



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 2

New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
290 Broadway - New York, New York 10007-1866

www.epa.gov/region2

Contact: Mary Mears 212-637-3669

**EPA AND CITY OUTLINE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF LOWER MANHATTAN RESIDENTS
ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER COLLAPSE
ON INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

FOR RELEASE: May 8, 2002

(#02038) New York, New York – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its federal, state and city partners today announced a comprehensive plan to ensure that apartments impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center have been properly cleaned. The plan -- covering residential units south of Canal Street and the Manhattan Bridge approach, river to river -- was developed by the multi-agency Task Force on Indoor Air in Lower Manhattan created by EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. All levels of government have come together in this unprecedented effort to provide assurances that people are not being exposed to pollutants related to the World Trade Center collapse at levels that might pose long-term health risks.

EPA, New York State, New York City, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are taking a collaborative approach that will include the:

- cleanups of residential units on request, using certified contractors, with followup testing for asbestos in the indoor air;
- testing-only for asbestos in the indoor air for requesting households;
- establishment of a hotline to take cleanup and testing requests;
- availability of HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filter vacuums;
- distribution of health and cleanup information; and
- professional cleanups of remaining unoccupied, uncleaned buildings.

“We understand the concerns of Lower Manhattan residents and we know that they are looking to us for reassurance,” said Jane M. Kenny, EPA Regional Administrator. “While we cannot undo the events of September 11, we can provide the assurance that people's homes have been cleaned properly. While the scientific data about any immediate health risks from indoor air is reassuring, people should not have to live with uncertainty about their futures.”

“As New Yorkers rebound from 9/11, Mayor Bloomberg is committed to ensuring that the health and safety of residents and workers is of the highest priority,” said Christopher Ward, DEP

Commissioner. "While earlier air testing in Downtown Manhattan reassured New Yorkers, this comprehensive, collaborative program will allow residents to have their apartments cleaned and tested free of charge if there is any concern with indoor air quality. New Yorkers deserve to know that their environment is safe from health risks."

Under the plan outlined today, FEMA will provide a grant to New York City that will pay for the professional cleaning and testing.

"FEMA strongly supports the EPA and New York City's efforts to take immediate action aimed at alleviating concerns over environmental conditions in Lower Manhattan," said Joseph F. Picciano, Acting Regional Director of the FEMA Region, "We are pleased to be able to fully fund this initiative."

Under the plan outlined today, FEMA will provide funds to hire certified cleanup contractors for residents who wish to have their homes professionally cleaned. EPA will conduct followup testing for asbestos in the indoor air after the cleanups are completed. Upon request, the Agency will provide the option of testing-only for residents who do not want their apartments cleaned. New York State will continue to provide HEPA vacuums through FEMA to residents who wish to do their own cleaning on an ongoing basis. Requests for testing or cleaning will be taken through an EPA hotline that will be set up within several weeks.

EPA will collect samples of some pollutants associated with the collapse of the World Trade Center in apartments that have not been impacted. The Agency will use the data to determine pre-existing or "background" levels in interior spaces in New York City. The Agency is also preparing to test various cleanup techniques in a still-unoccupied building near the World Trade Center site to confirm their effectiveness. EPA will provide health and cleanup information to all residents through the hotline and on the Agency Web site (www.epa.gov/wtc).

Also under today's plan, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will supervise the cleaning of a small group of heavily impacted buildings that have remained unoccupied since September 11. Some of these buildings have not been cleaned thoroughly; most have not been cleaned at all. Worker safety during this cleanup will be coordinated with OSHA. In addition, DEP has begun contacting building owners to initiate the cleanup of residual debris on rooftops and building facades in Lower Manhattan. Finally, the city is developing a database of the results of samples taken indoors and outdoors by federal, state and local agencies as well as building owners and contractors.

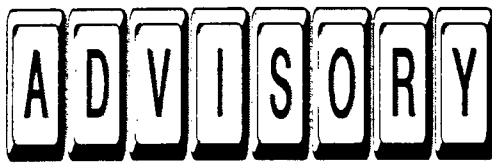
"As the recovery process continues at Ground Zero, New Yorkers are still feeling the effects of the September 11th terrorist attacks," said Senator Charles Schumer. "We feel it when we look at an altered sky line; we feel it when we realize our neighbors aren't returning home and we feel it in the air everyday, literally. The September 11th attacks produced genuine concerns about air quality in lower Manhattan and that's why the EPA's task force to ensure that our homes are safe is so necessary."

"Today's announcement is a welcome step forward, and if properly carried out, it can help residents of lower Manhattan breathe easier at home, in school or at work," said Senator Hillary Clinton. "I look forward to working closely with the City, EPA and FEMA to ensure that the program is implemented quickly and effectively so that the public can be assured that their environment is healthy and safe. People deserve to know that the air they breathe is safe -- indoors and out. That's why I held a hearing on the subject in February. I am pleased that the task force for indoor air quality which I called for at that hearing has become a reality."

"I am pleased that the EPA is responding to our concerns, because addressing these issues is vital to the well-being, stability and resurgence of the residential and business community here," said Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the New York State Assembly.

"This is a huge task," added Ms. Kenny, "But I can assure you that we will not consider our job complete until residents and the business community of Lower Manhattan have regained a sense of comfort in the place that they call home."

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**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency · Region 2**

New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

290 Broadway - New York, New York 10007-1866

www.epa.gov/region2**Contact: Mary Mears 212-637-3669****Contracts for EPA's Downtown Residential Dust Cleanup Program Are Awarded****FOR RELEASE: Thursday, September 12, 2002**

(#02XXX) New York, N.Y. – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced that eight contracts have been awarded for the downtown World Trade Center residential dust cleanup program by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP). The cleanup program will be managed by EPA. Two contractors, one project monitoring contractor and one cleanup contractor, will work in each of four quadrants of the eligible cleanup area – south of Canal, Pike and Allen Streets, river to river. These quadrants were drawn to allow each contractor to handle an equivalent number of requests (see attached map of quadrants or visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/wtc). The monitoring contractors will schedule cleanups and testing, do a pre-cleanup walk-through to gather information and answer questions, monitor the work of the cleanup contractor and conduct all sampling. This sampling includes post-cleanup air sampling, air sampling in homes at which only testing was requested and wipe samples taken in a subset of homes.

As of September 10, 2002, more than 4,000 residents of lower Manhattan have signed up to have their homes tested, or cleaned and tested, under EPA's Residential Dust Cleanup Assistance Program. In May, EPA and its federal, state and city partners announced a comprehensive plan to ensure that apartments impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center have been properly cleaned. The plan was developed in consultation with the multi-agency Task Force on Indoor Air in Lower Manhattan created by EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. A hotline to register residents for the cleanup program was launched in June. EPA has already begun testing homes for asbestos in air, and cleanups are beginning this week.

The 8 contractors and contact information, listed by quadrant, are as follows:

Quadrant A

Monitoring - ATC Associates
Cleanup - Trio Asbestos

Quadrant C

Monitoring - Warren & Panzer
Cleanup - Kiss Construction, Inc.

Quadrant B

Monitoring - Cole Consulting
Cleanup - JBH Environmental

Quadrant D

Monitoring - Athenica Environmental Services
Cleanup - Termon Construction, Inc.

Contractors will have identification and will give the resident the confirmation number that was provided during sign up. If residents suspect that a company may be fraudulently posing as a contractor for the cleanup program, they should call EPA's Office of the Inspector General at 212-637-3036. For more information about the cleanup program, visit EPA's WTC Web site (www.epa.gov/wtc) or call EPA's WTC Hotline at 1-877-796-5471 or, for the deaf and hard of hearing, TTY 1-800-396-1018.

Maldonado, Jane

From: Mears.Mary@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2002 1:31 PM
To: Adrian Benepe; Alan Leidner; Alessandra Sumowicz; Anita Richichi; Anita Sher; Anne Mari Santangelo; Barry Dinerstein; Ben Mojica; Bernard Orlan; Bob Adams; Bob Avaltroni; Bob Williams; Brad Gair; Brian Clarke; Bruce Rottner; Carl Johnson - DEC; Cesar Pereira; Christopher Zeppie; cwelsh@cdc.gov; Tulis.Dana@epamail.epa.gov; David Ippolito; David Klasfeld; David Nussbaum; Dawn Roberts; Diana Chapin; LaPosta.Dore@epamail.epa.gov; dosepu@attglobal.net; Doug Williamson; Edward Gabriel; Elizabeth McCabe; Elizabeth Palladino; Eric Kim; Erica D'Avanzo; Erin Stevens; Frank McCarton; gguzi@panynj.gov; Haeda Mihaltses; Harold Shultz; Heidi Rubinstein; Jake Cooper; James Miller; Jane Maldonado; Jessica Leighton; Joe Picciano; John Katsorhis; Josh Sirefman; Judy Pincus; Kathryn Tannert Niang; Callahan.Kathy@epamail.epa.gov; Kelly McKinney; Kerry Kelly; Kym Spell; Lai-sun Yee; Laurel Blatchford; Lisa Maluf; Lisa Sacks; [REDACTED] PII; Mark Silberman; Mark Topping; Mary Ellen Kris; Mears.Mary@epamail.epa.gov; michelled@buildings.nyc.gov; Mike Gilsenan; Pat Clark- OSHA; PESH- Maureen Cox; Rich Wager; Robert Greene; Robert Kulick; Robert L. Chinery; Robert Tranter; Roger Hayes; Ron Tramontano; Sam Benson; Sarah Knapp; Shuchi Batra; [REDACTED] PII; Steven Levi; Susan Amron; Susan Kupferman; Sven Rodenbeck; Sylvia Pryce; Terry Weiss; Vincent Coluccio
Subject: whitman statement on Ombudsman

Some of you have replied that you could not open the file. Here's teh text of the statement:

Environmental News

FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2002

WHITMAN PLEASED WITH JUDGE'S DISMISSAL

RELOCATION PROCEEDS, ALLOWING FOR GREATER INDEPENDENCE OF OMBUDSMAN

Contact: Steffanie Bell, 202-564-6976

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman today released the following statement in response to the decision by United States District Judge Richard W. Roberts to dismiss the case captioned Robert J. Martin, et al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, et al., D.D.C. Civ. Act. No. 02-0055 (RWR).

"I am pleased with today's decision because it allows us to proceed with our efforts to make the ombudsman function more independent," said Whitman. "The General Accounting Office (GAO) report recommended that the Agency 'take steps to strengthen the independence' of the ombudsman. By relocating the position to the Office of the Inspector General we are doing just that."

Mr. Martin and the Government Accountability Project had challenged Administrator Whitman's November 27, 2001 decision to transfer the ombudsman function from EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response to EPA's Office of Inspector General (OIG). Whitman's decision responded to a GAO report which recommended greater independence for the ombudsman function. Because of OIG's strong statutory and organizational independence, relocating the ombudsman function to OIG provides the additional independence recommended by the GAO report.

The transfer of the ombudsman to the OIG, effective Saturday, April 13, 2002, is now underway following the judge's ruling.

R-65

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IMPORTANT

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COMPANY: <u>NYC DEP</u>	DATE: <u>9-28-01</u>
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NOTES/COMMENTS:

IMPORTANT

United States Communications, Education,
Environmental Protection And Media Relations
Agency (1703A)

Washington, DC
20460



Environmental News

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2001

WHITMAN DETAILS ONGOING AGENCY EFFORTS TO MONITOR DISASTER SITES, CONTRIBUTE TO CLEANUP EFFORTS

**Contact: Bonnie Piper, 202-564-7836
David Deegan, 202-564-7839**

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman announced today that results from the Agency's air and drinking water monitoring near the World Trade Center and Pentagon disaster sites indicate that these vital resources are safe. Whitman also announced that EPA has been given up to \$83 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support EPA's involvement in cleanup activities and ongoing monitoring of environmental conditions in both the New York City and Washington metropolitan areas following last week's terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"We are very encouraged that the results from our monitoring of air quality and drinking water conditions in both New York and near the Pentagon show that the public in these areas is not being exposed to excessive levels of asbestos or other harmful substances," Whitman said. "Given the scope of the tragedy from last week, I am glad to reassure the people of New York and Washington, D.C. that their air is safe to breathe and their water is safe to drink," she added.

In the aftermath of last Tuesday's attacks, EPA has worked closely with state, federal and local authorities to provide expertise on cleanup methods for hazardous materials, as well as to detect whether any contaminants are found in ambient air quality monitoring, sampling of drinking water sources and sampling of runoff near the disaster sites.

At the request of FEMA, EPA has been involved in the cleanup and site monitoring efforts, working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and state and local organizations.

EPA has conducted repeated monitoring of ambient air at the site of the World Trade Center and in the general Wall Street district of Manhattan, as well as in Brooklyn. The Agency is planning to perform air monitoring in the surrounding New York metropolitan area. EPA has established 10 continuous (stationary) air monitoring stations near the WTC site. Thus far, from 50 air samples taken, the vast majority of results are either non-detectable or below established levels of concern for asbestos, lead and volatile organic compounds. The highest levels of asbestos have been detected within one-half block of ground zero, where rescuers have been provided with appropriate protective equipment.

R-157

- more -

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FROM OSWER-0688-10

- 2 -

In lower Manhattan, the City of New York has also been involved in efforts to clean anything coated with debris dust resulting from Tuesday's destruction. This involves spraying water over buildings, streets and sidewalks to wash the accumulated dust off the building and eliminate the possibility that materials would become airborne. To complement this clean up effort, EPA has performed 62 dust sample analyses for the presence of asbestos and other substances. Most dust samples fall below EPA's definition of "asbestos containing material" (one percent asbestos). Where samples have shown greater than one percent asbestos, EPA has operated its 10 High Efficiency Particulate Arresting, HEPA, vacuum trucks to clean the area and then resample. EPA also used the 10 HEPA vac trucks to clean streets and sidewalks in the Financial District in preparation for Monday's return to business. The Agency plans to use HEPA vac trucks to clean the lobbies of the five federal buildings near the World Trade Center site, and to clean the streets outside of New York's City Hall.

Drinking water in Manhattan was tested at 13 sampling points, in addition to one test at the Newtown Sewage Treatment plant and pump station. Initial results of this drinking water sampling show that levels of asbestos are well below EPA's levels of concern.

While FEMA has provided EPA with a Total Project Ceiling cost of slightly more than \$83 million for the Agency's cleanup efforts in New York City and in at the Pentagon site, EPA currently is working with emergency funding of \$23.7 million. If costs exceed this level, FEMA will authorize EPA to tap additional funding in increments of \$15 million. As part of the additional funding to be provided by FEMA, EPA will be responsible for any hazardous waste disposal, general site safety and providing sanitation facilities for many of the search and rescue workers to wash the dust off following their shifts. EPA is coordinating with both the U.S. Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence and the U.S. Coast Guard to quickly implement these additional responsibilities to ensure that search and rescue personnel are provided with the maximum support and protection from hazardous materials that may be found during their mission.

At the Pentagon explosion site in Arlington Va., EPA has also been involved in a variety of monitoring of air and water quality. All ambient air monitoring results, both close to the crash site and in the general vicinity, have shown either no detection of asbestos or levels that fall well below the Agency's level of concern. Testing of runoff water from the disaster site does not show elevated levels of contaminants. Given the large numbers of Department of Defense (DOD) employees returning to work this week, EPA has worked closely with officials from DOD and from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to evaluate air and drinking water quality and to be certain that the workplace environment will be safe.

While careful not to impede the search, rescue and cleanup efforts at either the World Trade Center or the Pentagon disaster sites, EPA's primary concern has been to ensure that rescue workers and the public are not being exposed to elevated levels of potentially hazardous contaminants in the dust and debris, especially where practical solutions are available to reduce exposure. EPA has assisted efforts to provide dust masks to rescue workers to minimize inhalation of dust. EPA also recommends that the blast site debris continue to be kept wet, which helps to significantly reduce the amount of airborne dust which can aggravate respiratory ailments such as asthma. On-site facilities are being made available for rescue workers to clean themselves, change their clothing and to have dust-laden clothes cleaned separately from normal household wash.

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FROM OSWER-OEEN-10

September 13, 2001**EPA Initiates Emergency Response Activities, Reassures Public About Environmental Hazards
[En Español]**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman today announced that EPA is taking steps to ensure the safety of rescue workers and the public at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon disaster sites, and to protect the environment. EPA is working with state, federal, and local agencies to monitor and respond to potential environmental hazards and minimize any environmental effects of the disasters and their aftermath.

At the request of the New York City Department of Health, EPA and the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have been on the scene at the World Trade Center monitoring exposure to potentially contaminated dust and debris. Monitoring and sampling conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday have been very reassuring about potential exposure of rescue crews and the public to environmental contaminants.

EPA's primary concern is to ensure that rescue workers and the public are not exposed to elevated levels of asbestos, acidic gases or other contaminants from the debris. Sampling of ambient air quality found either no asbestos or very low levels of asbestos. Sampling of bulk materials and dust found generally low levels of asbestos.

The levels of lead, asbestos and volatile organic compounds in air samples taken on Tuesday in Brooklyn, downwind from the World Trade Center site, were not detectable or not of concern.

Additional sampling of both ambient air quality and dust particles was conducted Wednesday night in lower Manhattan and Brooklyn, and results were uniformly acceptable.

"EPA is greatly relieved to have learned that there appears to be no significant levels of asbestos dust in the air in New York City," said Administrator Whitman. "We are working closely with rescue crews to ensure that all appropriate precautions are taken. We will continue to monitor closely."

Public health concerns about asbestos contamination are primarily related to long-term exposure. Short-term, low-level exposure of the type that might have been produced by the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings is unlikely to cause significant health effects. EPA and OSHA will work closely with rescue and cleanup crews to minimize their potential exposure, but the general public should be very reassured by initial sampling.

EPA and OSHA will continue to monitor and sample for asbestos, and will work with the appropriate officials to ensure that rescue workers, cleanup crews and the general public are properly informed about appropriate steps that should be taken to ensure proper handling, transportation and disposal of potentially contaminated debris or materials.

EPA is taking steps to ensure that response units implement appropriate engineering controls to minimize environmental hazards, such as water sprays and rinsing to prevent or minimize potential exposure and limit releases of potential contaminants beyond the debris site.

EPA is also conducting downwind sampling for potential chemical and asbestos releases from the World Trade Center debris site. In addition, EPA has deployed federal On-Scene Coordinators to the Washington, D.C. Emergency Operations Center, Fort Meade, and FEMA's alternate Regional Operations Center in Pennsylvania, and has deployed an On-Scene Coordinator to the Virginia Emergency Operations Center.

Under its response authority, EPA will use all available resources and staff experts to facilitate a safe emergency response and cleanup.

EPA will work with other involved agencies as needed to:

- procure and distribute respiratory and eye protection equipment in cooperation with the Dept. of Health and Human Services;
- provide health and safety training upon request;
- design and implement a site monitoring plan;
- provide technical assistance for site control and decontamination; and
- provide some 3000 asbestos respirators, 60 self-contained breathing apparatuses and 10,000 protective clothing suits to the two disaster sites.

New York Governor George E. Pataki has promised to provide emergency electric generators to New York City in efforts to restore lost power caused by Tuesday's tragedy, and EPA will work with State authorities to expedite any necessary permits for those generators.

OSHA is also working with Consolidated Edison regarding safety standards for employees who are digging trenches because of leaking gas lines underground. OSHA has advised Con Edison to provide its employees with appropriate respirators so they can proceed with emergency work, shutting off gas leaks in the city.

[EPA information about the events of September 11](http://www.epa.gov/epahome/wtc/headline_091301.htm)

September 16, 2001

EPA, OSHA Update Asbestos Data, Continue to Reassure Public about Contamination Fears [En Español]

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Labor's Occupational Health and Safety Administration today announced that the majority of air and dust samples monitored at the crash site and in Lower Manhattan do not indicate levels of concern for asbestos. The new samples confirm previous reports that ambient air quality meets OSHA standards and consequently is not a cause for public concern. New OSHA data also indicates that indoor air quality in downtown buildings will meet standards.

EPA has found variable asbestos levels in bulk debris and dust on the ground, but EPA continues to believe that there is no significant health risk to the general public in the coming days. Appropriate steps are being taken to clean up this dust and debris.

"Our tests show that it is safe for New Yorkers to go back to work in New York's financial district," said John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA. "Keeping the streets clean and being careful not to track dust into buildings will help protect workers from remaining debris."

OSHA staff walked through New York's financial district on September 13th, wearing personal air monitors and collected data on potential asbestos exposure levels. All but two samples contained no asbestos. Two samples contained very low levels of an unknown fiber, which is still being analyzed.

Air Samples taken on Sept. 13th inside buildings in New York's financial district were negative for asbestos. Debris samples collected outside buildings on cars and other surfaces contained small percentages of asbestos, ranging from 2.1 to 3.3 – slightly above the 1 percent trigger for defining asbestos material.

"EPA will be deploying 16 vacuum trucks this weekend in an effort to remove as much of the dust and debris as possible from the site where the samples were obtained," said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. "In addition we will be moving six continuous air monitoring stations into the area. We will put five near ground zero and one on Canal Street. The good news continues to be that the air samples we have taken have all been at levels that cause us no concern."

The continuous monitoring stations will augment the ambient air quality monitoring located in Brooklyn. EPA and OSHA will remain on site and continue to monitor for levels of asbestos, PCBs, lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the area throughout the long weeks of cleanup ahead. In addition, EPA will move in a bus that has the equipment to do instant analysis of volatile organic compound samples from air at the site. It is called a Total Atmospheric Gas Analyzer and is similar to a unit used during the Gulf War to sample emissions from the oil fires in Kuwait.

The Agency is recommending that businesses in the area planning to reopen next week take precautions including cleaning air conditioning filters and using vacuums with appropriate filters to collect dust. Vacuuming will reduce the chance of re-entering workers tracking dust into the buildings. This work is already underway by city agencies.

The U.S. Coast Guard will be assisting EPA in monitoring impacts, if any, of today's rainstorms on the water quality. However, most of the rainflow is expected to be handled by the City's waste water treatment facility, since there will be only limited sewage in the combined sewer system. EPA has a vessel on site in New York to handle any necessary testing.

Additional technical support has been offered to EPA in New York from the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General's Office of Environmental and Occupational Health. That support would involve five engineers and/or environmental technicians and equipment if needed.

[EPA information about the events of September 11](#)



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For KIDS

September 21, 2001

NYC Monitoring Efforts Continue to Show Safe Drinking Water & Air

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman announced today that the most detailed results to date of ongoing monitoring of drinking water in New York City provide additional reassurance that city residents are not being exposed to dangerous contaminants including asbestos, radiation, mercury and other metals, pesticides, PCBs and bacteria.

"As we continue to monitor drinking water in and around New York City, and as EPA gets more comprehensive analysis of this monitoring data, I am relieved to be able to reassure New York and New Jersey residents that a host of potential contaminants are either not detectable or are below the Agency's concern levels," Whitman said. "Results we have just received on drinking water quality show that not only is asbestos not detectable, but also we can not detect any bacterial contamination, PCBs or pesticides," she continued.

Whitman confirmed that EPA personnel, working in coordination with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection at and around the World Trade Center disaster site, have thus far taken a total of 13 drinking water samples from water mains in lower Manhattan. In addition to analyzing the samples for asbestos, pesticides and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls, which are mixtures of synthetic organic chemicals), EPA has also tested drinking water for metals (including mercury), and radioactivity (both alpha and beta). None of these contaminants exceeded EPA drinking water standards.

"In addition to carefully evaluating drinking water in the New York area, EPA has taken samples at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, where runoff from lower Manhattan goes for treatment, to identify what sort of materials are leaving the disaster site," Whitman continued. "While we haven't yet gotten results for all possible contaminants, we do know that levels of metals and mercury are below permit discharge limits," she noted. However, Whitman did state that "following one rainstorm with particularly high runoff, we did have one isolated detection of slightly elevated levels of PCBs. This is something that we are continuing to monitor very closely." Other analysis of monitoring data taken at Newtown Creek treatment plant shows that total suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand, common indicators of how well a wastewater treatment plant is operating, indicate that the plant is working within permit limits. The Agency will continue to collect water samples at storm water discharge points when it rains and to fully analyze the samples for asbestos, PCBs, metals and total suspended solids.

Whitman elaborated on the repeated monitoring of ambient air both at the World Trade Center disaster site and the surrounding area. To date the Agency has taken 97 air samples from 11 separate fixed monitoring sites in and around the "hot zone" and elsewhere in lower Manhattan, and four fixed monitoring sites located in New Jersey downwind from the blast. Only seven samples taken at or near ground zero have had marginally higher levels of asbestos that exceed EPA's level of concern. All rescue workers in this restricted-access area are being provided with appropriate safety equipment. Ambient air monitoring in the Financial District, where this week people have returned to work, show levels of asbestos that are below Agency levels of concern. Four samples taken specifically to identify if mercury is present resulted in non-detectable readings. On Sept. 19, EPA also took readings of outdoor air at numerous locations around ground zero for chemicals including hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide. All readings indicated that levels were normal and posed no public health concern. All air samples taken in New Jersey have shown no detectable levels of asbestos whatsoever.

EPA has set up eight air monitors at the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, where debris from the collapsed World Trade Center towers is being sent for criminal and forensic analysis, and eventual disposal. Initial results show no detectable levels of asbestos. The Agency will continue to operate these air monitors at the landfill and will test for asbestos and for particulate matter.

Whitman detailed dust sampling undertaken thus far at the World Trade Center site, and confirmed that EPA has done a total of 101 dust samples, of which 37 were slightly over the one percent asbestos (the amount above which material is considered asbestos-containing). EPA has continued to use its 10 High Efficiency Particulate Arresting (HEPA) filter vacuum trucks, especially in areas where dust samples show any elevated levels of asbestos. Of the 16 samples taken in the Battery Park City area, a residential community within two blocks of the disaster site, 12 showed slightly elevated levels of asbestos. After using the HEPA Vac trucks to clean streets and surfaces in Battery Park City, repeat sampling in the area showed asbestos levels that fall below concern amounts. EPA will continue to monitor this area. The HEPA Vac trucks were also used to vacuum lobbies of federal buildings near the disaster site prior to having workers return.

Monitoring and cleanup efforts also continue at the Pentagon crash site. To date, EPA has taken 140 total samples, including ambient air samples, bulk debris analysis, silica and water discharge samples. Monitoring samples have been analyzed for asbestos and other hazardous materials. Available results continue to show that rescue workers at the disaster site are not being exposed to hazardous materials.

[EPA information about the events of September 11](#)

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency · Region 2

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FOR RELEASE: Monday, March 25, 2002

**FEDERAL, STATE AND CITY AGENCIES ANNOUNCE ACTIONS FOR LOWER
MANHATTAN AIR QUALITY**

(#02114) New York, New York - Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with New York City and other federal and state agencies, announced additional actions to address outdoor and indoor air quality. As part of the overall effort to continue to protect air quality, DEP will remove residual debris from rooftops and facades with EPA's guidance. OSHA will work in a coordinated effort with the City and EPA to ensure the safety and health of the workers performing this cleaning.

EPA and New York City will expand the program to remove residual debris from rooftops and facades around the World Trade Center site. In addition, agencies will work to build on an indoor air study conducted in November and December. These actions are a result of the collaborative efforts of the EPA Administrator Christie Whitman's Task Force on Indoor Air and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Lower Manhattan Air Quality Task Force.

"Actions speak louder than words, and these actions will help increase confidence about outdoor and indoor air quality," said Jane Kenny, EPA Regional Administrator. "We have been working hand-in-hand with the city to resolve the public's health concerns."

"I am extremely pleased that EPA continues to work with the City to address concerns regarding air quality in Lower Manhattan," said incoming DEP Commissioner Christopher Ward.

Tests conducted since September 11th have indicated that there is no evidence of significant long-term health risks to residents and office workers from the air quality in Lower Manhattan. Inspectors from the City and EPA have surveyed area rooftops and facades identifying buildings where residual debris remains. As removal of debris from the World Trade Center site nears completion, City, State and Federal agencies are committed to continuing to protect and improve the downtown environment.

City, state and federal health and environmental agencies are working collaboratively to continue to assess the cleaning that was conducted and determine testing criteria. Building on earlier tests, EPA will conduct field work to assess cleanup techniques and provide information for ongoing cleaning. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, with support from the New York City Department of Health and EPA, is planning to expand the indoor air study conducted in December 2001.

As these projects are developed, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will fund components that are eligible under its programs. As the agency responsible for coordinating federal assistance in support of the city's long term recovery efforts, FEMA is working closely with all concerned agencies.

Both the EPA and New York City Task Forces will work cooperatively to continue to protect air quality. The Lower Manhattan Air Quality Hotline (212-221-8635) will continue to be the principal point of information dissemination to businesses, residents and visitors regarding air quality and environmental issues in and around the World Trade Center site. The City's Task Force will also coordinate additional community outreach and local initiatives as part of the broader effort to build public confidence in the downtown environment.

For more information, call the City's Lower Manhattan Air Quality Hotline at 212-221-8635 between 11:00 am and 7:00 pm Monday through Friday. In addition, information can be found on EPA's web site at: www.epa.gov; OSHA's web site at: www.osha.gov; NYC DOH's web site at: www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/home.htm; and NYCDEP's web site at: www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/airmonit.html.

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FOR RELEASE: Monday, March 25, 2002

FEDERAL, STATE AND CITY AGENCIES ANNOUNCE ACTIONS FOR LOWER MANHATTAN AIR QUALITY

(#02114) New York, New York - Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with New York City and other federal and state agencies, announced additional actions to address outdoor and indoor air quality. As part of the overall effort to continue to protect air quality, DEP will remove residual debris from rooftops and facades with EPA's guidance. OSHA will work in a coordinated effort with the City and EPA to ensure the safety and health of the workers performing this cleaning.

EPA and New York City will expand the program to remove residual debris from rooftops and facades around the World Trade Center site. In addition, agencies will work to build on an indoor air study conducted in November and December. These actions are a result of the collaborative efforts of the EPA Administrator Christie Whitman's Task Force on Indoor Air and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Lower Manhattan Air Quality Task Force.

"Actions speak louder than words, and these actions will help increase confidence about outdoor and indoor air quality," said Jane Kenny, EPA Regional Administrator. "We have been working hand-in-hand with the city to resolve the public's health concerns."

"I am extremely pleased that EPA continues to work with the City to address concerns regarding air quality in Lower Manhattan," said incoming DEP Commissioner Christopher Ward.

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**THE NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH**

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Commissioner

SANDRA MULLIN
Associate Commissioner

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 8, 2002**

**CONTACT: Sandra Mullin/Greg Butler
(212) 295-5335/5336; (877) 640-1347**

NYC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PRESENTS FINDINGS FROM INDOOR AIR SAMPLING IN LOWER MANHATTAN

*Analysis of Air Samples Taken from Residential Buildings in Lower Manhattan Indicates No
Elevation of Asbestos in Air. Low Levels of Asbestos and Some Fiberglass Found in Dust Samples.
DOH Reminds Residents of Importance of Cleaning to Reduce Dust.*

As part of an ongoing effort to assess the environmental impact of the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster and to respond to public health concerns, the New York City Department of Health (DOH) in collaboration with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conducted indoor and outdoor tests of thirty residential buildings in lower Manhattan.

The tests examined samples of both air and dust. The air samples from inside the buildings showed no elevated levels of asbestos. The air sampling results for fibrous glass are not yet available. The dust showed low levels of asbestos in some samples and the presence of fiberglass in other samples. The potential for exposure to these materials depends not only on their concentration in the dust but also on the amount of dust that is present. Asbestos and fiberglass can pose a health risk if dust accumulates and particles become airborne. While these findings are not unexpected, they underscore the importance of proper cleaning to reduce dust.

DOH is sending letters to building owners and residents informing them of the test results; flyers are also being distributed in lower Manhattan. The letters and flyers emphasize the importance of following DOH's cleaning recommendations to prevent dust from becoming airborne, especially while work continues at the WTC site. In addition to distributing information to residents, DOH is holding community meetings in association with Manhattan Community Board One to directly address any remaining concerns.

Residents are being advised to use a wet mop, damp cloth, or a high efficiency particulate air filter (HEPA) vacuum to clean dust from hard surfaces, and HEPA vacuums to clean carpets, upholstery, and other items that cannot be cleaned by wet wiping. To prevent the recirculation of dust, residents are advised *not* to sweep with "dry" brooms, or to use dusters or vacuums without approved HEPA filters. Since fiberglass can be irritating to the skin, rubber gloves can be used to provide skin protection. Residents were also advised to avoid carrying dust into their buildings from outdoors (e.g., by taking off shoes).

New York City Health Commissioner Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH said, "Since the collapse of the World Trade Center, an event that resulted in the release of large amounts of dust and other

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airborne particles, some residents of lower Manhattan have reported short-term health problems such as cough, and irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat. The data from air quality tests thus far have been reassuring. None of the testing to date has shown results that would indicate long-term health impacts. However, conclusive scientific knowledge about the potential health hazards of some substances is not available. DOH recognizes residents' concerns and will continue to work closely with local, state and Federal agencies to monitor air quality and to inform the public of findings as soon as results are available." Dr. Frieden continued.

"Additionally, DOH has been working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop a protocol for a World Trade Center Registry, which, if funded, would generate and maintain a database that can be used as a basis for conducting studies that can provide a more complete picture of short- and long-term health and mental health impacts among the affected populations," Dr. Frieden concluded.

Sampling Summary

At the request of DOH, ATSDR conducted tests in 59 apartments in 30 geographically representative buildings in lower Manhattan in November and December 2001. Testing was also conducted in four buildings above 59th Street to provide information on the background level of various substances present indoors in New York City. Using widely accepted testing methods, the agency looked for several materials that are common building components or could potentially cause short and long-term health problems. Each set of tests included samples of air and settled dust, and these samples were analyzed for fiber-like materials - asbestos, fibrous glass - and for other particles including silica, gypsum, mica, and calcite.

A total of 117 samples were taken from 30 buildings in lower Manhattan and analyzed for airborne fibers. Samples were taken inside residences, in common areas within residential buildings, and outside of the buildings. The air samples from inside the buildings showed no elevated levels of asbestos. Levels were similar to those seen in areas not affected by the World Trade Center collapse.

The analysis of 98 dust samples for asbestos taken from the inside and outside of residential buildings in lower Manhattan indicated that while 20% were above background levels, only two samples which were taken from outdoors required abatement. Professional abatement work was completed in this area.

Samples taken from inside and outside of residential buildings in lower Manhattan were analyzed for fibrous glass. Fibrous glass was detected in 43 of the 98 samples taken. The results of air sampling for fibrous glass, and for air and surface testing of other materials, are not yet available.

Health Information about Asbestos and Fiberglass

The risk of developing these diseases from environmental exposures depends on the level and duration of exposure.

Exposure to asbestos is associated with asbestosis (scarring of the lungs) and cancer. The likelihood of developing disease from limited, short-term, low-level exposure is low. There is no reliable test that can indicate whether an individual has had low-level exposures to asbestos. In the occupational

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setting, where the duration and intensity of asbestos exposure can be greater, there is a higher risk to workers. Workers at the WTC site need to use the appropriate protective equipment to reduce exposure. Exposure to some forms of fibrous glass (fiberglass) can cause cough, and eye, nose, skin, and throat irritation. Long-term health effects associated with fibrous glass are not completely known and standards for measurement of fibrous glass in environmental samples are not well established. Although fiberglass is classified as a possible carcinogen, recent studies of more than 30,000 industrial workers who worked with fiberglass found no conclusive evidence of an increased risk of cancer.

Additional information about the indoor testing initiative is available on the DOH Web site at **nyc.gov/health**. A comprehensive report on this testing will be available this spring. Final test results will be released to the public as soon as they become available. Results of outdoor sampling since September 11 of air, water, and dust – including sampling for asbestos and particulate matter – are posted on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website, **epa.gov**, and can also be found on the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) website at **nyc.gov/dep**. WTC-related information can also be found at **nyc.gov/health**.

Information on the *Project Liberty* program, a statewide disaster-recovery initiative that offers free crisis counseling, education, and referral services to anyone affected by the World Trade Center disaster, is available by calling **1-800-LIFENET** or **1-800-543-3638**.

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Press Release

New York City Department of
Health

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sandra Mullin/ Andrew
Tucker

Monday, September 17, 2001 (212)
447-8232

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS RE-OCCUPYING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND RESIDENTS RE-ENTERING THEIR HOMES

The New York City Department of Health announced today recommendations for building owners/managers and individuals who are being allowed to re-enter their businesses or homes for the first time since the World Trade Center disaster on September 11. The Health Department has been collaborating with numerous City, State, and Federal agencies to monitor potential public health impacts in the general vicinity of the World Trade Center blast zone.

New York City Health Commissioner Neal L. Cohen, M.D., said "As some buildings near the World Trade Center may have sustained structural damage, experienced power loss, and/or been subject to migrating dust and debris from the blast, the Health Department working with numerous agencies have been actively monitoring the condition of buildings in and around the blast area to determine when occupants may safely resume tenancy. Property owners and managers are being instructed to assess the stability and safety of their buildings. This includes checking and, if necessary, restoring utility services."

Recommendations for Re-entry into Your Homes

In your home, first make sure that conditions are safe. Enter your home dressed in a long-sleeve shirt and pants, and with closed shoes. Upon entry:

- Check for the smell of gas. If the apartment smells of gas, leave immediately and report it to your building manager and to Con Edison.

- Check for broken glass and fixtures. Wrap any broken glass in paper and mark it "broken glass." If large pieces of glass are broken, ask your building superintendent for help.
- Run hot and cold water from each of the taps for at least two minutes, or until water runs completely clean, whichever is longer.
- Flush toilets until bowls are refilled. For air pressure systems, you may need to flush several times. If there are any problems with the toilet or plumbing system, call a plumber -- do not try to fix the problem yourself.

***The Main Office of the NYC DOH has been temporarily relocated to 455 1st Avenue.**

Recommendations for Food Left in Homes and Office Spaces

The power outage in much of lower Manhattan may have caused refrigerated and frozen food to spoil. Raw or cooked meat, poultry and seafood, milk and milk-containing products, eggs, mayonnaise and creamy dressings, and cooked foods should be thrown out if power was out for two or more hours. Frozen foods that have thawed should be thrown away. Do not re-freeze thawed food. Throw away any food that may have been contaminated with dust, except for food in cans, jars, or containers with tight-fitting lids. Wash dust-covered cans and jars with water and wipe clean. When it comes to food left in your building, ***if in doubt, throw it out.***

Recommendations for Cleaning Homes and Office Space

The best way to remove dust is to use a wet rag or wet mop. Sweeping with a dry broom is not recommended because it can make dust airborne again. Where dust is thick, directly wet the dust with water, and remove it in layers with wet rags and mops. Dirty rags can be rinsed under running water, (try not leave dust in the sink to dry). Used rags and mops should be put in plastic bags while they are still wet and bags should be sealed and discarded. Cloth rags should be washed separately from other laundry. Wash heavily-soiled or dusty clothing or linens twice. Remove lint from washing machines and filters in the dryers with each laundry load. Rags should not be allowed to dry out before bagging and disposal or washing.

Because the dust particles are so small, standard vacuuming is not an efficient way to remove the dust and may put dust back into the air where it can be inhaled. HEPA (high efficiency particulate) efficiency filtration vacuums capable of trapping very fine particles can be used. If a HEPA vacuum is not available, either HEPA bags or dust allergen bags should be used with your regular vacuum. Carpets and upholstery can be shampooed and then vacuumed.

If your apartment is very dusty, you should wash or HEPA vacuum your curtains. If curtains need to be taken down, take them down slowly to prevent making dust in the air. To clean plants, rinse leaves with water. Pets may be washed with running water from a hose or faucet; their paws should be wiped to avoid tracking dust inside the home.

Additional recommendations include:

- Avoid sweeping or other outdoor maintenance;
- Keep outdoor dust from entering the home;
- Keep windows closed;
- Set the air conditioner to re-circulate air (closed vents), and clean or change the filter frequently;
- Remove shoes before entering the home for several days (once you first make sure there is no broken glass).
- Air purifiers may help reduce indoor dust levels. Air purifiers are only useful for removing dust from the air. They will not remove dust already deposited on floors, shelves, upholstery or rugs.

For Immediate Release
February 13, 2002

Contact: Press Office
(202) 224-2243

Senator Clinton Lauds Commitment to Create Air Quality Task Force for Ground Zero

EPA Agrees to Clinton Proposal to Form Partnership to Address Air Quality Concerns in Lower Manhattan

Senator Has Concerns About Details, Funding

Washington, DC - In response to a hearing on World Trade Center air quality organized by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and chaired by Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman has committed to establish a Task Force on Indoor Air in Lower Manhattan. Senator Clinton called for an indoor air program as part of a five-point plan that she unveiled at the hearing, which was held in New York City this past Monday, February 11.

Administrator Whitman appeared this morning at another hearing of the Environment and Public Works Committee, where Senator Clinton commended Whitman for her commitment to establish the new Task Force. While recognizing the Agency's efforts in this regard, Senator Clinton also expressed concern about the lack of details regarding the Task Force's activities, as well as the identification of an appropriate funding source for the Task Force.

Clinton emphasized that it was "imperative that this Task Force conduct door-to-door inspections and indoor sampling within no less than a 10 block radius of Ground Zero."

"The Task Force should also operate a centralized location where the public can get information on whether their building has been tested or inspected, the results of those tests and clear guidance on cleanup requirements, resources available to pay for cleanups, and certified cleanup companies in the area," Clinton said.

"I believe the idea, as you had mentioned, of an indoor task force, is an important one, because that's one of the areas where jurisdiction is not clear," Whitman said. "I mean it's not a simple task, but it is one that we have to deal with particularly in light of the kind of challenge that we face now since September 11th."

Clinton thanked Whitman for a quick response to the concerns that were raised at the hearing on Monday, and stated that she looked forward to working with her on the new effort. As a first step, Clinton indicated that she would be working to set up a meeting as soon as possible between EPA and the city to make sure that the task force is underway as soon as possible.

Yesterday, Administrator Whitman wrote to Senator Clinton announcing that she would create a Task Force on Indoor Air in Lower Manhattan with local, state and federal partners. Whitman wrote, "Despite the City's best efforts to address indoor environmental issues, it is apparent that many concerns and challenges remain. I am committed to providing additional assistance to the City and its residents and stand ready to do so. In addition, as you suggested yesterday, I will be working with our local, state and federal partners to establish a Task Force on Indoor Air in Lower Manhattan, so that we can move as quickly as possible to address the remaining concerns we all share."

On February 11, Senator Clinton, along with Senator Joseph Lieberman, conducted a hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Clear Air, Wetlands, and Climate Change in Lower Manhattan to address ongoing concerns regarding air quality at Ground Zero. It was at that hearing that Senator Clinton announced a five-point plan to address these concerns, including calling for the formation of an Indoor Air Program for Lower Manhattan.

The five-point plan includes:

- Passage of legislation to establish a permanent health monitoring system at disaster sites;
- Funding for long-term health registry to monitor Ground Zero workers and those who live, go to school, and work in lower Manhattan;
- Establishment of a World Trade Center indoor air program to provide more information about the testing, monitoring, and cleaning of office buildings, residences, and schools in lower Manhattan;
- Creation of a World Trade Center site clean air initiative to reduce harmful emissions from construction equipment;
- Application of lessons learned about air quality at Ground Zero to our homeland security plan, so that the nation can be better prepared to deal with potential future disasters.

Senator Clinton will continue to work with Senator Lieberman and other colleagues both on the Senate Environment Committee and throughout the Congress to address ongoing concerns with air quality and related health impacts at and around Ground Zero.