



**Department of
Environmental
Protection**

59-12 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, New York
11355-2108

**Christopher O. Ward
Commissioner**

May 3, 2002

Brad Gair
Federal Emergency Management Agency
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Gair:

The collapse of the World Trade Center (WTC) towers on September 11, 2001 resulted in the depositing of dust and debris on and/or in many buildings in lower Manhattan. Recent inspections of buildings near the WTC site have revealed that, while many buildings are now free of debris, other buildings still have visible deposits of material from the WTC collapse.

The City of New York believes that it is in the public interest to remove this material from buildings in the vicinity of the WTC site. Samples collected during the inspections indicate that asbestos may be present in some of the debris. The removal of this material will assure that it will not become re-entrained in the air in the future, thereby protecting against any adverse effects on air quality or public health and safety. This will also reinforce the confidence of area residents and workers and therefore expedite and enhance the economic revitalization of lower Manhattan.

The City of New York therefore requests that FEMA provide the necessary funding for the hiring of contractors to perform the cleaning and/or testing of interior and exterior spaces, as appropriate.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature of Christopher O. Ward, written in dark ink. The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being prominent.

Christopher O. Ward