

To: Hon. Christopher O. Ward, Commissioner of DEP

From: ECB Safety Committee

Date: April 9, 2003

Fax: 718 595 6565

Enclosed please find 8 pages including this cover sheet.

Copy:

Robert Aultroni

~~Gerard McCoy~~

Anne McCarthy

We really need to respond in writing to these concerns. Also, Anne, what has the building management done about the fire safety violations?

April 9, 2003

Honorable Christopher Ward
 Commissioner Department of Environmental Protection
 19th Floor
 59-17 Junction Boulevard
 Flushing, New York 11373-5108

Dear Commissioner Ward,

We request your assistance in addressing the continuing health concerns of ECB personnel located at 66 John Street. As you know the building is within two blocks of "ground zero" and we were severely affected by that catastrophe. Following its evacuation on 9/11, the building was reopened one week later. The air quality downtown, both inside and outside of the building was very bad, and we had serious concerns about the adequacy of the cleaning of the interior and exterior of the building. Upon our return to ECB following 9/11, many of us experienced respiratory and eye problems as well as other adverse reactions. We immediately advised ECB management of our symptoms and concerns and were repeatedly assured that appropriate cleaning had been done and that the building was "safe". We requested documentary evidence supporting those claims, but to date no such evidence has been forthcoming.

Our concerns and fears were exacerbated by our continuing health problems and, in addition, the inadequate response to other concerns, which include the lack of adequate fire safety alarm systems, as well as blocked exit doors. These conditions have been repeatedly brought to ECB and the building management's attention. See enclosed article, which appeared in the March 14, 2003 edition of The Chief.

On January 31, 2003, ECB personnel, at their own expense, had a carpet sample tested at an EPA approved lab using an EPA approved method. That test indicated extremely high levels of asbestos (see enclosed test results). The test results were forwarded to ECB Executive

Director Michael Moran for appropriate action. To date, no response has been received. Our concerns go beyond the carpeting. It is our understanding that asbestos contaminated carpets cannot effectively be cleaned, but must be removed. Such removal is usually done as an "Asbestos Project", with appropriate safeguards for the removal workers as well as employees.

A petition was circulated in February 2003 signed by ninety-three ECB employees expressing their concerns and the adverse affects of working in this building. Subsequently, we were led to believe that tests were conducted by building management. Once again, no information from those tests has been shared with us. By a memo dated April 2, 2003, we were advised that the tenth floor carpeting was to be cleaned on three consecutive evenings, beginning that very night (see enclosed notice).

We request that we be furnished *inter alia* with any and all information, test results, and documentation on which DEP, ECB and/or building management relied in its repeated representations that our concerns have been addressed. Kindly forward this information to the ECB Safety Committee, c/o R. Potasznik, 10th Floor, 66 John Street, New York, New York 10038.

We greatly appreciate any assistance you can render in addressing our concerns. We have contacted other individuals and entities with no success and would expect that you, as our Commissioner, can take the appropriate steps to not only assure us of the safety of our work place but to also provide us with the documentation to support those claims.

Very truly yours,

ECB Safety Committee_____