**KPO response regarding poisoning of children in Berezovka village**

*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited KPO to respond to the following items:*

*- «Children of Berezovka are Diagnosed with Toxic Encephalopathy», Crude Accountability, 24 April 2018*

<https://crudeaccountability.org/children-of-berezovka-diagnosed-with-toxic-encephalopathy/>

*- «77 NGOs from 30 countries support Berezovka parents», Crude Accountability, 6 July 2016*

<https://crudeaccountability.org/77-ngos-30-countries-support-berezovka-parents/>

*In response, KPO sent the following statement:*

Dear Ella Skybenko,

Please find below the KPO response.

KPO and Karachaganak Partners express our deepest concerns for the adults and children affected in November 2014.  At the same time, the Venture disagrees with allegations that Karachaganak Field Operation may have been the cause of illness of the schoolchildren. Moreover, we believe the statements of NGO Crude Accountability on the poisoning of Berezovka children by toxic emissions from the Karachaganak field are factually incorrect.

The results of KPO's regular environmental monitoring on the territory of the Karachaganak oil and gas condensate field and around its perimeter demonstrated that no harmful concentrations of pollutants arising from KPO's operations were detected.  KPO continuously monitors the parameters of emissions through a comprehensive data gathering and monitoring mechanism integrated into a robust emergency response system. The data of above-mentioned monitoring is provided to the authorities and to the residents of neighboring settlements.

Specific to the incident that occurred on November 28th 2014, KPO represents and warrants that no process upsets that could affect state of health of KPO personnel and residents of settlements outside the territory of sanitary-protection zone occurred at Karachaganak facilities.

A Governmental Commission that conducted investigation of the incident, found no evidence that the field operations had been the cause of the illnesses of Berezovka schoolchildren.

A criminal investigation launched in 2014 has been recently terminated for the absence of components of crime.

The issue of medical treatment falls under the jurisdiction of local authorities. Following the incident, the West Kazakhstan Oblast Health Department commissioned a comprehensive medical examination of the affected children both in local hospitals and in the leading health clinics in Almaty, Astana and Aktobe.

According to the regional Health Department, interdisciplinary medical examination of the children did not reveal any diseases that might have been caused by toxic poisoning.

As stated previously, NGO Crude Accountability’s statements have no grounds.

Regards,

Sergey Pushkarev

KPO Corporate Communications Manager