Message

From: Messina, Edward [Messina.Edward@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/18/2021 7:04:49 PM
To: Echeverria, Marietta [Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov]; Reaves, Elissa [Reaves.Elissa@epa.gov]
CC: Goodis, Michael [Goodis.Michael@epa.gov]; Herrick, Jacquelyn [Herrick.Jacquelyn@epa.gov]; Biscoe, Melanie [Biscoe.Melanie@epa.gov]; Saunders, Jennifer [Saunders.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Britton, Cathryn [Britton.Cathryn@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: for Michal/Rick review: CBS News Inquiry- Seresto; DDL 4pm today

Thanks.

______________________________
Ed Messina, Esq.
Acting Office Director
Office of Pesticide Programs
Office of Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C.
p: (703) 347-0209

From: Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:40 PM
To: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Reaves, Elissa <Reaves.Elissa@epa.gov>
CC: Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>; Herrick, Jacquelyn <Herrick.Jacquelyn@epa.gov>; Biscoe, Melanie <Biscoe.Melanie@epa.gov>; Saunders, Jennifer <Saunders.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Britton, Cathryn <Britton.Cathryn@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: for Michal/Rick review: CBS News Inquiry- Seresto; DDL 4pm today

We just met internally with OGC and discussed regulatory options.
- We spoke to Elanco last week (3/10) to alert them to the missing 6a2 submissions, which they responded by submitting the information which we have received and entered into the IDS
- Elanco rep called Jackie today to discuss the congressional inquiry
- We just left a message now with the goal of setting up a meeting next Tuesday at 4 pm. Our plan is to request that they provide us with a presentation of their analysis of the incident information and we will be prepared to ask them questions.
  o We would like to request additional information – enhanced reporting including narrative information describing the incidents and sales data to inform. We would plan to follow up with a 6a2 letter describing the data request.

From: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:29 PM
To: Reaves, Elissa <Reaves.Elissa@epa.gov>; Echeverria, Marietta <Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>
CC: Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: for Michal/Rick review: CBS News Inquiry- Seresto; DDL 4pm today

What are the nature of the conversations already. I definitely want to meet with them. Was happy to see that there was language that we were meeting with them already.

______________________________
Ed Messina, Esq.
Acting Office Director
I defer to Ed on the nature of the discussions with Elanco.

Rick Keigwin
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: 202-564-2910
Sent from my iPhone (Please excuse typos!)

On Mar 18, 2021, at 2:12 PM, Freedhoff, Michal Freedhoff.Michal@epa.gov wrote:

I am fine on the substance if Rick is, but could Ed or Rick let me know what the nature of the discussions with Elanco are? Thanks!

Michal Freedhoff, Ph.D.
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Freedhoff.michal@epa.gov

From: Ozmen, Shamus Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Freedhoff, Michal Freedhoff.Michal@epa.gov; Keigwin, Richard Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov
Cc: Dennis, Allison Dennis.Allison@epa.gov; Messina, Edward Messina.Edward@epa.gov; Tyler, Tom Tyler.Tom@epa.gov; Diaz, Catherine Diaz.Catherine@epa.gov; Richmond, Jonah Richmond.Jonah@epa.gov; Siedschlag, Gregory Siedschlag.Gregory@epa.gov
Subject: for Michal/Rick review: CBS News Inquiry- Seresto; DDL 4pm today

Hi Michal and Rick,

The producer at CBS News (broadcasting tonight/tomorrow morning) is asking for a response to the allegations the agency lacked action regarding pet collar deaths. The response cites that we are engaging with company (Elanco now owns Seresto, not Bayer) to learn more and address the issue.

INCOMING:
I am reaching out to you in regards to complaints and adverse events reports the EPA has received about Bayer owned Seresto Flea and Tick Collar. How does EPA respond to the allegation that your
agency "did nothing about it" - after receiving thousands of complaints and reports of 1700 deaths potentially linked to the collars. We are working on a deadline of 4pm EST today, March 18th.

RESPONSE:
EPA understands that pets are part of the family in many American households and the agency is committed to following the science and the law as we work to on this issue and pursue our mission. EPA is in conversation with Elanco, the company that owns Seresto, to better understand and address the incidents associated with its products.

EPA always encourages consumers to read and follow all pesticide product labels. Product labels are the law, and they are a vital part of EPA’s efforts to ensure that consumers have the information they need to safely, legally, and effectively use EPA-approved pesticide products. EPA collects incident data to inform its risk assessments and takes reports of incidents like these very seriously.

Consumers whose pet experience adverse reactions with use of a Seresto pet collar should notify their veterinarian and may also want to contact the National Pesticide Information Center, an EPA information-sharing partner that has staff who are specially trained in responding to pesticide exposure incidents, including those involving pets.

Additional Background Information:
Incident reports are accounts of unexpected or unintended outcomes after using a pesticide. EPA tracks pet incidents through the Incident Data System. The information is reviewed to determine whether additional regulatory action is necessary. It is routinely used during EPA’s review of pesticide active ingredients to ensure that they continue to meet the FIFRA standard of no unreasonable risk to human health and the environment. If reporting trends appear to indicate a problem, EPA will contact the registrant to request additional information or further look into the incidents.

EPA also receives incident reports directly from consumers and the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), which, in addition to receiving reports from consumers, has a portal for veterinarians’ reports. Some incidents are well investigated and reported in such a way as to establish a strong link between the adverse effect and the exposure. On the other hand, many other reports do not include enough facts to clearly demonstrate causation. Many of the reports are anecdotal, with no indication of whether the user followed label use instructions or used a product appropriate for the pet type and size. Generally, however, there is no process for verifying the information in reports.

Section 6(a)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act requires pesticide registrants to report any factual information regarding unreasonable adverse effects on the environment of a pesticide to EPA. They are not required under FIFRA 6(a)(2) to investigate the incident to gather additional information.

From: Busch, Nicole <BuschN@cbsnews.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: CBS News Inquiry *** ON DEADLINE***

Hello,
I am reaching out to you in regards to complaints and adverse events reports the EPA has received about Bayer owned Seresto Flea and Tick Collar.

How does EPA respond to the allegation that your agency "did nothing about it" - after receiving thousands of complaints and reports of 1700 deaths potentially linked to the collars.
We are working on a deadline of 4pm EST today, March 18th.

Thank you in advance.

Nicole

Nicole Busch
Producer
CBS This Morning
646-874-4888