

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2

NOV 13 2002

DATE:

SUBJECT: Status Report on Activities under FEMA/EPA Interagency Agreements

FROM: Kathleen Callahan, Assistant Regional Administrator *K Callahan*
For New York City Response and Recovery Operations

TO: Braid Gair, Federal Coordinating Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency

EPA is providing this report consistent with our commitment in the interagency agreements which fund the implementation of programs supporting the World Trade Center Residential Dust Cleanup Program.

We appreciate FEMA's continued support of EPA and New York City joint efforts.

We would be pleased to brief you on the results of the study efforts as they progress or to answer any questions you or your staff may have. You may contact me at 212-637-3116 or have your staff contact Dore Laposta at 212-637-3145.

Attachment

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Status Report for the Interior Cleaning Study

IAG ID Number: EMW-2002-IA-0126

Description of Work Completed:

The Residential Cleaning Study (RCS), also known as the Confirmation Building (Pilot) cleanup study, was initiated to evaluate different cleaning techniques that may have been utilized in the cleanup of residential spaces in the immediate vicinity of the former World Trade Center. The study involves implementing various cleaning techniques in separate apartments to determine their effectiveness. Comprehensive sampling for Contaminants of Potential Concern (COPC) was conducted throughout the study to determine which method of cleaning was most effective at removal of dust. The Contaminants of Potential Concern have been identified in a draft document, "WTC Indoor Air Assessment: Selecting Contaminants of Potential Concern and Setting Health-Based Benchmarks". This is currently undergoing peer review with a report planned for mid December.

On June 17, 2002 EPA initiated field work associated with the RCS on a building located at 110 Liberty Street. The 5 story building has 12 residential and 6 commercial spaces and has been unoccupied since 9/11. EPA has been evaluating 8 different cleaning techniques in separate units of the building. Cleaning techniques consist of basic vacuuming with standard household equipment to use of advanced commercial quality equipment. Wet wiping of horizontal surfaces was performed in each unit. Wet vacuums were used to clean carpets. Sampling was conducted prior to, during and after cleaning to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of each cleanup technique as well as possible exposures to individuals performing the task.

EPA has completed cleaning and sampling of all 12 residential and 6 commercial spaces. Six (6) residential spaces were cleaned twice and 3 residential spaces were cleaned a third time. Two (2) of the 3 commercial spaces required a second round of cleaning. Of the 6 commercial spaces, 3 were not part of the cleaning study but were cleaned and used to evaluate the cleaning and sampling of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Post cleaning sample results collected from the systems are pending.

To date EPA has collected approximately 3,100 samples to evaluate cleaning techniques and possible exposures to contaminants. Approximately 2,676 samples (air, wipe and micro vacuuming) were collected to evaluate pre-cleanup and post cleanup efforts. Approximately 470 personal worker air samples were collected to evaluate potential occupational exposure levels.

Pending Activities:

The evaluation of the effectiveness of the various cleaning methods used will begin once we receive all sample results.

Following the receipt and validation of results, data will be incorporated into our existing database.

Data will be evaluated relative to cleaning techniques used, compared to health benchmarks and summarized in a final report. The evaluation of these data will also be required for the issuance of a clearance letter which will be issued to the owner of 110 Liberty.

Expected Completion Date:

All field activities ended on October 25, 2002. We expect that this will conclude all field work but are awaiting the final testing results.

We estimate that a final report will be completed by January 30, 2003.

Complex Issues Encountered:

The use of an aggressive sampling protocol to collect air samples required program adjustments and will be assessed in the final report. Samples were collected at various flow rates and volumes in an effort to provide the data necessary to perform this evaluation.

Cost Summary: (as of 10/31/02)

Budget Category	Funds Authorized	Funds Expended	Balance
Personnel	\$ 462,234	\$ 97,260	\$ 364,973
Travel	\$ 32,766	\$ 3,294	\$ 29,471
Equipment	\$ 130,000	\$ 59,028	\$ 70,971
RST Contract	\$ 462,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 187,000
ERS Contract	\$ 790,500	\$ 540,395	\$ 250,105
Analytical Laboratory Services Contracts	\$ 2,512,000	\$ 575,000	\$1,937,000
Totals	\$4,389,500	\$1,549,977	\$2,839,520

Status Report for the WTC Background Study Status Report

IAG ID Number: EMW-2002-IA-0126

Description of Work Completed:

The EPA initiated the Background Study to learn what levels of pollutants existed in indoor residential environments in New York City prior to September 11, 2001. To do that, EPA and the agency's contractor TRC collected samples to test the dust and air in residential buildings that were not directly affected by the collapse.

The objective of this background study is to determine indoor baseline levels or background concentrations of Contaminants of Potential Concern (COPC) (per the draft documents "WTC Indoor Air Assessment: Selecting Contaminants of Potential Concern and Setting Health-Based Benchmarks") including asbestos, lead, dioxins, PAHs, silica, calcite, gypsum, and fibrous glass in household dust and asbestos, lead, silica, calcite, gypsum, and fibrous glass in indoor air for New York City residential buildings.

Sampling was conducted in Fourteen (14) Residential Manhattan Buildings that were not affected by the airborne dusts and plume which emanated from "Ground Zero," the WTC site. Samples were collected in each building from two residential units and from one common area, such as the lobby, hallways and/or laundry rooms where access was provided.

The data from this study will be used as residential background information within New York City (NYC) for comparing the analytical results of the pilot cleanup study and the indoor residential cleaning project. These data are to be used for baseline information of residential contaminant levels found in common NYC dwellings as well as potential cleanup levels to address potential threats to public health and safety for buildings affected by the WTC collapse.

Sampling began on August 20, 2002. On September 25, 2002 EPA and TRC (the field work contractor) completed all sample collection activities related to the background study.

In total, fourteen buildings have been sampled consisting of nine common areas and twenty-five residential dwellings. The laboratories continue to perform the analysis of samples, and the data validation contractor continues validation efforts.

Pending Activities:

Obtain outstanding data from laboratories and validate and transport these data to a database for tabulation and evaluation.

Sample results will require assessment for the purpose of developing background levels. These results and their interpretation will have to be transmitted to residents and building owners who participated in the study.

Prepare a final report which summarizes the study and presents the rationale used to establish background levels for the various potential contaminants of potential concern.

Expected Completion Date:

Given the voluntary nature of the Background Study it took longer than originally projected to obtain access to the number of buildings we identified. This will also result in a delay in the completion of this study. the IAG completion date will still require an extension. EPA assumed the access responsibilities from the NYCDOH. This change resulted in an increase in EPA personnel costs. The change in projected completion date and cost changes are reflected in an IAG amendment which is presently circulating.

The revised project completion date has been estimated to be April 30, 2003.

Complex Issues Encountered:

None to date.

Cost Summary: (as of 10/31/02)

(costs presented below include those reflected in the IAG amendment that is presently in circulation)

Budget Category	Funds Authorized	Funds Expended	Balance
Personnel	\$ 317,814	\$ 52,997	\$ 264,817
Travel	\$ 15,630	\$ 10,879	\$ 4,751
other	\$ 950	\$220	\$ 730
Sampling Contract	\$ 145,600	\$ 68,255	\$ 77,375
Analytical Lab Contract	\$ 705,300	\$331,800	\$373,500
Equipment	\$ 130,000	\$850.00	\$ 129,150
Data Validation Contract	\$ 58,800	\$ 25,000	\$ 33,800
Totals	\$1,374,094	\$489,971	\$884,123