

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Callahan.Kathy@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Saturday, November 23, 2002 9:46 AM
To: Brad.Gair@fema.gov; Callahan.Kathy@epamail.epa.gov
Cc: Avaltroni, Robert; SGreenberger@cityhall.nyc.gov; Walter.Melnick@fema.gov; Brian.Sanvidge@Labor.State.Ny.Us; Joe.Picciano@fema.gov
Subject: Re: NYC DoH and EPA
Importance: High

Mr. Gair,

Please be assured that EPA is not soliciting letters for the extension of the individual family grant and assistance program. I have personally been very prudent in simply reminding NYCDOH staff that the program deadline was approaching. If NYC or NYS have an opinion on the need for this program, it is their role to raise it with FEMA. EPA does not have a opinion on this issue. The services provided through the program, such as HEPA vacuums, were a priority interest of the commissioner when the cleanup program was developed.

I will clarify this with Kelly McKinney. I do not want any misunderstanding. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention. I assure you we are not working at cross purposes, and the support FEMA has provided is recognized and appreciated by many within government agencies and the general public.

As for matters of scientific interpretation, should you want me to, I will be pleased to arrange a briefing for you. As I have noted many times, these are complex and cutting edge issues. Please let me know.

Sincerely,

Kathy Callahan

 Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services.

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

From: <Brad.Gair@fema.gov>
To: Kathy Callahan/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: <avaltroni@dep.nyc.gov>,
 <SGreenberger@cityhall.nyc.gov>,
 <Walter.Melnick@fema.gov>,
 <Brian.Sanvidge@Labor.State.Ny.Us>,
 <Joe.Picciano@fema.gov>
Date: 11/22/2002 10:06:47 PM
Subject: FW: NYC DoH and EPA

Kath,

As you can see from the email below, it has come to my attention that EPA staff under your direction have attempted to solicit a letter from the NYC Department of Health pressing FEMA to extend the registration deadline for the Individual and Family Grant program through September 2004. Let me be very clear - EPA's decision to interfere in this FEMA program without consulting us is unacceptable. I strongly caution you to abandon this

course
of action immediately.

Despite considerable funding for various studies, so far the EPA has been unable to produce any conclusive scientific evidence of an indoor air quality problem in Lower Manhattan. Until such time as you are able to do so, you only further jeopardize your agency's reputation by attempting to implement, expand or extend programs that you cannot justify. If in the future you are able to identify a significant threat to the public health, I recommend that you pursue funding for any such initiatives through your own statutory authorities.

Brad Gair
Federal Recovery Officer
FEMA NYC
WTC Federal Recovery Office
(646) 746-1888
(917) 842-7947 (cell)

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

From: Melnick, Walter
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2002 4:18 PM
To: Gair, Brad
Cc: Chacon, Emily
Subject: RE: DoH meeting - FYI

Brad - FYI. Do you want us to set up the meeting? I have spoken to Emily & she will speak to Kelly about the extension issue. Walter

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

From: Chacon, Emily
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2002 3:17 PM
To: Melnick, Walter
Subject: DoH meeting - FYI

Hi Walter,

Kelly McKinney from DoH called me this afternoon, he wanted us to know that EPA has asked him to prepare a letter from the DoH that says that it is necessary to extend the FEMA/State HEPA Vacuum program until the Indoor Cleaning Program is completed in Sept. 2004. I think he is willing to hold off on that letter until he hears from us.

Thanks,

Emily

Emily Chacon
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