

Ground Zero

Grieve Today, Mayor Says, And Then Grasp Tomorrow

By JENNIFER STEINHAEUER

Like mourners who mark the first anniversary of a loved one's death by laying a stone at the grave, New Yorkers should take this day to reflect on their collective loss, and then turn from grief to the future, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said the other day.

"What I'm trying to do," he said about today's commemoration ceremonies, "is that in the morning, we will look back and remember who they were and why they died. And in the evening, come out of it looking forward and say 'O.K., we're going to go forward.'"

Although Mr. Bloomberg said he understood that for some people pain and grief were unending, he suggested that what might be best now was to inaugurate an era in which the attack on the World Trade Center was a thing of the past, rather than a preoccupation of the present.

"My job in the end is to balance that," Mr. Bloomberg said. "The memorializing with getting people to look ahead. And most people who live in New York City want that. I am sure there are some family members that say 'No, no, I lost my loved one and I don't ever want anybody to look ahead,' but that's not what most people want and that's not what I am here to do." [Excerpts, Page A15.]

During a 45-minute interview on a bench in Battery Park last week, Mr. Bloomberg watched as tourists ambled by in search of hot-dog vendors, ticket booths and tour boat operators, seemingly oblivious to him.

While Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani

— who would be noticed by just about any American on any park bench anywhere, if not by his face, then by his enormous security detail — will be remembered as the man who led the city through its darkest moments last year, it is Mr. Bloomberg who is trying to set the tone for recovery.

In some ways, Mr. Bloomberg, who has served as the post-9/11 mayor almost three times as long as Mr. Giuliani did, has a more daunting task than Mr. Giuliani,

who enjoyed almost unanimous support from a battered constituency right after the attack last year. Mr. Bloomberg, in contrast, finds himself trying to balance the conflicting demands of Lower Manhattan residents, struggling businesses and members of victims' families, especially a small but vocal group that has accused him of being insensitive to their grief. To complicate matters, he is faced with a \$5 billion budget gap.

He is not the hero mayor of Sept. 11, nor does he seem to want to be; Mr. Bloomberg tucked into his answers to many questions a reference to his pet project, improving the city's public schools. "I think that the most important thing for this city is to do the best job we can to improve the public

PERSPECTIVES

Sept. 11 and Beyond:
Michael R. Bloomberg

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

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Grieve Today,

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educational system," he said.

"In terms of rebuilding," he added, "an awful lot of buildings that we build here won't be done in seven years from now. Just think about the length of time it takes — we still haven't really agreed on conceptually what should be here — that is what I want to focus on."

Mr. Bloomberg knew from the moment the planes hit the buildings last year that the job he was asking voters to give him had changed dramatically, but he never considered dropping out. "I've never had any second thoughts about taking the job," he said. "I've never had any second thoughts about spending the time or the money."

But he said he was sometimes frustrated when people refused to sacrifice their parochial interests to the common good. For example, he said, when he describes the city's financial straits, people often reply: "I understand that, but just take care of my project. Don't worry about the others."

"That's not the real world," Mr. Bloomberg continued. "I've somehow or another got to get us through a \$5 billion or thereabouts lack of money every year for the foreseeable future."

But the most emotionally difficult part, he said, is trying to comfort families whose lives he has entered only in grief. "I still get choked up when I do eulogies at funerals," Mr. Bloomberg said. "You know they're for people I've never met. So it isn't that I'm choked up for the person, I guess I'm choked up for the concept. Because, you know, I look at those left behind and that's where my sympathies are."

He goes to funerals and firefighter plaque dedications regularly, and makes a point of arriving early to meet the entire firehouse privately.

Unlike most officials, he often files out of a funeral last, rather than first. He has called almost every family of uniformed officers killed on duty, and will make his way through the rest of the list until he gets to them all, he said.

"I've said when I talk to the families of the firefighters and police officers that I call, you know I can pray for your son or husband or brother or whatever but I can't really do anything other than that," he said. "What I can do is try to lead this city forward for those left behind. And most of the families, that is what they want."

Mr. Bloomberg has been criticized in the past by some families of the dead for being cavalier about their feelings. "You know these families' groups that you interview; they don't represent most of these families," he said.

"I think the Jews do it right. They have a headstone unveiling a year after the funeral, and that's sort of the time that you sort of stop the mourning process and start going forward."

In some ways, Mr. Bloomberg, with his myriad connections in private business, where he made his fortune, has been better equipped than his predecessor to reach beyond government at a time of fiscal crisis. The commemoration today is a case in point: he asked three friends — Gerald M. Levin, the former chairman of AOL Time Warner; Stanley S. Shuman, managing director of Allen & Company; and Thomas S. Murphy, retired chairman of Capital Cities/ABC — to raise the roughly \$9 million needed to pay for the ceremonies.

He has carefully entered a dispute over the memorial, which pits families against residents of Lower Manhattan and Mr. Bloomberg against Mr. Giuliani, who wants to see most of Ground Zero transformed into a memorial.

"I don't have any preconceived notions about how big it

should be," said Mr. Bloomberg, who was among the critics of plans presented recently by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, which focused on rebuilding office space.

"I do have a preconceived notion that whatever we do on that site and around that site has to work together," he said, "and that this city has to do two things: memorialize, but also build for the future."

"I don't see how you could leave all 16 acres for a memorial," he said. "It's not fair to those left behind. They're going to need jobs, they're going to need schools, they're going to need restaurants and stores and that sort of thing."

"Everybody wants to talk about the size of the memorial and the location of the memorial," Mr. Bloomberg said. "But I don't know why we are sure what the memorial will be. For example, it could be a park. I think that's what most people envision. For example, what better memorial could you have than a phenomenal school?"

Nobody, he said, wanted to build faster than he did, "but I just think that it's a mistake to rush through it."

He will not yield easily to those who want to turn the area into what he recently called a cemetery. "For a lot of families, yes, they don't have any remains and so they say that's their loved ones," he said. "The people that live across the street look at the area as their home, and we've got to find a way to balance those two things. That is the most difficult part and that's why you want to do it later on, looking back as opposed to looking forward."

An Unlikely Mayor Who Won His First Race

EARLY YEARS Born Feb. 14, 1942, in Medford, Mass.; B.S. Johns Hopkins, 1964; M.B.A. Harvard, 1966.

PUBLIC CAREER Began last year when he made his first run for office and won.

PRIVATE SECTOR CAREER Salomon Brothers, 1966-81; founded Bloomberg L.P. 1981, ran it until 2001.

POLITICAL DOSSIER Lifelong Democrat who joined Republicans to seek mayoral nomination. Advocates spending for social programs and supports abortion rights. An able fund-raiser who gives up his townhouse for Republican political events.

STYLE Champagne budget; house-wine tastes. Owns houses all over the world, but likes domestic wines and meatloaf. Lover of golf, for which he says he lacks talent. Skilled at flying planes and helicopters. Not afraid to show his temper; quick to make up.

QUOTE "What I can do is try to lead this city forward for those left behind."

HIS FUTURE Not at his company, and probably not in politics, but likely to run some other large organization.



The New York Times, 1978

7/2/12

Eye In the Sky Tracks WTC Poison Plume Over Brooklyn

By Christy Goodman

Thanks to a photo taken by the crew aboard the International Space Station on September 11, the rest of the world is finally realizing what Brooklynites already knew.

The dark cloud of smoke, filled with debris and particulates, from the World Trade Center also covered Brooklyn -- not just Manhattan, where nearly all of the testing and funding went.

The wheezing, coughing and shortness of breath that can be found throughout the city, dubbed the "World Trade Center Cough," is happening in Brooklyn, too.

"Some people who were exposed to the plume were treated and it went away," said New York Methodist's Chief of Pulmonary Medicine Dr. Gerald Lombardo. "Not everyone exposed will suffer horrible damage. People do get better."

However, those people who spent a lot of time on the pile are showing symptoms similar to reactive airway disease, a disease that usually occurs when any toxic inhalation injures the airway and sets up chronic symptoms for many months after the initial inhalation, said Lombardo.

"I can say with certainty, the number of people coming to the New York Methodist Hospital Pulmonary Function Laboratory, where we do lung testing, went up 23 percent in the first quarter of 2002," said Lombardo. "It is not surprising."

Lombardo said he personally underestimated the degree of exposure until the extent of the plume was pointed out.

The inches of dust everyone experienced on their clothes and cars on September 11 was kicked up and inhaled in the days after the attack.

"We just do not know how that will behave in the lung because we have never seen anything like this before," said Lombardo.

The combination of substances that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found are not typical of any situation anyone has ever dealt with.

The EPA took four air samples on September 11 and 12 samples on September 12. They also took samples on the 13th.

"We were looking for volatile organic compounds (VOC) which you would expect to be associated with a fire, lead and asbestos," said EPA spokesperson Mary Mears.

"We either did not find the contaminants at all, or some very low levels of VOCs, but nothing near our levels of concern," Mears said.

The EPA also took dust samples on the 12th, not the 11th, and found less than one percent asbestos.

"We did not specifically look for fibrous glass in Brooklyn or New Jersey," reported Mears.

The EPA's main concern was getting to and around the pile, because that, of course, would be the worst-case scenario.

Long Island College Hospital's Dr. Robert Guisti treats children with asthma as well as children and adults with cystic fibrosis.

"We initially noticed there was a slight increase in the symptomology that patients were experiencing [due to air quality]," said Guisti. "In recent months we have not noticed any increase."

Guisti said the only people he noticed to have the worst cases of "World Trade Center Cough" were the rescue workers who spent days, weeks or months in the rubble.

"I examined a firefighter recently who told me for three weeks he went back almost every day," said Lombardo. "He felt the equipment to prevent inhalation, in his opinion, did not help much."

Pulmonologist Dr. Walfredo Leon, a clinical

association professor of medicine at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, has been conducting a study on rescue workers complaining about respiratory problems since September 11.

While Leon agreed that a study for Brooklynites should be conducted, he said his study has developed a specific grid of the World Trade Center site.

Leon is trying to pinpoint specific areas of the pile, and the surrounding areas, where the most toxins were inhaled by workers.

"There are persons that I am seeing that have respiratory complaints that are residents of Brooklyn," said Leon. "I am not studying those persons, but they definitely are complaining."

City Councilmember David Yassky has been working with over a dozen elected officials representing downtown Brooklyn and beyond in affected areas of Brooklyn, on a letter to the EPA outlining concerns about the post September 11 clean-up and health issues.

"It is a request to the EPA to expand their clean-up program to include the affected areas of Brooklyn," said Yassky.

According to the councilmember, the EPA is implementing a clean-up program in which it will, upon request, inspect buildings for contamination. If the building is indeed contaminated, the EPA will properly clean the area. However, this program is only available in Lower Manhattan.

"This picture shows clearly that large parts of Brooklyn were affected as much as Lower Manhattan," said Yassky, who pointed out that the plume hung over Brooklyn for months.

"I think that the tests done in the couple of days afterwards [by the EPA] do not cover it," said Yassky. "There is a mess that needs to be cleaned up now."

Yassky was at the polls on September 11 and in the neighborhood in the days following. He, too, "breathed in," as he put it.

"We are also asking for an outreach program just to make sure that folks who were

here understand that they were exposed to a real risk of respiratory damage and that if people develop symptoms, those people should tell their doctor," said the councilmember.

Councilmember Bill De Blasio joined Yassky and Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez on the steps of City Hall this week to demand action by the EPA.

"Brooklyn residents deserve and demand action from the EPA," he said. "As Brooklyn and the rest of the city struggle to recover, we cannot have this cloud hanging over us."

The politicians also demanded a comprehensive study and health treatment plan for individuals, as well.

"The NASA pictures and information from local health officials paint a very clear picture of what we already suspected—the toxic cloud of debris wasn't confined to Lower Manhattan, but was carried over to Brooklyn," said Velazquez.

"It is time for the EPA to acknowledge they underestimated the environmental impact on our borough and take action immediately as outlined in our joint letter to EPA Administrator Christine Whitman," she said.

Rep. Ed Towns has demanded that federal, state and city governments include Brooklyn in any studies related to air quality since September 11.

"I believe that there is sufficient evidence to include Brooklyn residents in various studies that are being conducted by Mt. Sinai Medical School and NYU, as well as the New York Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control," said Towns, who wanted to see results by September 11, 2002.

In addition, Towns said in his letter, "I believe that there is sufficient rationale to begin a testing and evaluation program in Brooklyn."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has funded a program, administered by New York State Department of Labor called the Individual and Family

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Goodman

Eye in the sky...

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Photo by Paul Martinka

Grant Program that provides assistance for items, primarily air purifiers, air filters and HEPA (high efficiency particulate air filter system) vacuum cleaners.

"What it is designed to do is help people buy equipment to help improve the environment in their homes, or to repair or replace their air conditioners which took in a lot of dust after the attacks," said a FEMA spokesperson.

The program, which has been up and running since mid-November, has an application deadline of September 30. If interested, call 1-800-462-9029.

The Department of Health (DOH) in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are working to set up a registry of 200,000 people who fit into the worst case scenario of September 11, called the World Trade Registry.

"The goal of the registry is to look the people who we know had the most impact, the people who in some cases were covered in debris after the towers collapsed, and being able to track what the potential impacts are over a period of time," said DOH spokesperson Sandra Mullin.

Therefore, if the people who were highly exposed to the plume show minimum health effects and no clusters of illness occur, those people who were less exposed have less to worry about.

"There will be no quick answers," said Mullin.

Since September 11, DOH has been continually monitoring 911 calls and emergency room visits as well, looking for clusters of people with common symptoms and health experiences to see if something has happened in one particular area.

"You certainly would have heard of it if there were any issues," said Mullin.

Lombardo stated, "I think a person experiencing symptoms should definitely seek help and not assume that it will go away. It needs evaluation."



This dramatic photo, taken by the crew aboard the International Space Station on September 11, shows the massive cloud of debris and toxins that covered Brooklyn like a shroud after the attack on the World Trade Center.

Lung Ailments May Force 500 Firefighters Off Job

By DENISE GRADY
and ANDREW C. REVKIN

As many as 500 New York City firefighters may have to retire early as a result of "respiratory disability," chronic breathing problems caused by their exposure to dense clouds of dust, smoke and fumes at the World Trade Center, health officials said yesterday.

The potential departure of the firefighters comes as the department is still struggling to deal with the loss of 341 firefighters and 2 paramedics, who were among the 2,801 people killed in the collapse of the twin towers after the attack on Sept. 11.

As of Aug. 28, 358 firefighters and 5 emergency medical workers were still on medical leave or light duty because of respiratory disorders that began after they worked at the site. Symptoms include persistent cough, wheezing, shortness of breath and other asthma-like symptoms, sinus inflammation and heartburn.

David J. Prezant, deputy chief medical officer of the New York Fire Department, said doctors did not know exactly what the affected workers had been exposed to, or whether they would get better or worse. Many, he said, worried about

whether they would develop more serious lung diseases or cancer.

Their current problems are thought to have been caused by the inhalation and swallowing of fine particles created by the fires and building collapse. Workers who had the heaviest exposure — those who were there when the buildings collapsed and in the first few days and weeks after — had the highest incidence of respiratory trouble. Very few firefighters used respirators or other types of breathing protection in the early days after the attack, when the air was at its worst.

In addition to the 363 firefighters and rescue workers with respiratory disability, 213 others were on leave with emotional stress resulting from their work at the site and from their grief over the deaths of so many friends and co-workers. The number of stress-related incidents observed among the workers during the 11 months after the attack was 17 times

the number that occurred in 11 months before the attack.

Reports on the firefighters' injuries and illnesses are to be published tomorrow by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and another, to be published on Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine, has already been published on the journal's Web site, www.nejm.com.

Over all, the surviving firefighters have fared both better and worse than doctors expected. Considering that nearly all of the city's more than 11,000 firefighters worked at the site, and that 90 percent developed a cough, the proportion with chronic problems is relatively small.

"Some might have thought the percentage would be higher," said Dr. Prezant, who is also a professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and an author of both reports.

In the firefighters who do have lingering symptoms, however, the problems have been more severe and persistent than doctors would have expected, Dr. Prezant said. In the past, among firefighters who had respiratory problems from smoke inhalation, 90 percent recovered. But among the 332 firefighters who had a severe case of "World Trade Center cough," only 48 percent have fully recovered and returned to work. Severe cases were defined as those needing four or more consecutive weeks of medical leave.

Dr. Prezant said the reason that the symptoms were so severe was probably that the concentration of particles was very high, and the exposures prolonged and repeated.

"We're never going to know the full scale of what the firefighters were exposed to on that day," Dr. Prezant said. He said that air quality testing did not begin until several days after the attack. But he said everyone at the site was clearly exposed to "a massive dust cloud" full of tiny particles that could be inhaled into the airways and lungs.

"Even if that respirable airborne particulate matter does not include a single chemical, it is incredibly toxic at that level of exposure," Dr. Prezant said, adding that there was a great deal of evidence that exposure to such material can cause increased rates of chronic lung disease like emphysema and heart disease.

The very finest particles can make their way into the depths of the lung and persist there for a long time, he said. Some particles, like asbestos fibers, stay in the lung forever. Other

particles can be digested and removed. But in some cases, Dr. Prezant said, "the enzymes used to digest them can lead to lung inflammation and destruction, and that's why, in some people, the healing response can be part of the illness."

Dr. Prezant said that one of the most important findings of the study was that many of the firefighters with persistent cough and other respiratory problems also had heartburn, or gastroesophageal reflux, a condition in which stomach acid backs up into the esophagus and throat. He said swallowing the particles may irritate the stomach and esophagus, and that in the firefighters, the condition may have been aggravated by stress, long hours and irregular meal times.

He said doctors had not realized before these cases that heavy inhalation or swallowing of particulates could bring on reflux. The reflux may cause the respiratory problems or make them worse, he said.

"This is critically important for physicians to know," he said, because the cough does not improve unless the reflux is treated.

The report by the disease centers also includes a summary of a survey, taken 6 weeks after the attack, of people who lived near the trade center. About 75 percent were initially evacuated from their homes. Many reported that they had had health problems: 66 percent had nose or

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throat irritations; 50 percent had eye irritations or infections; 47 percent had coughs. About 39 percent had signs of post-traumatic stress.

People who worked in the area also had health concerns and stress-related problems. Sherry Baron, an official with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, said that at the time, health officials did not realize how deeply those people were affected. "Perhaps one of the lessons we can learn," Dr. Baron said, "is to have adequate outreach programs and other kinds of services ready and available to a much wider group of people than we might have thought about at the time."

The new reports also address questions about the firefighters' use — or failure to use — respirators. In the first hours after the attack, most of the thousands of rescuers and workers converging on the site rushed into the swirling clouds of dust and smoke without much regard for their lungs, the reports say, based on surveys of the workers.

Among those who had severe cases of the cough, 93 percent said they used respirators "rarely or not at all" on the first day and only a little more in subsequent days.

Reviews of the emergency response concluded that this was partly the result of the urgency of the task and also because New York City officials and federal officials simply did not have the right gear on hand.

A week elapsed before most workers were wearing the device that federal worker-health officials decided was best suited to the conditions: a half-face respirator, a rubbery mask that seals around the nose and mouth and can be fitted with different filters.

During their first hours at the site, firefighters often had inappropriate protection, Dr. Baron and other health officials found. Most either had no lung protection or used paper masks. Others relied on the heavy backpack-style pressurized breathing systems they use to fight conventional fires. But these were cumbersome, and provided air for only about 8 to 15 minutes, Dr. Prezant said.

At the trade center, Dr. Baron said, "It took just about a week before the normal systems and supplies kicked into place."

"The lesson here is how to move that process up three or four days," she said.

Dr. Prezant said that ironworkers at the site also had increased rates of respiratory problems, but were being studied by other researchers who had not yet published their findings.

Ground Zero

South Ferry station on track for 2004

By **PEPE DONOHUE**
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Construction of a South Ferry subway station to replace the century-old, pint-size terminal could begin as soon as 2004, a top transit source said.

While the renovated and enlarged station won't likely open until mid-2006, lower Manhattan commuters will get improved service as soon as Sunday.

The recent completion of a round-the-clock, \$100 million project to rebuild crushed sections of subway tunnel at Ground Zero will allow the resumption of service to the southern tip of Manhattan.

In addition to reopening the Rector St. and South Ferry stations for 1 and 9 riders, the Transit Authority is reopening the Cortlandt St. station on the N and R lines. The 1 and 9 Cortlandt St. stop will be bypassed indefinitely.

The end of the disruptions — imposed after the terrorist attacks — means 1, 2, 3 and 9 trains will return to their previous routes, with 2 and 3 trains running express in Manhattan.

At the South Ferry station, the proposed \$400 million renovation calls for ex-

panding the terminal so it can accommodate 10-car trains. The station is so small that the doors on only half a train can open to discharge or pick up passengers.

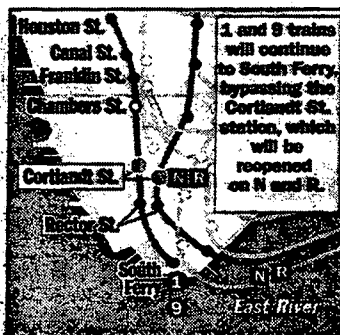
The plans also include four tracks and three platforms, allowing for more frequent arrivals and departures by eliminating the slow U-turn loop used to reverse direction.

"A great new stop at South Ferry will mean more people living and working downtown," said Gene Russianoff, a lawyer for the Straphangers Campaign, part of the New York Public Interest Research Group. "It's exactly what downtown needs."

Transit planners also envision an underground connection between South Ferry and

the Whitehall St. station of the N and R — and possibly the 4 and 5 stop at Bowling Green.

Further details on transit projects — the construction of a PATH terminal in lower Manhattan, a revamped Fulton St./Broadway/Nassau St. subway complex and an underground passage linking the stations — are expected to be released in the coming weeks.



Daily News
9/13/02

DAILY NEWS

Friday, September 13, 2002

Picking up pace on curb cuts

City Hall has agreed to move a lot faster to make sure every New York street corner is wheelchair-accessible, spending \$218 million to fulfill the promise.

The pledge to finish construction of curb cuts citywide by 2010 settles an eight-year-old lawsuit accusing officials of delaying in complying with federal laws on sidewalk access.

"This settlement hastens the day when wheelchair users will face no bar-

riers as they move around New York," said lawyer Robert Stulberg, who represented the Queens-based Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association.

Of the city's 158,738 street corners, 39.5% don't have accessible curbs. Queens has the most corners needing construction, 45.4%; Staten Island has 21.3%; Brooklyn has 17.5%; the Bronx has 11.5%, and 4.3% are in Manhattan.

Robert Gearty

Ground Zero

Few of Those Eligible Register For Cleanup Help Near 9/11 Site

By KIRK JOHNSON

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 — With just a week left to sign up, only about a quarter of the New York City residents eligible to have their apartments tested and cleaned to remove leftover World Trade Center dust have registered, federal environmental officials said today.

They said that many residents perhaps deemed the cleanup unnecessary, and that some might have been discouraged by reports of fraudulent cleanup contractors posing as government representatives.

But the biggest problem may be that many people still do not know that the offer even exists. The first free cleanup and air-sampling work with contractors in the field started on Sept. 12, two months behind schedule.

"One of the things we're finding is that when we go in to clean up, other people see us in the building cleaning up and then come forward," said the Environmental Protection Agency's administrator, Christie Whitman, in testifying before the Senate's Committee on Environment and Public Works about her agency's response to the terrorist attack.

Mrs. Whitman told the panel that she was interested in pushing the sign-up period — which was already extended once, by 30 days — past the Oct. 3 deadline. But because of the complex chain of responsibility over indoor air, she said, the decision would have to be approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is paying for the cleanups, and the City of New York.

A spokesman for FEMA said that

the agency would go along with any decision to extend the sign-up period if city officials decided that more time was necessary.

The commissioner of the city's Department of Environmental Protection, Christopher O. Ward, noted that calls to the E.P.A.'s hot line were declining, but that the city was committed to seeking full participation in the cleanup program. He said that the city would discuss with FEMA the possibility of expanding the cleanup program to include businesses.

About 20,000 apartments south of Canal, Allen and Pike Streets in Lower Manhattan are covered by the plan. Residents may register by calling the E.P.A. at (877) 796-5471 or by signing on to www.epa.gov/wtc.

In signing up, residents are given two options: for a cleaning and testing, or a testing only.

As of today, 3,633 residents have registered for a clean-and-test, and 1,031 for a testing only, said a spokesman for the E.P.A. Most of the apartments are to be tested only for asbestos, but 250 of those initial apartments will also receive a broader spectrum of tests for dioxins, heavy metals and other pollutants under a separate pilot program.

The Environmental Protection Agency spokesman, Richard Stapleton, said that a decision on whether to expand the testing menu would be made on the basis of those initial 250 apartments, but that results were not yet available. Of the 80 asbestos-only apartment tests so far, he said, 2 contained asbestos in levels that suggested a need for further cleanup.

New York Times
9/25/02

Plan Chosen for Redesign of a Plaza at 55 Water St.

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

Amid the canyons of the financial district, it is hard to imagine how one could conceal an acre of public space that offered daylight, harbor breezes and a gull's-eye view of the East River waterfront.

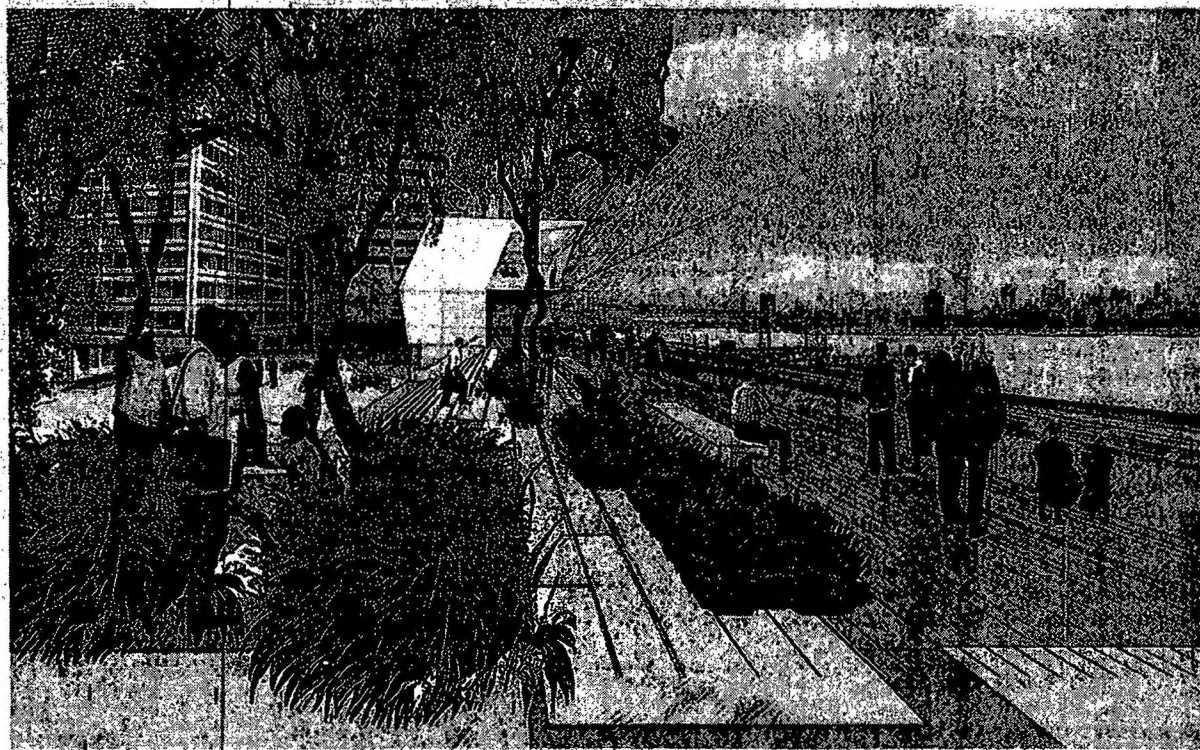
But the builders of 55 Water Street, New York City's largest office tower, managed the feat three decades ago by elevating their plaza 35 feet above the street as part of a planned skyway system that never materialized. The isolated and barren plaza has drawn few visitors over the years, though it generated a development bonus of 410,000 square feet of office space in a 3.6 million-square-foot building.

The plaza was so poorly regarded that Goldman Sachs, a prospective tenant, proposed last year to replace it with a 240-foot-high trading-floor structure and pay \$5 million to upgrade other nearby public spaces in exchange. That project was canceled.

Now, two design firms in Lower Manhattan propose to recreate the plaza and its approaches as a "series of dunelike spaces along a sloped escarpment that echo the post-glacial landscape of New England and the mid-Atlantic states," with an angular lighthouse at one corner for good measure.

More than wishful thinking, this proposal by Rogers Marvel Architects and Ken Smith Landscape Architect was chosen Wednesday in a juried competition by the building's owner, the New Water Street Corporation, and the Municipal Art Society. And so it is seriously intended to be a blueprint for reclaiming a public amenity that never was.

Though it is too early to say how



Rogers Marvel Architects and Ken Smith Landscape Architect

A rendering of a proposal selected for the re-creation of a public plaza and its approaches at 55 Water Street.

much the project would cost, there is money for it in the building budget, said Harry A. Bridgwood, executive vice president of New Water Street, a subsidiary of the Retirement Systems of Alabama.

Work might begin next spring.

Speaking of David G. Bronner, the chief executive of the Retirement Systems, Mr. Bridgwood added, "If he says he's going to do something, he'll do it."

In the redesign, the plaza would be planted with black locusts, honey locusts and several varieties of grass. Interspersed with small mounds or dunes, the ground would be graded so that it rose gently to the east edge,

where the river panorama unfolds.

A forbidding bank of stairs and escalators would be turned into a series of landscaped terraces.

A large passenger elevator would bring visitors up to the plaza, to an observation deck at the top of the lighthouse and to an area set aside for ice-skating, outdoor film screenings or other events.

The choice of the plan from among six finalists was unanimous.

"Of all of them," said Frank E. Sanchis III, executive director of the Municipal Art Society, "this was the one that found a way to make people realize that there is something up there."



The New York Times

NY Times 9.2.02

Newsday
9.25.02

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THE NEXT NEW YORK

A WEEKLY REPORT ON REBUILDING LOWER MANHATTAN

EPA Says Toxins Near WTC Low, But Emissions Persist

By Pete Bowles
STAFF WRITER

The amounts of toxins in cleaned apartments and offices near the World Trade Center site are low and well within public health guidelines, according to a study released yesterday by the American Lung Association of New York City.

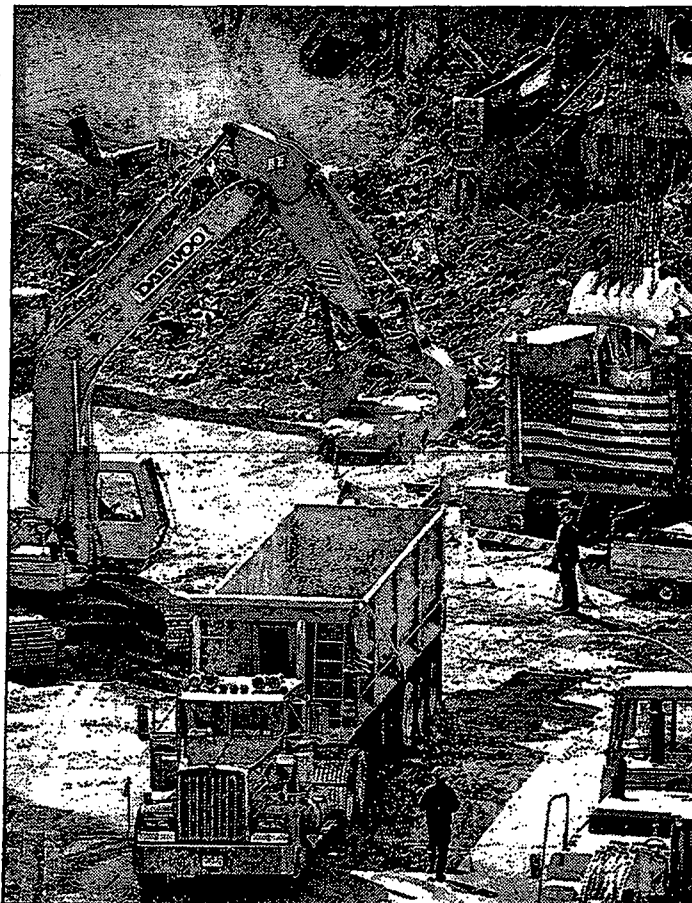
But the study confirmed the fears of local residents that the concentration of diesel emissions from construction trucks and backup generators in lower Manhattan is "quite high."

"The equipment that was rolled in expressly to help this city rebuild and heal is, in fact, contributing to long-term health concerns," said Peter Iwanowicz, the association's director of environmental health. "The pollution from these engines is poisoning us and contributing to the incidence of respiratory illness today and in future generations," he added.

The association recommended that all equipment and vehicles running on diesel fuel be supplied with low-sulfur fuel to reduce the diesel emissions. New York City Transit currently runs all of its buses on low sulfur fuel and is installing filters as well.

Diesel exhaust particles are known to exacerbate allergies, trigger asthma episodes and decrease lung function and can cause cancer with prolonged exposure, officials said.

The study, which tested air samples at two apartments and two offices in May, found little evidence of very fine particles from the collapse of the trade center once the spaces had been cleaned according to Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. The sites were checked for particles of silicon, sulfur, vanadium, nickel and lead.



A large piece of steel is loaded into a truck at the site of the former World Trade Center late last September. The EPA has found the cleanup of toxic particle matter around the site meets federal requirements.

AP File Photo

"We knew that large amounts of very fine particles, which can get deep into a person's lungs and cause serious health problems, were released from the super-hot WTC collapse piles," said Thomas Cahill, head of an air-quality research group at the University of California, Davis, who took part in the study.

"Our new analysis shows that in the sites we tested, those very fine particles either never penetrated the indoor spaces or were effectively removed by professional cleaning," he said.

The EPA announced in May that it would clean the apartments of area residents worried about lingering debris from the site.

Downtowners request more time for aid

By TIMOTHY J. BURGER

DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — People worried that their lower Manhattan homes are contaminated by dust from the destruction of the twin towers pleaded with the feds yesterday for more time to apply for a cleanup program.

"There is still a great deal of anxiety among residents regarding the type of pollutants that entered the atmosphere," Madelyn Wils, chairwoman of Community Board 1, told a panel headed by Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.).

Federal Environmental Protection Agency chief Christie Whitman told Clinton she may be willing to push back the Oct. 3 deadline — it has already been extended once — but said the city has not made a formal request.

City Environmental Protection Commissioner Christopher Ward would not say whether the Bloomberg administration would make that request.

In a written statement, he said the city would "continue to work with the EPA to ensure full participation in the cleanup program."

The EPA's office and residential dust cleanup program stretches from Canal St. to Manhattan's southern tip. This month, officials in Brooklyn also faulted the EPA for not expanding its testing to neighborhoods right across the river from downtown.

The agency created the program in May to help fund cleanup and testing of homes socked by the debris dust cloud. It assists in testing and even the purchase of heavy-duty vacuums. Information is available by calling (877) 796-5471 or by going to the Web (www.epa.gov/wtc).

Wils said that the concerns of people living in the neighborhood have gotten less attention because most officials outside of New York are more focused on firefighters and rescue workers. "Because we're more like bystanders or survivors, I don't think we've captured that same kind of respect," she said.

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

DAILY NEWS



The City of New York
Department of Environmental Protection

59-17 Junction Boulevard
Corona, New York
11373-5167

Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E.
Commissioner

October 1, 2001

Dear Water and Sewer Customer:

In the aftermath of the September 11th tragedy, we at DEP want to extend our sympathies to all of our customers affected by the attack. This letter is to update you on the status of our operations and to ensure that you know where to contact us. If you have service or billing issues resulting from the attack.

We are working with the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to stay informed of water service outages and other service disruption and access issues. We are scheduled to read and bill metered accounts in lower Manhattan in early October and plan to stay on that schedule. While we have tried to account for destroyed and damaged properties, there may be situations of which we are unaware...

Late payment charges (interest) have been suspended since the attack to account for delays in the receipt of payments by the Water Board, as well as the possible delay in customers receiving bills. The imposition of late payment charges will resume shortly. We realize, however, that customers in lower Manhattan may have extenuating circumstances that will require our attention. Please be aware that bills issued to metered accounts will only reflect actual water usage, so if your property was vacated for any period of time, that absence will be reflected in the meter reading.

Please contact us if you need consideration for any special circumstances. We have also enclosed a customer registration form for you to complete if you wish to receive your bills at an alternate address. You can contact us by phone at (718) 595-6844, by fax at (718) 595-7337, by email at georgett@dep.nyc.gov, or by writing to DEP/Field Operations, 59-17 Junction Blvd, 13th Floor, Flushing, NY 11373.

To provide information about other services, the Mayor's Office has established a NYC Centralized Relief Hotline at (212) 221-8636. You may also visit the NYC.gov home page.

Thank you for your cooperation as we attempt to resume our business, which will be vital to any rebuilding efforts.

Sincerely,

Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E.

