

Lower Manhattan Tenants Coalition (LMTC)

Meeting with EPA Region 2 - May 30, 2002

O LMTC is coalition of dozen tenant associations in Lower Manhattan representing about 15,000 residents. Partnered with other Lower Manhattan resident organizations including coop/condo owners thus representing 20-25,000 residents. LMTC is a founder of 9/11 Environmental Action.

Res. coalition

O Focus is on "Indoor" Air quality.

O Current EPA proposal grossly inadequate to guarantee health and safety of residents, students, and workers in Lower Manhattan.

O There is NO basis in fact for stating indoor air quality in Lower Manhattan is safe!

O DOH/ATSDR indoor study DOESN'T prove safe air quality in Lower Manhattan. On the contrary, ATSDR agrees with LMTC that a comprehensive "test, remediate, retest" program is required for residences in Lower Manhattan. Example of how LACK of public, transparent process leads to FAILURE!

O Require testing standards, danger levels for various contaminants such as asbestos, mercury, lead, PCB's, dioxins, metals, etc. Plan must be expanded to ALL areas affected by WTC disaster beyond Canal Street.

o Pragmatic policy is to assume residential unit REQUIRES remediation unless comprehensive testing proves otherwise. EPA should adopt "opt-out" policy with remediation being mandatory if there is "imminent danger to public health".

O Require "health registry" /medical studies to monitor residents' health and effects of exposure to toxins long term.

O EPA (and DEP/DOH) has large CREDIBILITY gap with the public! Need public, TRANSPARENT process to ensure quality control and confidence in EPA and that work is being done properly. Must use nationally recognized experts and public hearings.

o Testing and remediation must be done on a building by building basis (i.e. all units, all common areas, roofs, HVAC systems, grounds, etc.). Otherwise, cross contamination and recontamination will occur rendering haphazard approach ineffective. Must address mixed use buildings.

o Schools (with children being more susceptible to hazards of toxins) MUST be included!

o Commercial spaces must be included.

O Private testing has revealed DANGEROUS levels of Mercury in residences around Ground Zero! Report being prepared on this.

O Current city and state efforts are completely inadequate (e.g. cleaning of roofs and facades); city and state don't have resources or expertise to do the job properly! Only the EPA under CERCLA and the National Contingency Plan (NCP) does. DEP list of certified asbestos abatement contractors is NOT quality-controlled.

O EPA not in compliance with CERCLA and NCP. What is the status?

O Next Steps

FEMA
Law Dept.

John Murray
