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THE CITY OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, MD. MPH
Commissioner

February 8, 2002

Mazal Group
Kevin Fardella
125 Park Ave, Suite 1500
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Kevin Fardella,

As you know, the New York City Department of Health (DOH), with the assistance of the U.S. Public Health Service and Environmental Protection Agency conducted environmental sampling at 100 John Street. Please find the enclosed summary of the results of asbestos testing. DOH has sent a copy of the attached report to the occupants of the units that were sampled and we would like you to distribute the enclosed copies to the remaining residents in the building. Please reproduce any additional copies that you may need.

If you have questions about the asbestos results from your building, please do not hesitate to contact DOH's Environmental and Occupational Disease Epidemiology Unit at 212-788-4288/4304.

Sincerely,

Jessica Leighton, PhD
Assistant Commissioner
Environmental Risk Assessment and Communication

enclosures

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Building Owner and Residents
100 John Street
New York, NY 10038

Dear Building Owner and Residents,

As part of an ongoing effort to assess potential environmental impacts following the collapse of the World Trade Center (WTC), the New York City Department of Health (DOH), with the assistance of local and federal agencies, conducted asbestos testing in some residences in lower Manhattan. This letter explains the results of the asbestos testing conducted in and around your building. As you will see in the attachment, the levels of asbestos in and around your building were within standards set for indoor air quality¹. In the near future, you will be receiving the complete results of testing for other substances and particulate matter in your building.

Asbestos and other building materials were released during the WTC collapse. Your building was one of approximately 30 residences tested by the DOH, the U.S. Public Health Service Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the lower Manhattan area for asbestos and other building materials. Additionally, for baseline comparisons, DOH tested a small number of residences above 59th Street to determine normal background levels of asbestos and other building materials present in indoor air.

Asbestos was found at low levels in the *dust* in your building; these levels were within standards. Air sampling results were similar to the levels found in the comparison buildings. Since low levels of asbestos were found in the dust, even though they were not at levels requiring asbestos abatement, we continue to recommend that cleaning be conducted using appropriate methods while work continues at the WTC site. These methods, such as damp or wet wiping and mopping of hard surfaces and using vacuum cleaners equipped with a HEPA filter, will help prevent dust from getting into the air. Dry dusting, sweeping with a broom, or using a vacuum without a HEPA filter should be avoided.

Testing was also conducted in and around your building for other materials used in the WTC construction (e.g., fiberglass, silica, and other minerals). These materials may cause eye, nose, and throat irritation. Persons with existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, or emphysema may find that their symptoms are exacerbated when they are exposed to these substances in the air. Since work continues at the World Trade Center site, we recommend

¹ New York City Department of Environmental Protection asbestos clearance criteria for post-abatement work (Rules of the City of New York, Title 13, Chapter 1)

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that you continue to take precautions to avoid carrying dust on your shoes, clothes, etc. into your building from outdoors. See the enclosed DOH fact sheets for further information.

Many people have experienced respiratory and skin irritation following exposure to the dust and smoke from the WTC attack. As the level of dust and smoke decreases, these symptoms should improve for most people. Based on the asbestos levels found in the dust and air in and around these residential buildings, the risk for asbestos-related disease is low. Reliable medical tests cannot detect short-term, low level exposure to asbestos or other fibers.

We have not yet received and completed review of all of the laboratory results of the other materials that were sampled in your building's dust and air. We will be issuing a report that summarizes these data from all of the buildings that were sampled within the next several months.

If you have questions about the asbestos results from your building, please do not hesitate to contact DOH's Environmental and Occupational Disease Epidemiology Unit at 212-788-4288/4304.

Sincerely,

**Jessica Leighton, PhD
Assistant Commissioner
Environmental Risk Assessment and Communication**

Enclosures

Summary of Asbestos Sampling Results 100 John Street, New York, N.Y. 10038

Date sampled: Dec 3, 2001

Four locations were sampled at your building: inside two private residences, an indoor hallway, and a nearby outdoor area (see tables below for sampling results). One air and one settled dust and debris sample was collected at each of the four locations.

Air samples were collected using vacuum pumps to draw air past a filter that was suspended at the height of a person's breathing level. Outdoor dust and debris samples were collected by placing visible material in a container. Indoor dust and debris samples were collected on a filter by vacuuming surfaces. The collected material was weighed, viewed under a microscope, and/or chemically processed to determine the types and quantities of substances present. The materials are being analyzed for fibers such as asbestos, fiberglass, synthetics (e.g. man-made materials such as nylon and polyester), cellulose (e.g. cotton, paper), silica, and for other minerals and small particles.

ASBESTOS AIR TEST RESULTS

The air samples tested from taken during normal daily activity and were examined in a laboratory for fibers using the Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM) method. Results of all of the air samples taken from your building were below the standard set for indoor air quality - 0.01 fibers per cubic centimeter (f/cc). All of the air sampled in your building was found to contain less than 0.001 f/cc of asbestos. This is similar to the air results from buildings located above 59th Street, which are not expected to have been impacted by WTC materials. In the homes above 59th Street, levels of fibers found in the air ranged from less than 0.001 f/cc to 0.003 f/cc.

Airborne fibers as determined by PCM analysis: An air sample is collected by pulling air through a filter. The filter catches fibers and is sent to a laboratory to determine the number of fibers in the air. Phase contrast microscopy identifies fibers based on size and shape, but not the specific type of fiber. Therefore, the fibers seen by PCM include asbestos fibers as well as other fibers, such as textiles, fiberglass, and cellulose, which might be present in your home. The PCM analysis assumes that all fibers present were asbestos. Therefore, less hazardous fibers that may have been present, such as textiles or fiberglass, are counted along with the asbestos fibers, and the total fiber count is then compared to the asbestos standard. If the results were above 0.003 f/cc using the PCM methodology, additional analysis was performed to determine whether any of the fibers were asbestos. In this building, additional analysis was not warranted since the air sampling results were not greater than 0.003 f/cc.

Summary of Asbestos Sampling Results
Address: 100 John Street

Page 2 of 3
Date sampled: Dec 3, 2001

Results of Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM) testing of air at 100 John Street, Dec. 3, 2001

Area Sampled	Outside	Common	Residence 1	Residence 2
Sample Numbers	A-O-27	A-C-27	A-R1-27	A-R2-27
Concentration of Fibers (f/cc)* at 100 John Street	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Concentration of Fibers (f/cc) in comparison locations	<0.001 to .001	<0.001 to 0.002	<0.001 to 0.003	<0.001 to 0.003
NYC Re-occupancy Standard (f/cc)**	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01

* f/cc is fibers in each cubic centimeter (cc) of air. This is calculated from the number of fibers seen on the air filter and the volume of air pulled through the filter measured in cubic centimeters of air.

** New York City Department of Environmental Protection asbestos clearance criteria for post-abatement work (Rules of the City of New York, Title 15, Chapter 1)

ASBESTOS DUST TEST RESULTS

In general, the dust and debris samples were examined by two different laboratory methods for asbestos fibers, Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM) and Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM). PLM is used to define asbestos containing material in dust and debris. A material is considered to be asbestos containing material if it contains more than 1% asbestos using the PLM method. The PLM method only counts the larger asbestos fibers. Therefore, if results by PLM were not greater than 1% asbestos, the sample was then analyzed by the TEM method that does count the smaller fibers. However, TEM analysis is not used for regulatory purposes for dust samples.

No asbestos fibers were found in the dust samples by the PLM laboratory method. Further analysis by the TEM method detected asbestos at levels of less than 1% in the dust outside, the common area, and one of the residences.

Fibrous materials in dust found by PLM analysis: Polarized Light Microscopy identifies asbestos fibers by shape and optical characteristics. Other fibers such as fabric (synthetics), paper (cellulose) and fiberglass may be identified in the analysis. The laboratory analyst counts the fibers present to give an estimate of fiber content. PLM is used for regulatory purposes for dust samples.

Summary of Asbestos Sampling Results
Address: 100 John Street

Page 3 of 3
Date sampled: Dec 3, 2001

Results of Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM) testing of dust at 100 John St., Dec. 3, 2001

Area Sampled	Outside	Common	Residence 1	Residence 2
Sample Numbers	SA-O-27	VA-C-27	VA-R1-27	VA-R2-27
Asbestos fibers (%)	None Detected	None Detected	None Detected	None Detected

Asbestos in dust as determined by TEM analysis: TEM analysis was conducted on all dust samples that showed asbestos content by PLM as less than 1%. TEM analysis is very specific, can detect smaller fibers of asbestos and is subject to less interference. This analysis was done to confirm the PLM findings of no asbestos found. However, TEM analysis is not used for regulatory purposes for dust samples.

Results of Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) testing of dust at 100 John St. Dec 3, 2001

Area Sampled	Outside	Common	Residence 1	Residence 2
Sample Numbers	SA-O-27	VA-C-27	VA-R1-27	VA-R2-27
Asbestos fibers (%)	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%	None Detected