

From: Voyles, Travis
To: Thompson, Janie
Cc: Dziadon, Daniel; Connally, Tom; Knapp, Kristien; Braid, Duncan; Rodrick, Christian; Johnson, Stanton; Hooghan, Priyanka; Palasits, Sara
Subject: RE: Follow Up
Date: Friday, July 19, 2019 6:52:12 PM

Hey Janie—I just sent over the Agency’s response on IRIS, but I also wanted to provide some further context here.

Yesterday, Chairwoman Johnson requested an internal Agency document relating to the EPA’s Office of Children’s Health Protection. The EPA will not be providing the document to the Committee. The Agency has determined that the document is confidential, deliberative, and should not be released.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Travis
Travis Voyles

From: Thompson, Janie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 2:35 PM
To: Voyles, Travis [REDACTED]
Cc: Dziadon, Daniel [REDACTED] Connally, Tom

[REDACTED] Knapp, Kristien [REDACTED] Braid, Duncan
[REDACTED] Rodrick, Christian [REDACTED] Johnson, Stanton
[REDACTED] Hooghan, Priyanka [REDACTED]
Palasits, Sara [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Follow Up

Thanks Travis. Sorry I missed your call and thanks for the status report. Should we still connect by phone or does the recap below sum it up? I have my cell.

Janie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 19, 2019, at 12:54 PM, Voyles, Travis [REDACTED] wrote:

Hey Janie—I was just trying to reach you on the phone, but I think you were out for lunch. I will not be able to talk here for the next few hours but I just wanted to chat about the IRIS-related items Chairwoman Johnson raised in her recent letter. I just wanted to assure you that a response will be coming to the Committee soon. As for the requested Office of Children’s Health second-round IRIS prioritization response, I will have an answer for you by the end of the day, as the Chairwoman has requested that specific item by close of business today. I have also been working on the briefing request and we should be able to get you additional details on that early next week.

Thanks and I will be back in touch by the end of the day.

-Travis

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Travis Voyles
Deputy Associate Administrator

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



5. What chemicals did OCHP submit on its final priority list for the IRIS survey? Was formaldehyde one of the chemicals that OCHP identified as a priority?

A: Because IRIS assessments play a critical role in supporting Agency decisions and can involve a significant expenditure of time and resources, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Orme-Zavaleta, at the direction of then-Acting Administrator Wheeler, in a request dated August 10, 2018, established a more formal, structured process for identifying IRIS priorities. This process included a requirement that all IRIS priorities be approved by the program's Assistant Administrator. This initial formalized prioritization process was completed in December 2018, and it is bringing further stability and responsiveness to the IRIS program.

Through this new process, EPA programs and regions can formally identify what assessments are a priority program need, why the assessment is needed, and when the assessment is needed. As detailed in the December 4, 2018 memorandum from Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Orme-Zavaleta, ORD consolidated the program and region input on high priority assessment needs and presented this to the Agency's Assistant Administrators and Deputies. Based on that input, this prioritization process identified eleven priority chemicals: hexavalent chromium, inorganic arsenic, mercury salts, methylmercury, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), five per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and vanadium. The IRIS program will conduct this same formal request and prioritization process annually, but programs and regions are still able to identify and nominate additional chemicals at any time.

6. If OCHP had submitted its final list of priority chemicals for the IRIS survey before December 4, 2018, would its priorities have been included in the IRIS Program Outlook for December 2018? Since OCHP submitted its final list of priority chemicals too late to be considered as a part of the 2018 IRIS survey, will its priorities now be considered immediate nominations for the IRIS program, or as nominations for the next IRIS priority survey? Were these responses considered in ORD's April 2019 Program Outlook?

A: OCHP submitted priorities after the list of priority IRIS assessments had been finalized. This final list informed the April 2019 Program Outlook.

The EPA will conduct its annual IRIS priority survey later this year. At that time, EPA program offices will have the opportunity to formally nominate their priority chemicals, but program offices may nominate a chemical for IRIS at any time.

7. According to Dr. Orme-Zavaleta's testimony, the IRIS priority survey will now occur annually. Please elaborate on how ORD plans to conduct the IRIS survey in 2019, and whether any procedures will differ from the process that occurred in 2018. When will the