

Message

From: Sarah Kerr [Ex. 6]
Sent: 1/8/2018 4:06:44 PM
To: Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
CC: Annie Nova [annie.nova@journalism.cuny.edu]
Subject: Press inquiry: weakening of enforcement at NYC superfund / WNYC

Hello,

I am a freelance reporter working on a story for WNYC along with my colleague Annie Nova, CCed here.

We are currently working on a story about the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, NY, a federal Superfund site.

We have had a number of sources outside of E.P.A. including former E.P.A. staff, environmental lawyers, and local activists, say that changes at E.P.A. under Administrator Pruitt may weaken the ability of the agency to hold polluters to full legal and financial account at sites like Gowanus – and give them more room to drag out and delay cleanups.

Specifically, they have cited Administrator Pruitt's interest in ending funding for the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice, staff reductions within the agency, examples of fewer enforcement proceedings in other areas, such as civil enforcement in comparison to other Republican and Democratic administrations, and a general pro-industry policy shift.

Does E.P.A. have any comment in response to these claims?

We're also mentioning that many of the identified polluters at the Gowanus deny that they contributed. Does the EPA believe this will affect the cleanup?

We are working on a Thursday deadline.

Thank you.

Best,

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Sarah S. Kerr

[Ex. 6]