

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Corona, New York 11368-5107

LOG NO. _____

RETURN BY _____

TO: Bob Aalter

- ☐ For Immediate Action/Urgent
- ☐ For Appropriate Action
- ☐ Draft response for my signature
- ☐ Draft response for Commissioner's signature and return to me
- ☐ Discuss with me
- ☒ For your comments
- ☒ For your information

Remarks: _____

Robin M. Levine
Deputy General Counsel
(718) 595-6586

DATE SENT: 9/16/02

AUG-07-2002 16:00
AUG-07-02 01:30PM

NYC D.E.P. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

P.02/04

Released by Parents Association

PRESS RELEASE - STUY HIGH ASBESTOS SKY HIGH

released today

Two and a half million structures of asbestos per square centimeter were found in the carpet of the auditorium of Stuyvesant High School in tests completed Friday. Normal background levels in an urban environment are considered to be 10,000 structures per sq cm.

The Parents' Association engineer conducted two tests for asbestos in the carpet of the auditorium which was being replaced for aesthetic reasons, the Parents' Association said. One test came back at 60,000 structures, six times the expected background level, the other at two and a half million structures or 250 times the expected background level. Parents believe the asbestos may have been tracked in by workers and dogs who used the auditorium as a base during rescue operations at Ground Zero. It could also have resulted from the initial collapse of the towers or from the barge operation which sat at Stuyvesant's north doorstep for eight months during the cleanup.

The tests were conducted during a cleanup of the ventilation system after lead was discovered there at thirty times the regulatory limit. Although the Board of Education had assured parents and staff that the school had undergone a thorough asbestos abatement after September 11, several months later the Stuyvesant community learned that the ventilation system had not been cleaned. The Board of Education continued to refuse to clean it, despite the fact that FEMA was paying, until the Parents' Association threatened litigation.

"The news about the asbestos makes us doubt the tests the Board of Education's company has been doing all year," said one parent.

Other parents expressed concern for the workers who have not been wearing protective gear as well as concern about the environmental impact of the monumental rebuilding process on their children.

Jenna Orkin -

PII

Parents Assoc member

from the engineer's report:

I received the ultrasonication test results for the Auditorium carpet from EMSL Analytical today. Both are extremely high (approximately 10,000 and 2.5 million asbestos structures per square centimeter). I will ex a copy of the results to each of you. Levels greater than 10,000 are currently triggering abatement for WTC related projects. Surprisingly the highest value was from under a seat in the rear of the Auditorium (below the Mezzanine). This certainly raises concern that the seats are contaminated. IOE should adequately sample (ASTM Microvac) the seats to determine if cleaning is feasible. If the seats are not replaced, extensive sampling should be performed after cleaning and prior to occupancy. Similar consideration should be given to replacing and/or testing the 6th floor library carpeting.

To:
Nathalie Miller

PII

From: Leticia Heddoe
WNYC
(212) 669-3358
FAX: (212) 669-3828

Time