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Date: 3/28/2016 10:51:16 AM
Subject: RE: Media inquiries from The State - Lead and landfills

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From: Read, Jennifer [mailto:readjh@dhec.sc.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 10:50 AM
To: Godfrey, Rob
Cc: Baker, Josh; Patel, Swati; Smith, Austin; Wilson, David
Subject: Media inquiries from The State - Lead and landfills

Good Morning,

As a follow-up to our conversations with Brian Symmes last week, we have two ongoing inquiries from Sammy Fretwell with The State newspaper that we wanted to update you on.

The first is on lead and our programmatic efforts in this area. His most recent inquiries now center on the number of children confirmed with elevated blood lead levels, the causes of these increased levels and if water could be a factor. Additionally, he has now requested current and historical staffing and budget numbers for all health and environmental programs that touch lead in the agency.

We plan to provide him with written responses reiterating that of the cases we investigated in 2015 (those that met the environmental intervention level of blood tests of 15 mcg/dL or higher), sources other than water were identified as the causes of the elevated lead levels. We also will inform the reporter that S.C. has less than half the national rate of children under six with elevated blood lead levels (0.83% in S.C. vs. 2.5% U.S.). We are pulling together the budget and staffing info, which looks to be relatively unchanged year over year. These programs are mainly fee-based and, therefore, stable. This does not appear to be an area that has been impacted by budget cuts or in which we face staffing shortages.

The second is on landfills with confirmed contaminated groundwater. Originally, the reporter asked about the number of Class 2 landfills with contamination and whether they accepted coal ash. We walked him through the details of the seven Class 2 sites with confirmed contamination, emphasized that none had offsite contamination, and that only one (a closed landfill) had ever accepted coal ash. He has now come back with questions about other types of landfills in the state, citing a 2008 agency report that is no longer produced that states 125 landfills were the cause of groundwater contamination. The point of interest has now shifted to Class 3 landfills, of which, 54 now have confirmed groundwater contamination. Please see the attached documents with more information on the Class 2 and Class 3 landfills.

At the moment, I believe the reporter is just gathering information and has not indicated a clear deadline. The

number of landfills, combined with the recently confirmed offsite contamination in the York County landfill, is likely to generate continued interest in this topic by the reporter. Re: lead, we discussed with Brian last week that we conducted an interview with Lauren Sausser (a new mom) of the Post and Courier on tips parents can take to reduce lead exposure in the home, as almost all elevated blood lead levels are the result of young children ingesting lead paint chips or foreign objects at home. She indicated the piece would run in the paper's health section tomorrow and was impressed by South Carolina's low rate of children with elevated blood lead levels.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Jennifer Read
m. 803-760-5124