Quite an interesting development!

Let's discuss this when you have a few minutes this morning. I want to make sure that I have a good grasp of the process in case someone disappears for six months.

Sara - I will have a draft of the comm path list for you tomorrow to look at before you go.

Like I say - when it rains, it pours.

Darrell - both nate and I can help with the FR

Jess

Sara DeCair

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Sara DeCair 
Sent: 05/06/2010 04:35 PM EDT 
To: Jessica Wieder, Darrell Liles 
Subject: Wow - timing was amazing 

Mike Flynn got back from chatting with us and had a voice mail from Gina saying that she talked to the Administrator about going forward on the PAGs, and Lisa said to go for it! We guessed she would say that. We now have the green light to start talking with the other Departments/Agencies about our new path forward, but first we need our path listed out -- so still, next week will be the time to wrap up a checklist and an edited FR Notice. Lee and then Alan can be your reviewers and can give you a better feel for timing, probably depending on when Mike will next see Gina. We have noticed she doesn't like any delay between deciding a thing and moving forward. No rest for the wicked, I like to say!

Thank you :)
Colleagues,

As we begin staff level discussions on advancing the EPA Protective Action Guides (PAGs) Manual, I'd like to take this opportunity to make sure that we are all on the same page about recent decisions regarding the process for releasing the PAGs Manual for public review and comment. I've attached a draft Communications Strategy that I believe will help guide us in this process.

Based on the AA-level discussion, we will be confining the scope of the PAGs Manual to the early and intermediate phases, focusing on what is needed for emergency response. We will not include a drinking water PAG because EPA has established protective drinking water standards for radionuclides under the Safe Drinking Water Act. We also will not include a late phase chapter for two reasons: 1) this is an emergency response document and 2) there are existing state and federal regulations and programs that apply to the cleanup.

Acknowledging potential concern from DHS, you will see in the Communications Strategy that we believe it is appropriate to discuss our new approach with DHS before meeting with the rest of the Interagency Community. We will discuss the new direction we are taking on the PAGs Manual, emphasizing the reasoning above for our new approach, so that DHS is not surprised when we begin the Interagency discussions.

We are looking forward to working closely with your staff to refine the language for the PAGs Manual and the FR Notice in order to create a document that reflects the AAs' decisions. As I'm sure you agree, it's important that we move forward on this. So, please don't hesitate to contact me at 343-9356 if you have any thoughts, concerns, or questions on the manual or proposed outreach plans.

Thanks a lot, Mike

(See attached file: PAGs Comm Plan 6-4-2010.doc)