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Natalie Millner, public affairs
New York Department of Environmental Protection

Dear Ms. Millner:

Thank you for your help with my story. Here are my questions.

- Has DEP done any indoor testing of air or dust for asbestos?
- If not, why not? If you have, when did it start and why did it take so long to commence?
- If you have data on asbestos in indoor air and/or dust, is it publicly available?
- The EPA says that soon after Sept. 11, the responsibility for indoor-air testing was passed to the city. Do you agree with that version of events?
- Does DEP have the same expertise and depth of staff that EPA does when it comes to testing indoor air?
- According to some outside observers, the city didn't want EPA to have a role in indoor tests for asbestos. Do you disagree?
- If you do test for asbestos indoors, which protocol or methodology do you use? TEM? PCM? EPA Level II?
- Which method for testing dust? Does the department sanction the use of microvacuum cassettes?
- The Washington Post quoted a DEP spokesman as rejecting the results of asbestos tests performed for the New York Environmental Law and Justice Project. Why? Which other methodologies would you accept?
- Many residents of lower Manhattan are unhappy with the clean-up guidance the city has provided. They say that early on, the city told them to clean their apartments with wet rags, despite not knowing the levels of asbestos in their apartments. What's your response?
- Even now, people are moving back into apartments that haven't been professionally tested or cleaned. What's the health risk from asbestos to those people?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Traci Watson

Traci Watson, environmental reporter
USA TODAY

cc: CS, GR