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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

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March 4, 2002

Commissioner Joel Miele
Department of Environmental Protection
City of New York
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 10th Floor
Flushing, NY 11373

Dear Commissioner Miele:

Thank you for appearing before the Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, and Climate Change on February 11 for the New York City field hearing on the impacts of the September 11 attack on air quality and possible related health impacts in the area of the World Trade Center. Your testimony was helpful, and your input will prove valuable as the Committee continues its work on this important topic.

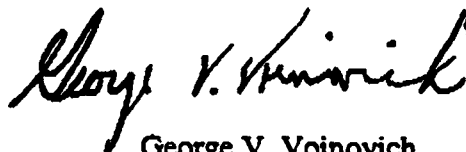
Enclosed are questions that we are submitting for the hearing record. Please return your answers no later than Monday, March 18 by email to Shannon_heyck-williams@epw.senate.gov, or by fax to (202) 224-1273. To facilitate the publication of the record, please reproduce the questions with your responses.

Again, thank you for your assistance and please contact Ms. Heyck-Williams on the Committee staff at (202) 224-8832 or Ms. Gabrielle Tenzer in Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's office at (202) 224-8365 if you have any questions. We look forward to reviewing your answers.

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman



George V. Voinovich
Ranking Member

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Mike - Can you ask Krish to help me write up a response for any questions pertaining to us?

Mark Canagha

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**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS, 2/11/02 NEW YORK CITY FIELD HEARING ON THE
IMPACTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACK ON AIR QUALITY**

**To Commissioner Joel Miele, Department of Environmental Protection,
City of New York**

From Senator Clinton:

1. In your testimony, you refer to an asbestos standard of 0.01. How does this compare to the 70 structures per square millimeter standard that EPA is using? You mentioned that the agencies were meeting daily. Why didn't the agencies agree upon a common standard to use for asbestos?
2. You also indicated that asbestos levels of 0.01 carry an "extremely low risk" of causing illness. Please quantify the risk associated with the 0.01 standard.
3. In your testimony, you stated that the City has required building owners to "assess the presence of hazardous materials such as asbestos and remediate as required under applicable City regulations using qualified professionals." Can you please elaborate? What do the City's regulations require? How is the City ensuring that building owners are following these regulations?
4. Later in your testimony, you state that the City is providing "oversight and guidance." Is this in addition to requiring compliance with the regulations?
5. You also state that interior cleanups remain the responsibility of building "owners and occupants." Please provide further detail and clarification of this point.
6. Have the instructions or directions that your agency has been giving out regarding interior cleanup changed at all between now and September 11?
7. In your testimony, you mentioned that you "had to come up with some methodology" to let people back into their buildings. Please provide a copy of the methodology that was developed for this purpose.
8. How often are the roadways around ground zero and along the routes to the barges being cleaned and how has this rate of cleaning been determined? What actions are being taken to ensure that particulates and other contaminants are not resuspended into the air?
9. What efforts are being made to clean the sidewalks in the area, especially those around the schools?
10. There have been reports that some of the trucks transporting debris from the site are uncovered and not fully wetted down. Who is responsible for monitoring this operation?

What further actions can be taken to ensure that this operation is conducted in a manner that is as clean as possible?

11. Why are the debris barges not being required to be covered in some fashion?
12. What actions will be taken during the rebuilding process to reduce as much as possible the noise, dust, diesel exhaust and other forms of pollution at the site?
13. Please provide all documentation that was used in making the decision to re-open downtown residences.
14. Do you have adequate resources to meet response needs? Has access to resources been an obstacle to fulfilling your responsibilities in this regard?
15. When is the termination date for use for recovery operations of the waste transfer station on Pier 25, including the truck and barge operations? Please advise as to whether this would entail a complete cessation of all operations at Pier 25 or whether other operations, such as construction or sanitation activities, are being considered for Pier 25.