To: Whitley, Christopher[Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]
From: Emshwiller, John
Sent: Wed 7/9/2014 8:16:08 PM
Subject: RE: WALL STREET JOURNAL INTERVIEW REQUEST RE WEST LAKE

Chris,

Thanks. One quick follow-up question that doesn't seem to be addressed in your answer #1: Has the search for a location for the isolation barrier had to move closer to the SSE because the original area (or areas) tested came back as containing RIM?

Regards,

John

From: Whitley, Christopher [mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2014 12:58 PM
To: Emshwiller, John
Subject: RE: WALL STREET JOURNAL INTERVIEW REQUEST RE WEST LAKE

John,

See answers below:

1. What is the status of the efforts to build the isolation barrier? I have been told efforts are still underway to find a location where there isn't any RIM and that as a result the search has had to move closer to the area of the subsurface smoldering event. Does the EPA have any comments on these claims?

EPA Region 7 approved, with comments, a revised pre-construction work plan for the isolation barrier on July 1. However, an alignment (precise location of placement) for the barrier has not yet been finalized. Communications with the Potentially Responsible Parties and consultations with our partners at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are continuing toward that goal.

2. I'd also like to get the EPA's reaction to a report last month done for the Missouri DNR by consultant Todd Thalhamer citing evidence that the SSE may have expanded into the neck of the dump and gotten past the gas interceptor wells. That report apparently prompted a subsequent letter of concern from the DNR to Republic. Does the EPA have any comment on the Thalhamer report or the DNR letter?

The latest monthly Subsurface Smoldering Event (SSE) data evaluation done by EPA's Office of Research and Development, based on April 2014 data, does not indicate the concerns that Mr. Thalhamer apparently expressed.

3. If the subsurface smoldering event gets past the gas interceptor wells, what impact could such a development have on the ability to keep the SSE from moving towards and possibly reaching the part of the dump with the radioactive material?

Pursuant to a legal order from the Missouri Attorney General, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is the lead agency tasked with responding to the SSE in the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill. Questions about impacts of SSE migration should be directed to MDNR.

4. If the SSE reaches the surface, what are the possible consequences both at the landfill and for the surrounding areas? Would a surface fire pose any additional or different type of threat to the area containing the radioactively contaminated waste? What, if any, steps would be taken by the EPA in response to such a surfacing of the SSE?

EPA Region 7 is partnering with the Bridgeton Fire Department and other local emergency responders, as well as the State of Missouri, to ensure appropriate emergency preparedness contingency plans are in place. In the event of a surface fire, the local fire department has the primary authority to respond, with EPA and other partners working in advisory/support capacities. EPA could, for example, conduct air monitoring to evaluate any potential impacts to public health that might occur from such an event.

Chris Whitley

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. EPA Region 7 Office of Public Affairs

11201 Renner Boulevard

Lenexa, KS 66219

913-551-7394

From: Emshwiller, John [mailto:John.Emshwiller@wsj.com]
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2014 2:52 PM
To: Whitley, Christopher
Subject: RE: WALL STREET JOURNAL INTERVIEW REQUEST RE WEST LAKE
Importance: High

Chris,

Here are my questions:

1. What is the status of the efforts to build the isolation barrier? I have been told efforts are still underway to find a location where there isn't any RIM and that as a result the search has had to move closer to the area of the subsurface smoldering event. Does the EPA have any comments on these claims?

2. I'd also like to get the EPA's reaction to a report last month done for the Missouri DNR by consultant Todd Thalhamer citing evidence that the SSE may have expanded into the neck of the dump and gotten past the gas interceptor wells. That report apparently prompted a subsequent letter of concern from the DNR to Republic.

Does the EPA have any comment on the Thalhamer report or the DNR letter?

3. If the subsurface smoldering event gets past the gas interceptor wells, what impact could such a development have on the ability to keep the SSE from moving towards and possibly reaching the part of the dump with the radioactive material?

4. If the SSE reaches the surface, what are the possible consequences both at the landfill and for the surrounding areas? Would a surface fire pose any additional or different type of threat to the area containing the radioactively contaminated waste? What, if any, steps would be taken by the EPA in response to such a surfacing of the SSE?

Thanks and regards,

John

From: Whitley, Christopher [mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2014 12:33 PM
To: Emshwiller, John
Subject: RE: WALL STREET JOURNAL INTERVIEW REQUEST RE WEST LAKE

John,

Our technical folks are scattered to the winds today. Could you please send me a list of your specific questions on the isolation barrier and the Thalhamer claims? I may be able to piecemeal answers for you faster by shuttle email.

Chris Whitley

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. EPA Region 7 Office of Public Affairs

11201 Renner Boulevard

Lenexa, KS 66219

913-551-7394

From: Emshwiller, John [mailto:John.Emshwiller@wsj.com]
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2014 10:13 AM
To: Whitley, Christopher
Subject: RE: WALL STREET JOURNAL INTERVIEW REQUEST RE WEST LAKE

Thanks

From: Whitley, Christopher [mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2014 7:27 AM
To: Emshwiller, John
Subject: RE: WALL STREET JOURNAL INTERVIEW REQUEST RE WEST LAKE

John,

I was out of the office early for the Fourth of July holiday so I am just now seeing your message (and clearing your voice mail message).

Easy part first: Results of the soil sampling analysis from BMAC are expected by the end of July. Not ready yet, but hopefully soon.

I'll be checking this morning on availability of key staff to talk with you about the isolation barrier and the latest Thalhamer claims. Will follow up with you as soon as I know who's available, and when.

Chris Whitley

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. EPA Region 7 Office of Public Affairs

11201 Renner Boulevard

Lenexa, KS 66219

913-551-7394

From: Emshwiller, John [mailto:John.Emshwiller@wsj.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2014 1:44 PM
To: Whitley, Christopher
Subject: WALL STREET JOURNAL INTERVIEW REQUEST RE WEST LAKE
Importance: High

Chris,

I hope you have been well. In connection with a possible story that I am looking into updating the situation at West Lake, I would appreciate talking with you or someone else from Region 7. Among other things, I would like to talk about where things stand on the plans to build an underground isolation barrier at the site. I have been told that the EPA and the site owner are still trying to find a location where there isn't any RIM and that you have had to move the search closer to the area of the subsurface smoldering event.

I'd also like to talk with the EPA about a report last month done for the Missouri DNR by consultant Todd Thalhamer citing evidence that the SSE might have expanded into the neck of the dump and gotten past the gas interceptor wells. That report prompted a subsequent letter of concern from the DNR.

I'd also appreciate getting an update on when EPA expects to release its findings from the samples taken at the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex.

Perhaps we could set up an interview with one or more of your folks for early next

week.

Thanks and regards,

John

John Emshwiller

Senior Special Writer

Wall Street Journal

407 N. Maple Drive, Suite 104

Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210

w- 424-204-4817

m-213-718-0521

From: Whitley, Christopher [mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 3:04 PM
To: Emshwiller, John
Subject: EPA R7 - West Lake Landfill - Follow-Up to Your Question

John,

You asked "how EPA got the math," regarding the soil cleanup level for Thorium-230 as stated in the work plan for the Supplemental Feasibility Study for OU-1 at West Lake Landfill. Our site manager recommends that you take a look at Section 2.1.3 of the SFS Work Plan, starting on page 10, which explains the "math," methodology and data sources quite thoroughly.

He adds: "It's worth reiterating that these numbers were calculated only for the purpose of the SFS evaluation of 'complete rad removal' alternatives, and are not necessarily applicable to any future actions at or near the site, including but not limited to the isolation barrier construction, haul roads, remedial action, etc."

Chris Whitley

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. EPA Region 7 Office of Public Affairs

11201 Renner Boulevard

Lenexa, KS 66219

913-551-7394