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To: Rohlfes.Larry@DTSC
Subject: SSFL CAG Grant
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Larry, please send this to the IRP members and post it on their website.

At the last IRP meeting that I attended, the members expressed concerns that the SSFL CAG had not announced receiving a grant from DOE last year, and I want to present some further information for clarification of the issue.

As the grant was issued, DOE announced it in September 2015 in USASpending.gov which is an official website for grants and awards and I decided not to announce the award to the CAG and local interested members of the public, given recent experience with political interference.

Last year a member of the CAG requested that the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), which is a branch of the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), come back to examine the latest data regarding contamination at the SSFL and its potential migration off of the site. The agency accepted the application and immediately the Workgroup led by Dan Hirsh began a campaign to stop the visit claiming that the ATSDR was incompetent and corrupt. In my opinion, the Workgroup did not want the ATSDR to look at current data or revisit its previous studies or those made by contractors apparently fearing further examination would confirm that contaminants were not moving offsite.

Later in a meeting in Chatsworth, the director of the ATSDR said that their intent was to examine updated information and not revisit any past reports, however the point was mute since the ATSDR reversed its position and would not revisit the SSFL. The director said that he had received a call from a staff person at Senator Boxer's LA office saying that the office had received many emails opposing the ATSDR site visit and as a result, the director cancelled the agency's examination of SSFL cleanup data.

My decision to delay announcing the DOE award was to forestall any interference or negative campaigns until the CAG's next major effort, to review and comment on the DOE EIS and DTSC's EIR. Both of these reports are over a year late, but several months ago, in anticipation of their issuance for public review, I announced the award. Once again the reports were delayed. In retrospect, my decision to withhold the announcement of the grant was ineffectual and it only delayed the Workgroups' criticisms., which are underway.

Alec Uzemeck