



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

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Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Bruno L. Pigott
Commissioner

May 15, 2018

Ms. Jennifer Cooper
State Ethics Director
Office of Inspector General
315 West Ohio Street, Room 101
Indianapolis, IN 46202



Dear Ms. Cooper:

Re: Lift of Screening Protocol
Regarding IDEM employee
John Hale

This letter is to memorialize the conversation we had last week regarding the screening protocol for IDEM employee John Hale. Mr. Hale is a Senior Environmental Manager within the Solid Waste Permits Branch of the Office of Land Quality at Indiana Department of Environmental Management (“IDEM”).

In July 2016, IDEM instituted a protocol to screen Mr. Hale from any matter regarding Vectren Corporation (“Vectren”). IDEM screened Mr. Hale because he is also a board member of BOTA, a volunteer group working to develop the B&O rail line in west central Indiana into a trail and Vectren wanted to negotiate an easement with BOTA for a pipeline installation. From July 2016 to the present, Mr. Hale has recused himself from all matters concerning Vectren at IDEM and, as Mr. Hale informs me, he also recused himself of any matter regarding Vectren at BOTA.

My understanding is that BOTA completed the negotiations with Vectren in December 2016 and Vectren completed installation of the pipeline in December 2017.

Since the issue that gave rise to the protocol has passed, IDEM no longer has an issue with Mr. Hale resuming his duties with regard to Vectren and intends to discontinue the protocol.

You concluded that a letter notifying you of IDEM’s intention to discontinue the protocol would be sufficient for your records and you would attach the letter to the public disclosure of the protocol or remove the disclosure from the disclosure list.

Thank you for your guidance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Mills

Kathleen Mills
IDEM Ethics Officer