

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

December 11, 2017

Mr. Sam Coleman
Acting Regional Administrator
Region 6
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Coleman:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, to testify at the hearing entitled "Response and Recovery to Environmental Concerns from the 2017 Hurricane Season."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, January 3, 2017. Your responses should be mailed to Allie Bury, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Allie.Bury@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



John Shimkus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

cc: The Honorable Paul Tonko, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment

Attachment

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable John Shimkus

1. Mr. Coleman, has EPA evaluated all of the superfund sites in Region 6? [*If not*, when do you anticipate that will be completed? *If so*, what were the results of the evaluations?]
 - a. Other than the San Jacinto Waste Pits, do any other superfund sites require follow up?

2. Mr. Coleman, we have heard a lot about the San Jacinto Waste Pits superfund site in your region with the most troubling being reports of the cap being damaged and dioxin levels as high as 70,000 parts per billion when the cleanup level is only 30 parts per billion. What can you tell us about the status of the elevated levels of dioxin?
 - a. I believe that EPA was requiring the potentially responsible parties to do additional sampling in the area around the site to determine the extent of the problem from the damage to the cap – what was the result of that sampling?
 - b. I know that EPA signed the Record of Decision (ROD) in mid-October and I believe that the remedy selected was removal of the contamination – is that correct?
 - i. Are the potentially responsible parties on board with the ROD and with conducting any immediate repairs necessary on the cap?

3. Mr. Colman, in the aftermath of the record flooding in Houston, debris removal is obviously a significant issue. Can you fill us in on the status of the debris removal?
 - a. Has Region 6 had to deal with orphan containers like drums, tanks, canisters, cylinders and similar containers displaced by the hurricane found floating in or washed up near waterways because of the flooding?

4. Mr. Coleman, your written testimony describes the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology – the ASPECT aircraft. It sounds like the ASPECT aircraft could ascertain whether there was any danger from the Arkema plant which had an explosion in the aftermath of the flooding and was able to assess and damage to and environmental issues with miles of pipelines, 134 Risk Management Plan facilities, 456 drinking water plants, and 105 wastewater plants. Is the ASPECT aircraft owned by EPA? It sounds like very useful technology – is it something available to other EPA Regions?

5. Mr. Coleman, did Region 6 conduct air quality assessments in the impacted areas?
 - a. If so, when and how many?

- b. What have the results of those assessments been, generally?
6. Mr. Coleman, your written testimony mentions that EPA deployed the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer which is a mobile air pollution detection vehicle that can provide air quality results quickly by collecting constant, real-time data for outdoor air quality. Is EPA concerned about whether the samples taken by the mobile air pollution detection vehicle are accurate and/or exemplary of air quality conditions throughout the regions?