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EPA/NYC Indoor Air Approach - Request to FEMA

April 23, 2002 (8:45AM)

Overarching Goal: To Develop an Action Plan which contains Near and Longer Term Components. This Action Plan is designed to support NYC residents and worker populations, so they may have confidence and protection regarding any potential significant increased health risks which might result from the exposure in their indoor environments on a long term basis to potential contaminants from the collapse of the WTC buildings and associated fires. Maintaining this confidence and protection will enable and enhance the economic revitalization of Lower Manhattan on an expedited basis. Near term actions will focus on confirming or refining, if appropriate, clean up techniques, removing any remaining debris/dust that may remain from the WTC collapse and offering clean up and post clean up sampling to residents.

Program Components:

A) Near-term: The goal of the near term program is to provide cleaning and sampling to residents of Lower Manhattan ~~upon request~~ ^{where needed}, to conduct provide additional indoor air sampling data for asbestos to evaluate qualitatively the effectiveness of clean up techniques, to provide confirmation of information on recommended clean up techniques, and to assure removal of any remaining debris/dust outside of WTC ground zero area which may still remain, thereby eliminating the potential for re-entrainment in the air..

Timing of Near Term Efforts: Begin by May 1 with EPA hotline for apartment cleaning requests. Duration of all efforts may continue through December depending upon public response.

1. Cleaning of Debris-Laden Unoccupied, Uncleaned Buildings

Objective: Now that debris removal from the immediate areas of destruction in the WTC complex is nearing completion, the remaining unoccupied, uncleaned buildings must be cleaned. This will prevent debris/dust from being re-entrained in air and/or recontaminating the nearby areas with debris/dust.

Program: NYC will clean the remaining unoccupied (residential and commercial), uncleaned buildings near the WTC site that contain WTC-debris. NYC will work with building owners to determine reasons that these buildings have not been cleaned yet. If building owners are not able to expeditiously clean their property, NYC will proceed.

Projected Cost: \$20 million, based upon estimates approximately \$2 million/building for 10 buildings. Inventory of buildings is being identified by NYC and may be decreased as a result of NYC's efforts to get building owners to conduct clean up.

Status of Request for FEMA mission assignment: Awaiting initial FEMA feedback

2. Pilot Building Cleaning Effort to Confirm Cleaning Techniques

Objective: Since there has been some public concern over long term protectiveness and effectiveness of recommended clean up techniques, this project will be designed to

- ✓ **evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the techniques** which have been recommended for apartment clean ups, that is, wet wiping, wet moping and use of HEPA filters. **These methods** It is anticipated that the results of this evaluation will reassure the public that the recommended methods are the most effective techniques available and prevent inhalation exposure to clean asbestos and other fibrous materials, as well as other potential indicator compounds. **A further objective will be to determine if sampling for asbestos (or another potential contaminant of concern, e.g., fibrous glass) can serve as a marker for all other potential contaminants of concern.**

Program: EPA will clean one unoccupied building to confirm and test the techniques recommended for removing WTC-debris material from the indoor environment.

Projected Cost: \$5 million. This cost is higher than in the above efforts because it will involve sampling for several potential indicators of WTC related contamination before work is commenced, will involve use of several modifications of cleaning techniques with post clean up sampling and recleaning if necessary.

Status of Request for FEMA mission assignment: Submitted as revised 4/11/02. Awaiting approval.

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3. Direct Assistance to Residences and Residential Buildings Owners

[In lieu of accepting any "self-identified" request for cleaning, a request for cleaning needs to take into account what clean-up has already occurred. Also, the information generated by the Building and Park Inventory and the Targeted Sampling will enable characterization of areas south of Canal Street as not at risk for contamination requiring professional clean-up.]

Objective: To provide self identified citizens (building owners and residents, **workers**), who are concerned that their apartments **and commercial buildings** may have significant debris/dust from the WTC impacts remaining, a means of getting professional contractor clean up support.

Program: EPA, working with the support of OSHA and NYC, will establish mechanisms to offer assistance to individuals that self-identify as having request require cleaning concerns in lower Manhattan within a geographic area bounded on the south, east and west by the coastline and on the north by the south side of Canal Street.

EPA will solicit participation in this direct assistance program through public announcements. An EPA hotline will be established to receive requests from the public as soon as possible. This hotline will be coordinated with already existing hotlines in

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