

EPA/NYC Indoor Air Approach - Request to FEMA

November 22, 2002 (5:01 PM)

1. Direct Assistance to Residents and Residential Buildings Owners:

- a) Cleaning followed by air asbestos testing. .
- b) Testing for airborne asbestos within residences or building areas.
- c) (Should testing results identify an airborne asbestos problem, arrangements can be made rapidly to have professional clean up done.)
- d) Providing HEPA vacuums to residences who request to perform their own cleaning on an ongoing basis.

Projected Cost: Needs to be determined.

Status of Request for FEMA mission assignment: **At Washington headquarters for FEMA review. (Looking at alternative funding methodologies.)**

2. Targeted Sampling to Determine if There are Occupied Locations Require Additional Cleaning

Objective: To determine whether there are levels of airborne asbestos in excess of benchmarked level in a geographic sample of indoor environments in Lower Manhattan.

Program: EPA will collect airborne asbestos samples within a variety of residential buildings in different geographic areas of Lower Manhattan, south of Canal Street.

Projected Cost: \$3000 per location sampled. Estimate 25- 50 locations.

Status of Request for FEMA mission assignment: **Brad believes that we do not want to go with this until we see how many complaints come in. On hold.**

3. Pilot Building Cleaning Effort to Confirm Cleaning Techniques

Objective: Evaluate the effectiveness of clean up techniques which have been recommended for apartment clean up, that is, wet wiping, wet mopping and use of HEPA filtered vacuums, in preventing inhalation exposure to asbestos and other fibrous materials, as well as other potential indicator compounds.

Program: EPA will clean one unoccupied building to confirm and test the techniques.

Projected Cost: \$5 million.

Status of Request for FEMA mission assignment: **Interagency agreement being drafted and returned to Brad in next few days from Washington. Appears to be a go.**

4. Cleaning of Debris-Laden Unoccupied, Uncleaned Buildings

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.

Status of Request for FEMA mission assignment: **Andy Alper's letter was good on the economics . However, because this is indoor, you need a connection which addresses the inside. Need to show exterior impact/economic impact. Is there a risk or nuisance. Took an e-mail last time from Jane Kenny. (Exterior building cleanup) Must identify the vehicle for enforcement for them. Debris removal to be eligible under their regs, it must be necessary "to eliminate immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety."**

5. Clean Up of Exteriors of Buildings with Residual Debris/Dust

Objective: To eliminate remaining debris/dust resulting from the WTC collapse on building exteriors in Lower Manhattan thereby assuring this material will not become re-entrained in the air at a future time, thus creating a potential exposure to the public.

Program: NYC DEP will contract for the cleaning of the exteriors of approximately 250 buildings in Lower Manhattan. EPA, NYCDEP and OSHA will oversee contractors.

Projected Cost: NYC \$10.28 Million

Project Period: April 2002 through November 2002

Status of Request for FEMA mission assignment: **They believe the issues of funding, etc. are resolved and are expecting us to proceed immediately.**

6. Identification and Inspection of HVAC Systems in Lower Manhattan.

Objective: Evaluate whether further actions are required for central, recirculating HVAC systems in residential buildings in Lower Manhattan which may have been impacted by the debris/dust from the WTC building collapse.

Program: NYC will retain a consultant to identify central, recirculating HVAC systems in residential buildings in Lower Manhattan which may have been impacted by the debris/dust from the WTC building collapse for assessment and/or inspection and to develop any needed recommendations for further actions.

Projected Cost: To be determined. **Waiting for more information from us. We are investigating practicality of idea and costs with ASHRAE, the professional organization for air conditioning engineers. FEMA would entertain this, but has put it to the side until we have a better handle on feasibility.**

Longterm

1. Sampling to Determine Background Levels of Potential Contaminants:

Status: This is part of the Interagency agreement, Brad is expecting it back in a day or two from Washington.

2. Data system--**They have asked this to be included in the testing and cleaning. (First one) for review and it will share its fate.**