. THURSDAY

Chuck can you answer the rad calibration level.

From: Whitley, Christopher
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 2:17:29 PM
To: Thomas, Hattie; Hammerschmidt, Ron; Tapia, Cecilia
Subject: RE: National Media Inquiry--West Lake--DEADLINE OF 11 A.M. THURSDAY

CLARIFICATION: The inquiry at the bottom of this email (RadWaste Monitor) is completely separate from the two other press calls (KMOX Radio and the St. Louis American Newspaper) that I have received, and the citizen call that Ben has received today. Those three calls are seeking our response/reaction to the KSDK Channel 5 story with Bob Criss, which was in the morning clips. Both of the media calls are seeking response on deadline this afternoon. (Actually there are three media calls, as KSDK tried unsuccessfully to reach Karl directly for response yesterday, and that station still wants some response from us today.)

Ben and I need your guidance as to how we should respond to these calls.

BRIDGETON, Mo. - New information released Tuesday paints a clearer picture of the growing problems at the radioactive West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton.

NewsChannel 5 got a look at a map of a portion of the landfill known as Area 1. It shows where the Environmental Protection Agency found new radioactive "hot spots" during ground testing late last year. The tests were being done to find a place to build a barrier between the waste and an underground fire in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill.

Many of the hot spots were outside the area where radioactive material was thought to be and some were outside a fence built to protect workers.

Robert Criss, a professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Washington University, says the level of contamination at some of the hot spots appears to be "significant."

Criss is also challenging the way the radiation levels were gathered. He says the EPA's machines were calibrated too close to the landfill and the hot spots could be even more radioactive than the numbers show.

"It's simply absurd and this is a standard ruse by potentially responsible parties. To

establish background you have to get away from a contaminated area. It's a no-brainer," he said.

Criss says there's a real chance the radioactive waste may be spreading through groundwater.

Environmental groups like the Missouri Coalition for the Environment are calling on the EPA to do ground tests throughout the West Lake Landfill in order to identify other potential hot spots and to tell how close the waste may be to the Bridgeton Landfill fire.

Here's a statement from a Bridgeton Landfill spokesperson:

"The results, which were reported last month, remind us that there has been an extended delay in acting in enacting a final solution. Had the material been encapsulated as proposed in the original Record of Decision, it would have covered the area where the additional radiologically impacted material has been detected, and the design investigation prior to construction of the cap would have detected the additional RIM. If needed, the solution could have been extended to encapsulate any additional subsurface areas where RIM was detected. If anything, the findings of the GCPT highlight the complexity and risks of excavation. To excavate this material someone would in essence be removing a three-story building of trash to reach a 2-3-foot layer of RIM that is not detectable at the surface and which EPA has said does not pose a current health risk. What we should be focusing on is ensuring that this deeply buried material continues to pose no risk to the public, not increasing risk through excavation."

From: Thomas, Hattie
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 2:04 PM
To: Hammerschmidt, Ron; Tapia, Cecilia
Cc: Whitley, Christopher
Subject: RE: National Media Inquiry--West Lake--DEADLINE OF 11 A.M. THURSDAY

FYI – Ben has received a similar inquiry based on the KSDK-TV story from the public. We need to coordinate reponses. - HLT

From: Hammerschmidt, Ron
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 10:29 AM
To: Whitley, Christopher; Tapia, Cecilia
Cc: Thomas, Hattie
Subject: RE: National Media Inquiry--West Lake--DEADLINE OF 11 A.M. THURSDAY

Chris,

I suggest using the language on FUSRAP that we used in responding to Congressional inquiries, MCE, media and others. We could also use language from these responses on the future plans. I would not respond or give an opinion on the resolution.

Ron

From: Whitley, Christopher
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 10:00 AM
To: Hammerschmidt, Ron; Tapia, Cecilia
Subject: National Media Inquiry--West Lake--DEADLINE OF 11 A.M. THURSDAY

How do you prefer that I respond to the questions below, from the RadWaste Monitor? Note the deadline of 11 a.m. local time tomorrow….

Chris Whitley

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. EPA Region 7 Office of Public Affairs

11201 Renner Boulevard

Lenexa, KS 66219

913-551-7394

From: Singer, Joshua
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 9:49 AM
To: Whitley, Christopher
Subject: FW: west lake landfill

Chris,

Are you the right person to handle the question below?

I am contacting you because I found your name on this press release about the West Lake Landfill:
http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/284A4D57DF11B7A185257C5A006D5684

I am in Region 5, so I think the reporter (who is in DC) contacted me by mistake. Thanks.

Josh Singer

U.S. EPA, Region 5

phone: 312-353-5069

singer.joshua@epa.gov

From: Jeremy Dillon [mailto:dillon@exchangemonitor.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 9:42 AM
To: Singer, Joshua
Subject: west lake landfill

Hello Joshua,

I am a reporter with RadWaste Monitor, a publication that covers the radioactive waste industry. I saw that in Missouri the state House of Representatives is considering passing a resolution that would call on the Corps to take over the cleanup of the West Lake Landfill in St. Charles County, Missouri under its FUSRAP program. The site is currently a Superfund site so I wanted to reach out to the EPA about the site. What is the reaction to this potential resolution from the EPA? What work is underway/planned at the site? How would this be different than what the Corps would do?

I am working with a deadline of noon tomorrow.

Thanks,

Jeremy L. Dillon

Reporter, RadWaste Monitor

4301 Connecticutt Ave. Washington D.C.

202-296-2814 ext. 110 (office)

202-765-9955 (cell)