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December 2, 2015

***By E-filing***

Ms. Sybil Anderson  
Headquarters Hearing Clerk  
U.S. EPA/Office of Administrative Law Judges  
Room M-1200  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

**Re: *In the Matter of Aylin, Inc., et al.***  
**EPA Docket No. RCRA-03-2013-0039**

Dear Ms. Anderson:

I have enclosed for filing  
Respondents' Reply to Complainant's Response to Respondents' Motion for Leave to  
Conduct Additional Discovery and to Supplement Their Prehearing Exchanges to  
Add a Witness.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Leiter

cc: Certificate of Service List

***Note: Effective January 1, 2014, I am practicing as a solo practitioner under the  
Leiter & Cramer PLLC trade name. The use of the Leiter & Cramer PLLC trade  
name after this date is not intended to imply the continued existence of  
partnership.***

**UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR**

<b>In the Matter of:</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Aylin, Inc.; Rt. 58 Food Mart, Inc.;</b>	)	<b>Docket No. RCRA-0302-13-0039</b>
<b>Franklin Eagle Mart Corp.;</b>	)	
<b>Adnan Kiriscioglu; 5703 Holland</b>	)	
<b>Road Realty Corp.; 8917 South</b>	)	<b>Proceeding under Section 9006</b>
<b>Quay Road Realty Corp.; and,</b>	)	<b>of the Resource Conservation and</b>
<b>1397 Carrsville Highway Realty</b>	)	<b>and Recovery Act, as amended,</b>
<b>Corp.,</b>	)	<b>42 U.S.C. Section 6991e</b>
	)	
<b>Respondents.</b>	)	

**RESPONDENTS' REPLY TO COMPLAINANT'S RESPONSE TO RESPONDENTS'  
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL DISCOVERY AND TO  
SUPPLEMENT THEIR PREHEARING EXCHANGES TO ADD A WITNESS**

In accordance with the *Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits*, 40 C.F.R. Part 22 (“Rules of Practice”), Respondents Aylin, Inc., Rt. 58 Food Mart, Inc., Franklin Eagle Mart Corp., Adnan Kiriscioglu, 5703 Holland Road Realty Corp., 8917 South Quay Road Realty Corp., and 1397 Carrsville Highway Realty Corp. (collectively, the “Respondents”) respectfully submit this reply to the Director of the Land and Chemicals Division of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region III’s (“Complainant”) Response to Respondents’ Motion for Leave to Conduct Additional Discovery and to Supplement Their Prehearing Exchanges to Add a Witness (hereinafter “Complainant’s Response”). The Respondents have moved and have requested an Order from the Presiding Officer, granting (A) leave to conduct two

depositions and seek Complainant's answers to a limited set of interrogatories based on 40 C.F.R. § 22.19(e); and, (B) leave to amend their prehearing exchanges, based on 40 C.F. R. § 22.19(f), to add Ezgi Kiriscioglu as a fact witness for the Respondents at the hearing (hereinafter, the "Motion").<sup>1</sup> In Complainant's Response, Complaint opposes (A) and agrees to (B). Respondents' Reply addresses (A).

The Respondents restate and incorporate in this Reply the standard for adjudicating their motion for additional discovery under the Rules of Practice and their arguments as set forth in their Motion. In partial reply to Complainant's Response, the Respondents call the Complainant's attention to the Presiding Officer's discussion of additional discovery in her October 13, 2015, Order on Respondents' Amended Motion for Accelerated Decision and Motion for Leave to Conduct Discovery in *In the Matter of Special Interest Auto Works, Inc., and Troy Peterson*, Docket No. CWA-10-2013-0123.

In Complainant's Response, Complainant argues that the Motion should be denied because the Respondent's requested, additional discovery: (1) unreasonably burdens the Complainant; (2) seeks information Complainant has voluntarily provided to the Respondents; and, (3) fails to present any reason to support any (unstated) belief that relevant and probative evidence may otherwise not be preserved for presentation by a witness at hearing. Respondents disagree.

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<sup>1</sup> Respondents, in their Motion, asked the Presiding Officer to order the oral examination of Complainant's witness, Leslie Beckwith, based on the understanding that Complainant had agreed to make its witness, Andrew Ma, available for deposition on a voluntary basis on December 9, 2015. Complainant apparently changed its mind with respect to Mr. Ma without any notice to Respondents other than Complainant's Response. Accordingly, Respondents request that the Presiding Officer also order the oral examination of Mr. Ma.

## ARGUMENT

### I. Granting the Respondents' Motion Does Not Unreasonably Burden the Complainant or Its Witnesses.

In the Complainant's Response, Complainant does not contend that the deposition of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's ("VADEQ") Leslie Beckwith or the Complainant's employee, Andrew Ma, or its answers to a limited set of interrogatories, will unreasonably delay the proceeding. While the Presiding Officer has not set a date for the hearing, the parties, in recent email exchanges with the Presiding Officer's law clerk, have zeroed in on the week of April 25, 2016, for the hearing. Respondents' oral examinations of Ms. Beckwith and Mr. Ma, as well as the Complainant's response to the proposed interrogatories, during this five-month period before the hearing would not delay further the hearing.

In the Complainant's Response, the Complainant makes three contentions that the deposition of Ms. Beckwith and Mr. Ma, and its answering the Respondents' proposed interrogatories, will unreasonably burden Complainant and its witnesses. First, the Complainant argues without further explanation (on pages 5 and 6) that granting Respondents' discovery request "serves no other purpose than to frustrate Complainant and its two witnesses as they prepare for a hearing."

The Respondents are entitled to have a meaningful opportunity to prepare for the hearing, including obtaining information from the Complainant's fact witnesses. Ms. Beckwith and Mr. Ma are fact witnesses known to the Complainant, and it stretches the imagination for the Complainant to assert that it is the party being frustrated by Respondents' relatively narrow discovery request in a complex case.

Second, Complainant asserts on page 6 of Complainant's Response that the oral examination of Ms. Beckwith will unreasonably burden Ms. Beckwith, VADEQ and Complainant. Respondents' notice of deposition attached to its Motion proposes to conduct the oral examination of Ms. Beckwith at her and VADEQ's offices in Richmond, Virginia. There is no travel burden or cost on either Ms. Beckwith or VADEQ.

Complainant complains that Ms. Beckwith's deposition in Richmond will cause it to incur travel and lodging costs. The Respondents, similar to the Complainant, will incur travel and lodging costs for its attorney to conduct Ms. Beckwith's deposition in Richmond. Somehow, it is a financial burden on the Complainant to attend a deposition in Richmond, when the Commonwealth of Virginia is one of the States in Complainant's Region.

Complainant also states on page 6 of Complainant's Response that the preparation time for the depositions of Ms. Beckwith and Mr. Ma are an unreasonable burden. On the one hand, Complainant, as quoted above, believes that the additional discovery will "frustrate" Complainant, Ms. Beckwith and Mr. Ma as they "prepare for a hearing." On the other hand, the Complainant already has taken significant amount of time to prepare the sworn statements of Ms. Beckwith and Mr. Ma that were attached to Complainant's Motion for Partial Accelerated Decision and Liability and Memorandum of Law ("Complainant's Accelerated Decision Motion") that was served on the Respondents on Monday, November 23, 2015. In addition to these affidavits likely narrowing the scope of Respondents' requested oral examinations, it is hard to see how the preparation time is unreasonable when the Complainant is defending, not taking, the two, requested depositions.

Third, the Complainant at page 6 of the Complainant's Response contends that, despite the Complainant's offer, the Respondents have refused to depose Mr. Ma since December 2014. Complainant misstates and misrepresents the facts. In fact, this is a continued pattern by Complainant's counsel throughout this proceeding of telling Respondents' counsel one thing and then doing something else.<sup>2</sup>

As set forth in paragraph 6 of the attached affidavit of Respondents' counsel, Complainant's counsel, as recently as November 2, 2015, had stated that it would make Mr. Ma voluntarily available for oral examination. Only in Complainant's Response, received by the Respondents on November 19, 2015, did the Respondents learn that the Complainant changed its mind.<sup>3</sup>

**II. Complainant's Proffered Affidavits Do Not Obviate Respondents' Need for Additional Discovery.**

After changing its mind on making Mr. Ma voluntarily available for deposition by the Respondents, Complainant contends in one paragraph that the Mr. Ma and Ms. Beckwith's sworn affidavits attached to Complainant's Accelerated Decision Motion, along with its prehearing exchange of documents, cure any defects and eliminate any surprises at the hearing as to "Complainant's theory of liability." Complainant's Response at p. 7.

As Respondents' have set forth in their Motion, the information sought from Mr. Ma and Ms. Beckwith is not reasonably obtained through other forms of discovery. A

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<sup>2</sup> For example, Complainant's counsel promised to make its expert witness' report available to Respondents. To date, Complainant has not provided this document, but it has attached an affidavit from its expert to Complainant's Accelerated Decision Motion.

<sup>3</sup> While not dispositive to Respondents' Motion, Complainant's counsel, at the time it agreed in writing to make Mr. Ma voluntarily available for oral examination on December 9, 2014, had to have been working on Mr. Ma's affidavit and possibly could have intentionally misled the Respondents.

substantial portion of Mr. Ma's sworn statement includes his observations of his inspection of the Respondents' three retail gasoline stations. His affidavit does not allow for responsive follow-up questions necessary to elicit detailed information regarding his observations. For example, a key issue in three counts of Complainant's First Amended Complaint involves where VADEQ determines an underground storage tank system to end by regulatory definition and practice. Respondents should not have to wait until the hearing to pose follow-up questions, including the one above, to Mr. Ma that go directly to the issue of liability and provide the Respondents with a meaningful opportunity to prepare for the hearing.

Similarly, Ms. Beckwith's affidavit details only portions of VADEQ's underground storage tank financial responsibility regulations and then leaps to a one-paragraph conclusion about the Respondents' compliance with these regulations. Ms. Beckwith's affidavit does not include any statements about what documents she reviewed or actual interactions she may have had with the Respondents. Respondents should have the ability to ask responsive follow-up questions of Ms. Beckwith that go directly to the issue of liability and provide them with a meaningful opportunity to prepare for the hearing.

Respondents continue to believe that the oral examinations of Mr. Ma and Ms. Beckwith may assist in settlement discussions by the parties prior to the hearing.

**III. Respondents Seek Significant, Probative Evidence That May Not Otherwise Be Preserved for the Hearing.**

Complainant, at page 8 of Complainant's Response, states for the first time that both Mr. Ma and Ms. Beckwith will be called to testify at the hearing. While Respondents had assumed Mr. Ma's testimony at the hearing would be necessary for the presentation of its case, Ms. Beckwith's appearance was not certain.

Complainant's Accelerated Decision Motion, including Mr. Ma's sworn statement, does not address all issues in dispute, such as whether Respondent Adnan Kiriscioglu is an "operator" under VADEQ's regulations. Respondents' have asserted an affirmative in their Answer to Complainant's First Amended Complaint that the Complainant has treated them in a manner different that other similarly-situated parties in Region III (*i.e.*, Selective Enforcement Doctrine). There are environmental justice implications in this case. Respondents' should have the ability to depose Mr. Ma on his observations of Mr. Kiriscioglu and the two prongs of the Selective Enforcement Doctrine prior to the hearing. *See U.S. v. Smithfield Foods, Inc.*, 969 F. Supp. 975, 985 (E.D. Va. 1997). The information sought by the Respondents on its affirmative defense are not included in the prehearing exchanges or Mr. Ma's affidavit attached to the Complainant's Accelerated Decision Motion.

Moreover, while the prehearing exchanges and Mr. Ma's affidavit reveal that Complainant provided inspection reports that reflect Mr. Ma's observations of the three retail gasoline stations by way of written summaries, photographs and notes, this information is not an adequate substitute for direct information from Mr. Ma required for the Respondents to have a meaningful opportunity to prepare for a hearing.

As to Ms. Beckwith, who only was added recently as a fact witness by the Complainant, the Complainant has gone from “may” to “shall” on her appearance at the hearing only after the Respondents filed their Motion and her sworn statement was attached to the Complainant’s Accelerated Decision Motion. Prior to the hearing, the Respondents should be able to elicit information from Ms. Beckwith, including how she prepared her affidavit. Ms. Beckwith’s sworn statement skips over essential portions of VADEQ’s financial responsibility regulations and its enforcement procedures when the EPA-approved Virginia underground storage tank fund covers all but \$5,000 to \$20,000 of a tank owner or operator’s \$1 million financial responsibility requirements. The information Respondents seek to elicit from Ms. Beckwith go to whether any omission by the Respondents is considered a recordkeeping violation by VADEQ, rather than an absence of financial responsibility based on VADEQ’s enforcement procedures and precedents. Unlike Mr. Ma, Ms. Beckwith’s sworn statement does not include her actual observations, so her affidavit does not provide direct information required for the Respondents to have a meaningful opportunity to prepare for the hearing.

### **CONCLUSION**

The information sought by the Respondents by way of the two depositions and interrogatories has significant probative value on disputed issues of material fact relevant to liability. In addition, the information sought by the Respondents from the requested depositions and interrogatories is most reasonably obtained from the Complainant, who has not made its witnesses voluntarily available for deposition. The Respondents have shown that their Motion will not unreasonably delay the proceeding or unreasonably burden the Complainant. Respondents’ requested, additional discovery is needed by the

Respondents in order for them to have a meaningful opportunity to prepare for the hearing. Accordingly, Respondents' Motion should be granted.

Dated: December 2, 2015

Respectfully submitted,



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Jeffrey L. Leiter  
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Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: (202) 386-7670  
Fax: (202) 386-7672  
Email: [jll@leitercramer.com](mailto:jll@leitercramer.com)

Attorney for Respondents

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that, on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2015, the foregoing Respondents to Complainant was sent electronically and by U.S. regular mail, postage prepaid:

Louis J. Ramalho, Esq.  
Janet E. Sharke, Esq.  
U.S. EPA, Region III (Mail Code 3RC50)  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Attorneys for Complainant



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Jeffrey L. Leiter

## AFFIDAVIT OF JEFFREY L. LEITER

I, Jeffrey L. Leiter, am counsel for the Respondents in the matter In the Matter of Aylin, Inc., et al., EPA Docket No. RCRA-03-2013-0039. This affidavit is in support of Respondents' Reply to Complainant's Response to Respondents' Motion for Leave to Conduct Additional Discovery and to Supplement Their Prehearing Exchanges to Add a Witness.

I swear or affirm that:

- (1) The parties had mutually agreed to conduct voluntarily the depositions of listed fact witnesses Andrew Ma, Marie Owens Powell, Adnan Kiriscioglu and Gokce Ozuturk, beginning on November 18, 2014. At the time, Respondents' counsel had advised Complainant's counsel of the terminal illness of an immediate family member that could interfere with the scheduled depositions, and Complainant's counsel had advised Respondents' counsel that Mr. Ma was expected to begin family leave at any time for the birth of a child.
- (2) Mr. Kiriscioglu and Respondents' counsel had an in-person meeting/settlement conference with Complainant on November 10, 2014 at the Complainant's offices in Philadelphia. One outcome of this meeting/settlement conference was a mutual agreement for the Complainant to take only Mr. Kiriscioglu's deposition for the time being, in part, because the corporate Respondents had recently submitted extensive financial information that was undergoing an ability-to-pay analysis by Complainant's contractor. The other three oral examinations were postponed by mutual agreement.
- (3) The family member of Respondents' counsel passed away on November 16, 2014, and Mr. Kiriscioglu's deposition was rescheduled for December 2, 2014. Because

of an immediate health issue with Mr. Kiriscioglu, his deposition was subsequently rescheduled for and taken by Complainant on December 18, 2014. At the time of Mr. Kiriscioglu's deposition, Mr. Ma had begun his family leave.

(4) In informal conversations with Complainant's counsel subsequent to Mr. Kiriscioglu's deposition, Respondents' counsel discussed Respondents' continuing desire to depose Mr. Ma and Ms. Powell. The parties' counsel continued to feel that a continued delay in depositions was appropriate because they were awaiting the results of Complainant's ability-to-pay analysis, which was not shared with the Respondents until June 19, 2015, and the Presiding Officer's decision on Complainant's Motion for Leave to File First Amended Complaint and Respondent Kiriscioglu's Motion for Partial Accelerated Decision. The Presiding Officer issued her Order on Motions on August 10, 2015.

(5) Subsequent to the issuance of the Order on Motions, Respondents' filed their Answer to Complainant's First Amended Complaint, completed additional prehearing exchanges, and conducted a settlement conference at Complainant's offices in Philadelphia. During this period, Respondents were granted a brief extension by the Presiding Officer to accommodate my travel schedule for trade association client meetings.

(6) As shown in the attached email exchange (Attachment A) with Complainant's counsel on November 2, 2015, Complainant "agree[d] to allow the deposition of Andrew Ma in the Philadelphia, EPA Region III, office." I learned that EPA changed its mind about the voluntary oral examination of Mr. Ma only upon the receipt of Complainant's opposition to Respondents' motion to conduct additional discovery on November 19,

2015. I did not have the professional courtesy of a telephone call or email between November 2 and 19, 2015, particularly when Complainant's counsel surely had to know about Mr. Ma's affidavit when it agreed to make him available for oral examination on December 9, 2015.

(7) As shown in the attached email exchange (Attachment B) with Complainant's counsel, I had requested – and was promised – copies of any expert reports prepared on behalf of the Complainant that were not included in any prehearing exchange. As of the date of this affidavit, EPA has not kept its promise on these expert reports, even though a sworn statement from one of the experts is attached to Complainant's November 20, 2015 motion for partial accelerated decision.

The above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: December 1, 2015



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Jeffrey L. Leiter

# ATTACHMENT A

**From:** "Ramalho, Louis" <Ramalho.Louis@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: IMO Aylin, et al.  
**Date:** November 2, 2015 3:10:36 PM EST  
**To:** Jeffrey Leiter <jll@leitercramer.com>, "Sharke, Janet" <Sharke.Janet@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Ma, Andrew" <Ma.Andrew@epa.gov>

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Good Afternoon Jeff:

Here is EPA's reply to your inquiry below:

- 1) EPA agrees to allow the deposition of Andrew Ma in the Philadelphia, EPA Region III, office. EPA agrees to permit your inquiry within the scope of Andrew Ma's testimony description as provided in Complainant's list of witnesses.
- 2) EPA objects to the deposition of Marie Owens for the following reasons: Marie Owens was listed as a back-up witness to Andrew Ma in the event Mr. Ma was unable to perform as a fact witness at trial as a result of a personal matter. EPA does not intend to call Ms. Owens since Mr. Ma has returned to assume his duties for EPA. Ms. Owens is not Mr. Ma's direct supervisor nor is she a manager/supervisor in the UST program.
- 3) EPA objects to the deposition of Ms. Beckwith. Ms. Beckwith is not an employee of EPA. Her testimony is limited to Virginia's requirements for financial responsibility. The limited information you seek can be obtained during trial or through some other form of discovery other than a deposition.
- 4) EPA welcomes the addition of Ezgi to your list of witnesses.

With respect to your client, Mr. Adnan Kiriscioglu, EPA is still waiting for his Personal Financial Statement ("Attachment B" to EPA's Discovery Request). Please let me know if this is being prepared by Mr. Kiriscioglu's accountant or whether you object to its production so I may prepare a motion to compel.

Respectfully,

Louis F. Ramalho  
Sr. Asst. Regional Counsel

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**From:** Jeffrey Leiter [mailto:jll@leitercramer.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 02, 2015 1:44 PM  
**To:** Sharke, Janet <Sharke.Janet@epa.gov>; Ramalho, Louis <Ramalho.Louis@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** IMO Aylin, et al.

Good afternoon, Lou and Janet.

I wanted to cover some procedural matters with you.

I am waiting on my clients to approve a motion for leave to (1) conduct additional discovery, and (2) add Ezgi Kiriscioglu as a fact witness at the hearing. The motion seeks an order to compel the depositions of Leslie Beckwith and Marie Owens Powell and for EPA to answer 11 interrogatories. Based on earlier email exchanges, I assume that Complainant will object to the motion as to these depositions and interrogatories.

It is my intent to take Marie's deposition at the same time along with Andrew Ma's deposition. I would like to take Leslie's depositions at VADEQ's offices in Richmond or Northern Virginia around the same time.

Does Complainant object to the addition of Ezgi as a witness for the Respondents? The motion sets forth a summary of her testimony. As you know, Ezgi has the most complete knowledge of the nearly 2,400 pages of documents in your prehearing exchanges.

We need to finalize the place for Andrew Ma's deposition. I am prepared to take his deposition at Ft. Meade, if more convenient for Andrew. In a prior exchange of emails, you sought to limit the scope of Andrew's deposition. I intend to depose Andrew along the lines you proposed him as a witness in Complainant's Initial Prehearing Exchange and his calculation of the proposed penalty in the Amended Complaint.

I appreciate your timely responses to the above.

Jeff

From: "Ramalho, Louis" <Ramalho.Louis@epa.gov>  
Subject: RE: IMO Aylin, et al.  
Date: November 4, 2015 2:12:52 PM EST  
To: Jeffrey Leiter <jll@leitercramer.com>, "Sharke, Janet" <Sharke.Janet@epa.gov>  
Cc: "Ma, Andrew" <Ma.Andrew@epa.gov>

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Yes, we will share with your all the expert reports. Lou

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeffrey Leiter [mailto:jll@leitercramer.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 2:05 PM  
To: Ramalho, Louis <Ramalho.Louis@epa.gov>; Sharke, Janet <Sharke.Janet@epa.gov>  
Cc: Ma, Andrew <Ma.Andrew@epa.gov>  
Subject: RE: IMO Aylin, et al.

Lou,

There is no switch. Adnan will testify, as will Ezgi and Gokce Ozuturk. Mr. Ozuturk already has informed me that he is not available the full month of January and the first two weeks of February.

Also, I am traveling today to Milwaukee (in the Cleveland airport), and I do not have Complainant's prehearing exchanges. I don't recall seeing reports in the exhibit files from either of EPA's named experts. Have they prepared reports and, if so, will you make them available to Respondents?

Thanks,

Jeff

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From: Ramalho, Louis [Ramalho.Louis@epa.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 1:57 PM  
To: Jeffrey Leiter; Sharke, Janet  
Cc: Ma, Andrew  
Subject: RE: IMO Aylin, et al.

Jeff: I wanted to add to my recent reply regarding your request to add Ezgi ad a witness. As I stated, EPA will not object to her testifying provided however that Adnan Kiriscioglu will testify as well. If you are attempting to substitute Ezgi for Adnan then we will object and will subpoena the court for his presence in court to testify. Will you agree to make Adnan available to be called by the Complainant? Lou

From: Jeffrey Leiter [mailto:jll@leitercramer.com]  
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2015 1:44 PM  
To: Sharke, Janet <Sharke.Janet@epa.gov>; Ramalho, Louis <Ramalho.Louis@epa.gov>  
Subject: IMO Aylin, et al.

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I appreciate your timely responses to the above.

Jeff