



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

October 19, 2023

OFFICE OF
LAND AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

Mr. Tom Neltner
Senior Director, Safer Chemicals
Environmental Defense Fund
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Neltner:

Thank you for your letter of July 17, 2023, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the lead-sheathed telecom and power cables across the nation.

On July 26, 2023, EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance sent letters pursuant to Section 104(e)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to Verizon and AT&T legally requiring both companies to quickly provide EPA with key information to understand the nature and extent of lead contamination related to this equipment. We requested, for example, results of inspections the companies have undertaken, as well as sampling results and data. In addition, EPA is coordinating closely with states to conduct sampling in various locations. For the latest update on one of the areas we have sampled, in West Orange, New Jersey, please see response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=16176, and in Coal Center and California, Pennsylvania, please see response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=16127.

We take these concerns very seriously and will continue to move expeditiously under our statutory authorities to protect the public from potential legacy pollution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry N. Breen".

Barry N. Breen
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator