



Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E., Commissioner
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News Digest

(F) World Trade Center

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PRESS ADVISORY

DEP CANCELS 2001 DEER HUNTING SEASON

ALL PUBLIC ACCESS TO CITY'S WATER SUPPLY LANDS SUSPENDED

As of September 28th, the 2001 deer-hunting season on the City's Water Supply lands has been cancelled, according to an announcement by Commissioner Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E., of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Commissioner Miele said, "In consultation with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and under advisement of federal authorities, the City will not issue DEP deer-hunting permits for the 2001 season. Additionally, holders of DEP fishing and hiking permits are advised that fishing and hiking privileges and all public access to City-owned lands have been suspended until further notice. We deeply regret the need for these actions, but they are prudent steps to take under trying circumstances."

Immediately following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11th, DEP announced that, all public access to Water Supply lands, including fishing and hiking privileges had been suspended, but a determination on deer-hunting had not been made at the time.

"As Commissioner, I have been very supportive of our extensive recreational program in the watershed. We at DEP have worked hard with many watershed residents and organizations in putting these programs together. For this fall's deer hunting season we had planned to open additional lands and to initiate a pilot bow-hunting season. Mayor Giuliani joins me in hoping that life in the watershed will get back to normal as soon as possible."

Unusual incidents or activities in the watershed may be reported to 1-888-DEP-NYC1 (1-888-337-6921) or 1-888-H2O-SHED (1-888-426-7433).

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Land near NYC reservoirs off limits to deer hunters

By Melissa Hoffmann
 Record Correspondent

Deer hunting near New York City's upstate reservoirs has been canceled this year out of concerns about the safety of the city's water supply.

The city's Department of Environmental Protection announced its decision this week to cancel the deer season as part of stepped-up security measures to protect its water supply. All hiking and fishing privileges have been suspended since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

The only properties affected by the hunting ban are lands around New York City reservoirs. There are 18 reservoirs in the city's water system, which include the Ashokan, Schoharie, Rondout, Neversink, Pepacton, Cannonsville and Hikkiew reservoirs.

The DEP will not issue hunting licenses for the 2001 deer season, and all fishing and hiking permits have been suspended indefinitely.

There are no proposed bans on hunting for state-controlled lands, said Jennifer Meichtl, a spokesperson for the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Stewart Preserve is a popular state-controlled hunting area near Stewart International Airport in New Windsor. Despite heightened security at the airport and the proximity of the hunting areas, no restrictions have been planned, Meichtl said.

In fact, small game season is already under way, and people are hunting on the Stewart lands.

For the state's southern zone, which comprises Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties, the archery season for deer opens Oct. 15 and runs through Nov. 11, then resumes Dec. 12-18. The regular deer season runs from Nov. 19 through Dec. 11. Only shotguns can be used at the Stewart Preserve during this time.

There is a short muzzle-loader season running Dec. 12-18.

THR. 10/5/01

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► MY VIEW

City on heightened alert in watershed

By Joni A. Niele Sr.

In an article about terrorist targets (Sept. 23), The Times Herald-Record has joined with Riverkeeper and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in an effort to alarm residents of Ulster and Sullivan counties about threats to their well being because of their proximity to New York City water supply facilities. While agencies involved with security do not reveal details of their operations, as commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, I can

address watershed security in a general way.

DEP has been on heightened security alert since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. DEP's security program has been reviewed and approved by federal agencies, including the FBI and the Army Corps of Engineers. We coordinate security efforts with federal, state and local law-enforcement agencies.

DEP police, watershed inspectors and other DEP employees are on constant alert for unusual activities in the

watershed. Surveillance at watershed properties is conducted in various ways that may not be apparent to residents or passersby. Some reservoir roadways have been closed and all permitted recreational activities have been suspended on the city's watershed properties, including fishing at the reservoirs. Water quality is monitored at reservoirs and throughout the distribution system and analyzed at high-tech laboratories in the watershed and the city.

Watershed Residents and visitors

Readers are encouraged to report unusual incidents or activities in the watershed to 833 DEP-NYC1 (833-337-6911) or 828-H2O-SUED (800-426-7433).

I regret that some of our security measures may inconvenience people in the watershed, but they are prudent and necessary under the circumstances related to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Joe A. Miele Sr., is commissioner, of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

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Friday
October 5, 2001

President and controller, JAMES A. MOSS, 845-346-3222

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BUREAU OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CONTACT: Geoffrey Ryan (718/595-6600)****October 2, 2001****01-41****NEW YORK CITY CONTRACTS FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND LAND IN
KENSICO AND NEW CROTON RESERVOIR WATERSHEDS**

New York City has signed purchase contracts to acquire land owned by the Chiselhurst Corporation in both the Kensico and Croton watersheds in Westchester County, according to an announcement by Commissioner Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E., of the City's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The property to be acquired is principally in the Town of New Castle and mostly in the Kensico Reservoir basin. The acquisition includes a conservation easement on 120 acres, as well as a fee-simple purchase of 14.8 acres.

"We are pleased to be taking this significant step forward in protecting the Kensico Reservoir, one of the City's most important assets," said Commissioner Miele. "The larger parcel had been considered by the landowner for various development projects over the past decade. By signing these contracts, however, Chiselhurst officials have clearly demonstrated their willingness and interest in negotiating a deal at fair market value with the City and I want to thank them for their cooperation."

Of the total 135 acres to be secured under the newly signed purchase contract, all are in high priority zones of their respective reservoirs -- roughly 120 acres in the Kensico basin and 15 in the New Croton watershed. The conservation easement allows a maximum of only three residences to be built on the 120-acre parcel, with the vast majority of the land dedicated to open space and protection of water quality. Added to 35 acres already acquired or placed under contract, this deal makes for a total of 155 acres that the City has secured to date in the Kensico basin under provisions of the 1997 Watershed Memorandum of Agreement.

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Conservation Easement

Town of New Castle Supervisor Marion Sinek said, "We are delighted to see this extraordinarily sensitive piece of watershed property preserved from future development, thanks to the joint efforts of DEP, New Castle Town and Planning Boards, open space advocates and the property owners. The Town played a catalytic role when former Supervisor Clinton Smith hosted several meetings between DEP and the Sellers during early negotiations."

Commissioner Miele said, "I want to emphasize that this acquisition is just the latest in the City's continuing campaign to secure hydrologically sensitive lands throughout the watersheds of its reservoirs. As with all of the City's watershed land acquisitions, conservation easements are purchased only from willing sellers who want to take advantage of this unique program. All acquisitions, whether by easement or fee-simple purchase, are arranged at fair market value as established by independent, professional appraisers."

Under DEP's Conservation Easement Program, landowners continue to own and use their property, but forgo the rights to develop it further through a sale of those rights at fair market value to DEP. In addition to paying for the development rights, the City will pay a share of the property taxes on each easement it acquires. ~~The City's tax share is determined by the~~ percentage of full market value that the sold development rights represent. For instance, if the removal of development rights reduces a parcel's value as vacant land by 62%, the City would pay 62% of the annual tax bill (in addition to the purchase price paid to the landowner). The percentage of value is set by independent appraisers, hired by the City, and differs based on each property's specific characteristics, appraised value and development potential.

Since 1997, the City has secured nearly 33,000 acres of land throughout the watersheds of its Catskill and Delaware System reservoirs in Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester Counties. An additional 732 acres have been secured in the Croton System in Westchester County.

The New York City Water Supply System provides excellent quality drinking water to over nine million consumers in New York City and Westchester, Putnam, Orange and Ulster Counties, plus the millions of commuters and tourists who visit the City every year.

For more information, or to receive an information packet on the City's Land Acquisition and Conservation Easement Programs, landowners can contact the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program at 1-800-575-LAND.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CONTACT: Geoffrey Ryan****October 2, 2001****(718) 595-6600**

01-40

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES MOVING AHEAD

Upgrades are well underway at six wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in the watersheds of New York City's Catskill and Delaware Water Supply Systems, according to an announcement by Commissioner Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E., of the City's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Each of the facilities is owned by a municipality or firm other than the City and is being upgraded in accordance with the 1997 Watershed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

"I am pleased to report that construction started on the four largest facilities this summer," said Commissioner Miele. "Those four account for 85.5% of the wastewater treated by non-City-owned WWTPs in the West-of-Hudson watershed. The other three, which account for an additional 2.8% of treated effluent, will begin construction in mid-autumn. All six are scheduled for completion by the second quarter of 2002, in conformance with an agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency."

Each of the plants will be upgraded to state-of-the-art technology that includes "tertiary" treatment, which is well above the State-mandated secondary treatment standard. As part of the MOA, DEP will fund all aspects of the upgrades called for by the Watershed Rules and Regulations and not otherwise required by State or federal law.

Five of the plants undergoing upgrades are in Delaware County -- the municipal facilities owned by the Villages of Delhi, Hobart, Stamford and Walton, and another that treats wastewater at Worcester Creamery, formerly Mountainside Dairy Farms, in Roxbury. The sixth plant serves the Hunter Highlands community in Greene County. The Delhi plant will also handle pre-treated wastewater from the Ultra-Dairy and DMV processing facilities.

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Wastewater Treatment Plants

In addition to these six plants, the upgrades of 21 smaller WWTPs in the Catskill/Delaware watershed are all scheduled for completion by or before the first quarter of 2003. These plants typically treat wastewater from restaurants, hotels, seasonal camps and small housing developments. Seven other small WWTPs are scheduled to be de-commissioned and connected to three proposed non-City-owned municipal WWTPs.

By 1998, DEP had completed upgrades of its five WWTPs, which treat 40% of the total wastewater in the Catskill/Delaware watershed. DEP installed microfiltration, a technology used to filter drinking water, to achieve the high tertiary treatment standards at its own plants. Microfiltration or equivalent technologies will be used at all the non-City-owned plants currently being upgraded.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 2001
01-42

CONTACT: Geoffrey Ryan
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**AMERICORPS WORKERS TEAM UP WITH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been employing four AmeriCorps members in its upstate watershed this year in a unique partnership with the Greene, Ulster and Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and a locally based youth employment agency - the Youth Resource Development Corporation.

"This partnership benefits DEP and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, by providing additional staffing and developing local expertise in recognizing and evaluating stream problems," said DEP Commissioner Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E. "Plus, it provides invaluable work experience to recent college graduates in the field of water resources."

The ten-month-long term of the AmeriCorps members' assignment allows them time to work on all aspects of these stewardship projects, from data collection and analysis, to public meetings and fieldwork. The AmeriCorps members have been working since January in the offices of the three SWCD, as well as the DEP office in Kingston. They received hands-on technical training in stream surveying, Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping and biological monitoring. They are currently assisting the Districts and DEP Stream Management Program staff with surveying eroding stream banks and beds; prioritizing these areas for future restoration work; planting appropriate riparian vegetation after stream restoration work is complete (also known as bioengineering); and evaluating the condition of streams to improve and protect fish habitat, as well as water quality.

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AmeriCorps

"The AmeriCorps program has been extremely valuable in accomplishing almost a full year of work on several ongoing projects," said Rene Van Schaack, Executive Director of the Greene County SWCD, which helped to establish and administer this year's AmeriCorps program in the Catskill region. "Hands-on professional experience should prove extremely valuable to the AmeriCorps members in future employment or study in the water resource field."

Jay Czerniak from Bedminster, Pennsylvania is stationed in Walton with the Delaware County SWCD. A graduate of Penn State University, he is working on the West Branch Delaware Rive that flows into the Cannonsville Reservoir.

Jennie Church, also a Penn State University graduate, is a native of Erie, Pennsylvania. Her work assignment is on the Batavia Kill with the Greene County SWCD.

Amanda LaValle returned to Woodstock in Ulster County this year after graduation from Cornell University. She has been busy with field assessment on the Stony Clove Creek in Ulster and Greene Counties.

Catherine Sinchak from Independence, Ohio is a graduate of Allegheny College in Pennsylvania. This summer she is working with staff from DEP and the US Geological Survey (USGS) to evaluate the quality of fish and invertebrate habitat in several Catskill streams.

Upon completion of their ten-month assignment in the Catskills, the AmeriCorps members will receive a federal education award of approximately \$4,700 for payment of undergraduate loans or future graduate studies. In addition, they receive a weekly stipend from a local agency match - in this case DEP.

Information about AmeriCorps positions in the region is available from the Youth Resource Development Corporation at (845) 473-5005.

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AmeriCorps members Jay Czerniak and Catherine Sinchak "flagging" stream bank level on the West Branch Delaware River in Hamden.

Photo: New York City Department of Environmental Protection

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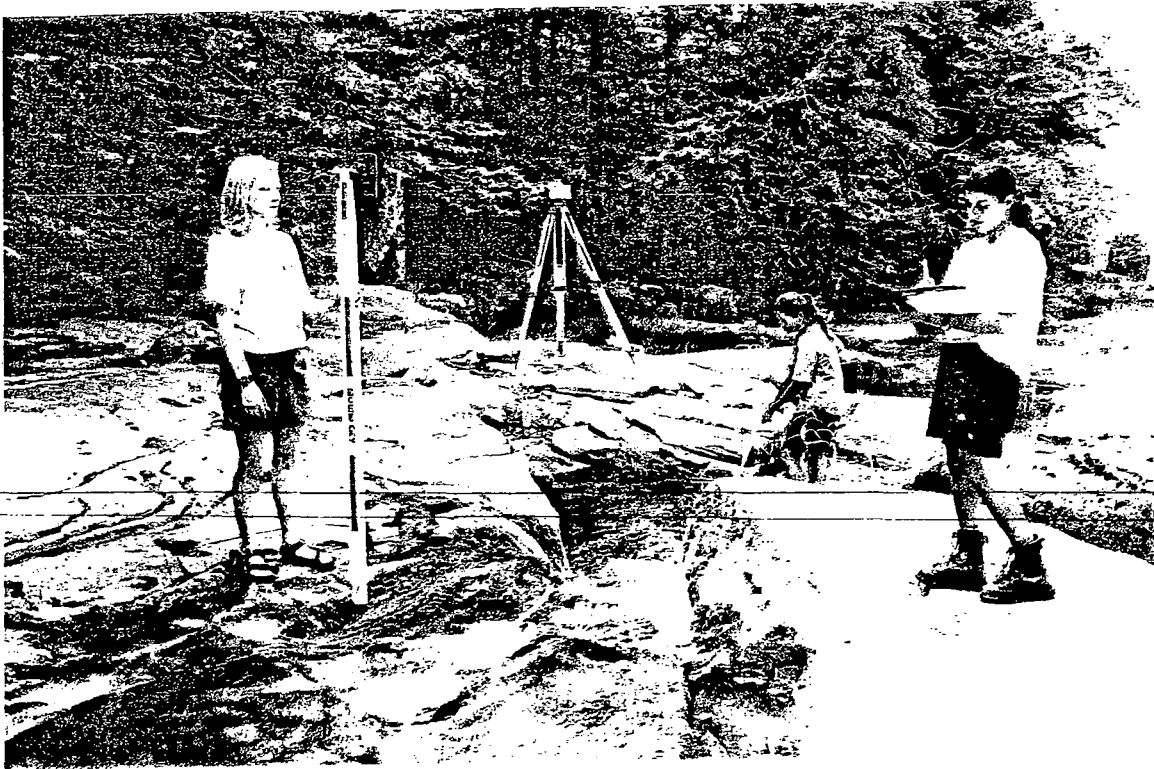


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AmeriCorps members on the Stony Clove Creek in Lanesville, Greene County.
(L to R) Amanda LaValle and Catherine Sinchak survey an unstable stream bank
while Jennie Church uses a GPS (Global Positioning System) to map the
location.

Photo: New York City Department of Environmental Protection

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THE WATER SUPPLY

E.P.A. Years Behind Timetable On Guarding Water From Attack

By GREG WINTER

The Environmental Protection Agency has fallen years behind its timetable for safeguarding the nation's water supply against a possible terrorist attack, according to the agency's internal documents.

Under orders from President Bill Clinton, the agency detailed its plans for protecting the nation's drinking water in 1998, offering a road map for the administration's campaign to foil terrorist plots by fortifying the United States' infrastructure.

Yet many of the steps that the agency said would be completed as long as two years ago, like identifying vulnerabilities, have just begun or are still on the drawing board. That is prompting some lawmakers to call for stricter oversight of the E.P.A.'s antiterrorism efforts.

"Our nation no longer has the luxury of time to build adequate defenses against threats to our drinking water," Senator Christopher S. Bond of Missouri, the senior Republican on the Appropriations Committee, wrote in a letter this week to Christie Whitman, the agency administrator. "We must build them now."

The chances of successful chemical and biological attacks on municipal water supplies are slim, experts say. Treatment plants filter out many contaminants, and chlorine kills many organisms. Many cities draw on several reservoirs for water, so even poisoned ones can be closed while fresh sources are used.

Nonetheless, scientists worry that terrorists could pump contaminants directly into neighborhood water lines or try to destroy dams, aqueducts or tunnels.

In an audit being released today, the environmental agency's inspector general found that the agency had secured the 16 sites it operates, but had done little to address the safety of the thousands of local water systems whose supervision it had

been assigned three years ago.

In the last three weeks, utility companies have been posting armed guards around water treatment plants, installing tamperproof manhole covers in sidewalks and blocking roads around reservoirs.

But while cities have emergency plans in place, most of those are designed to tackle natural disasters, not terrorism.

The E.P.A. said in 1998 that it would bridge that gap by telling cities what kinds of sabotage to expect and how to find weaknesses. Much of that work was to be done by 1999, but it has yet to be finished. The agency now hopes to have it done by winter.

For local water companies, the delay at the environmental agency has meant a shortage of guidance when they need it most.

One reason for the delays, the agency says, is that it still does not completely know what the risks are. Scientists have made great strides in identifying the organisms that can survive in chlorinated waterways, but they are still grappling with the best ways to counteract them. Putting out erroneous information just to keep to a schedule would be counterproductive, the agency says.

Another problem, it says, is a budgetary process that requires the agency to request money 18 months before it is used. So although the agency's plan to combat terrorist threats to water was completed in 1998, the E.P.A. did not get any money from Congress until 2000.

Some companies say that in the absence of clear directives they are evaluating and shielding their systems as best they can.

"We'd certainly be further along than we are now," said Tom Curtis, deputy director of the American Water Works Association, which represents more than 4,000 utility companies. "We're trying to do an awful lot of work very quickly."

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10.4.01

Daily News 10/4/01

WAITING FOR WAR

Air near Ground Zero is rated safe by feds

By PAUL H.B. SHIN
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

The levels of cancer-causing asbestos and other material still lingering in the air in lower Manhattan remain below limits considered a health risk, federal authorities said yesterday.

But with hundreds of tons of hazardous material still buried among the rubble of the World Trade Center, experts cautioned workers at Ground Zero to keep wearing respirators.

Air quality samples taken between Sept. 13-27 at the rubble pile's so-called hot zone detected airborne asbestos and fiberglass at levels that at one point topped .1 fibers per cubic centimeter — the safety limit set by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

But 90%-95% of those fibers were found to be fiberglass and not asbestos. And samples taken outside the hot zone have shown levels that OSHA considers well below permissible levels of exposure.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which also is keeping tabs on air quality, released re-

sults of its own monitoring last week. Using methods different from OSHA, the EPA said asbestos levels at times spiked to nearly twice the permissible limit, but overall, cancer-causing asbestos found in the air and dust at Ground Zero and surrounding areas were mostly at low levels.

Can scar lungs

With prolonged exposure, asbestos fibers can scar lung tissue and eventually cause cancer. Though a few weeks is not considered enough to cause scarring, health experts warned that the government limits do not necessarily mean it is risk free.

"It's okay legally, but it's not necessarily okay medically because there's no known safe level of exposure to asbestos," said David Newman, an industri-

al hygienist for the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health. The committee has been conducting independent tests on behalf of union members working near Ground Zero.

And asbestos is not the only hazard, he said.

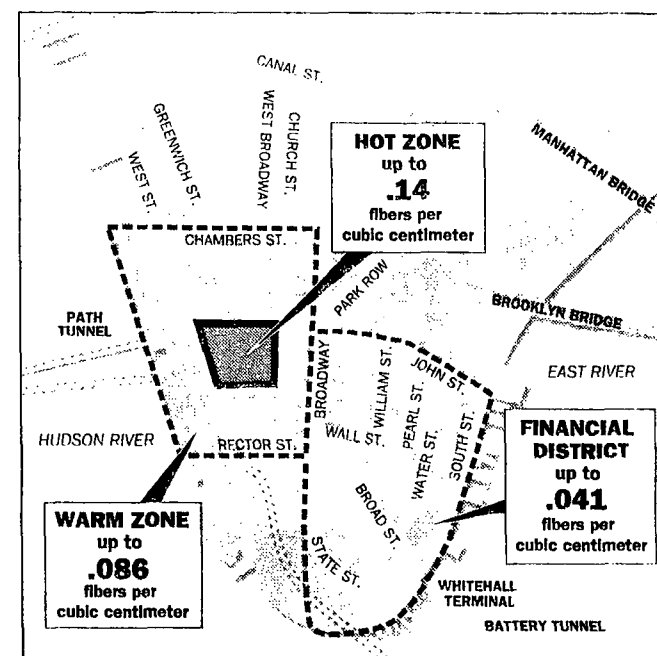
"Even in the absence of toxic components, the dust poses respiratory hazards, particularly to people with pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma or bronchitis," Newman said.

Meanwhile, the EPA conducted a whirlwind cleanup of Washington Market Park at Chambers and Greenwich Sts. after a local community group conducted asbestos testing and found levels at times twice the permissible limit. The EPA hauled away all the sand in the playground and even some top soil from surrounding area, said Parks Commissioner Henry Stern.

"It's more as a precaution that the sand was removed," Stern said. "When something like this happens, you want people to be comfortable."

BY THE NUMBERS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has set an exposure limit for asbestos at .1 fibers per cubic centimeter during any eight-hour period. The following measurements were taken from Sept. 13 to 27:



Hot Zone (rubble pile)
OSHA took 72 samples in the hot zone. 90% to 95% of the fibers found were fiberglass rather than asbestos.

Warm Zone
OSHA has collected more than 150 samples in the Warm Zone through Sept. 24.

Financial District
OSHA has taken about 40 samples. It ceased sampling in the Financial District on Sept. 21.

N.Y. can breathe free

By BARBARA HOFFMAN

ONE of the big health concerns in the aftermath of last Tuesday's destruction of the World Trade Center was the damage all that dust and smoke could do to people's lungs.

As the Twin Towers collapsed and sent a wave of soot cascading through downtown, victims were left covered in dense, powdery ash. Many needed to be treated for smoke inhalation.

Experts feared serious air-quality problems, but they now say the general public can breathe easy — there is little threat of any lingering health hazards.

"We anticipated a big problem," said Dr. Gillian Shepherd, an allergy-immunology specialist at Weill Cornell Medical Center-New York Presbyterian Hospital. "But thank heavens, it didn't happen."

Of top concern was asbestos, a synthetic insulation that is now banned but may have been used in the construction of the World Trade Center in the 1970s. Offi-

Health experts say air quality's OK after World Trade Center disaster

cials worried that residents would inhale large quantity of airborne particles of asbestos, which can cause cancer and other maladies.

But the city's Board of Health said its readings showed there was very little asbestos in the air.

Besides, said Dr. Murray Rogers, chief of pulmonology at Lenox Hill Hospital, "with asbestos, you need a lot of exposure over a long period of time before you suffer any adverse effect. This didn't happen. The area was evacuated and those large particles fell to the ground. Then the rain washed the air."

Rogers said a bigger threat was posed by hot fumes that may have harmed victims' lungs and tracheae.

"Certainly, older people, people with chronic lung disease and young children [who have

immature lungs] were more susceptible on Tuesday to whatever particulates were in the air. But the danger now has passed."

Still, many people were left choking and gasping for air. The best remedy, said the experts, is to drink lots of water.

"Eight glasses a day," recommended Rogers. "Lungs are supposed to be soft, supple and moist, and hydrating yourself will keep them from getting dry."

Of course, those aiding in the rescue effort need to take every precaution to protect themselves, Rogers said.

That includes wearing masks at all times and changing them when necessary, since filters are effective only so long.

Rescuers working at the site should launder their clothing well to keep from spreading the dust.

Rogers said people who are more susceptible to pollution in general — those who have emphysema or asthma — may want to see their doctors if they're feeling ill or are coughing more than usual.

In some cases, he said, people may be suffering psychosomatic symptoms triggered by Tuesday's trauma. But he added, "Don't readily discount any coughing or anything else as psychosomatic. If you're feeling ill, see a doctor, if only to set your mind at ease."

If people seem to be sneezing and coughing more this week, it has less to do with the World Trade Towers disaster and more to do with the time of the year, said Shepherd.

"I was just looking at today's pollen counts," she said yesterday, "and they're more than 5,000 per cubic meter of air, a

distance of about 3 feet. There are usually only a few hundred grains of pollen, and any of it, landing on the nose, will induce an allergic reaction."

Dust from downtown may irritate sensitive respiratory systems further, but the key triggers are mold spores and weed pollens, said Shepherd, who's been fielding panicked calls from asthma and allergy patients for the last week.

"Though we don't have information about every detail about the composition of the smoke and dust cloud [that enveloped lower Manhattan], every indication we've had so far from city officials have been very reassuring."

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services confirmed that the health risk from the smoking remains of the towers poses little risk to the general public; nor is there a risk, the agency added, from the decomposing remains under the rubble.

For more information about dust, debris and asbestos, visit the HHS Web site at www.hhs.gov.

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N.Y.

Health



U.S. National Guard troops wore protective face masks while patrolling on West Street in downtown Manhattan last week, near the wreckage of the World Trade Center.

Reuters

Up the Creek in the Bronx

Fulton Fish Market Unhappy in Its New Home



Photographs by Angel Franco/The New York Times

Tony Cirillo, the president of Local 359 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, the union local that represents the fish market workers, said: "The New York Stock Exchange is back open for business, for pete's sake. How about us?"

By CHARLIE LeDUFF

The thing about fish is that it's got to be sold today. This is both a natural and an economic law.

This universal truth is being pleaded by fishmongers at the Fulton Fish Market, who, because of the World Trade Center attack, are no longer mongering fish from their open-air stalls in southern Manhattan, but rather from a desolate and filthy parking lot in the South Bronx.

The market, it seems, created traffic problems. So its relocation went into effect Sept. 15 on the order of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani.

"When the semis and forklifts are operating and fish is being sold outdoors, South Street is shut down," said Janel Patterson, a spokeswoman for the city's Economic Development Corporation. "We need that street for the relief effort."

The move has brought impending bankruptcies, layoffs of workers, worries of a spoiled seafood supply and struggles

for the neighborhood around the South Street Seaport, the merchants said.

The market is currently at 600 Food Center Drive in the Hunts Point Market site, the Bronx. It is sandwiched between the meat cooperative and the littered banks of the Bronx River. It leans like a shantytown against the old Hebrew National Foods warehouse. The names of the fish purveyors are spray-painted on the building. Just across an access road is a polluted brownfield and a dumping ground for batteries, house paints and other toxic materials.

"It's a horror story," said Joe Centrone, a cantankerous cigar-stained salesman for Arrow Seafood, who is known around the market as Joe Tuna. "We're getting slaughtered. None of the customers can find us up here, and even if they could, this ain't the nicest neighborhood in New York."

To make matters worse, the square footage of the temporary market is one-third the space of the Fulton Fish Mar-

ket. The 1,200 forklifts, trucks and vans must jockey for available space among the narrow aisles and roads

while avoiding the customers and workmen pushing handcarts. The merchandise is piled so haphazardly that the salesmen find it difficult to remember what fish they have in stock.

The 59 wholesale operators find themselves working in the elements, without computers or cash registers, with nothing to shield them from the rain and wind. The sleet of December is on everyone's mind.

Since the move to the Bronx, merchants estimate that volume is down 40 to 50 percent. The market normally moves 100,000 boxes of produce a week, which translates into a \$1 billion annual industry for New York City. But many say that business is now so poor that they don't think they can last another month in the current situation.

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Up the

"It's a temporary home with no end in sight," said Vincent Tatick, president of the Joseph H. Carter Fish Company. "The city thinks they're helping us. But over all this location is killing us. If we can get back home, we want to get back home yesterday."

The wholesalers were scheduled to move to a new location in the Bronx in 2003, but construction on that project will not begin until later this fall, city officials said. For now, they will have to endure the parking lot.

"We've got no problem with the temporary move," said Tony Cirillo, president of Local 359 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, the union that represents the 400 journeymen and salesmen at the fish stalls. "We're Americans and we want to do our part. But enough is enough. The New York Stock Exchange is back open for business, for Pete's sake. How about us?"

"Because business is so bad, Mr. Cirillo said, 50 of his men have been laid off and more job losses are expected next week.

"These are good jobs," he said. "This whole thing has a negative

Yet another aftershock: South Street is needed 'for the relief effort.'

trickle-down on families and the city."

Some people at the market say Mayor Giuliani is using a national emergency to punish them for their long-running resistance to his authority. Mr. Giuliani effectively crushed the influence of organized crime at the Fulton Fish Market in the mid-1990's, requiring licensing and background checks on workers, which forced more than a dozen companies out of business.

City officials say the move is nothing more than an emergency measure to keep the fish market, the largest in the United States, solvent, and that every effort is being made to get the Fulton Fish Market back up and running.

"There was no electricity or telephones and Lower Manhattan was immobilized," Ms. Patterson said. "At this point, South Street is an artery needed for the relief effort, and it's hard to say when we'll be able to move them back."

The market operates like an open-air auction house, except there are no barkers and no tote boards to reflect supply and demand. Prices



A refrigerated truck at the Fulton Fish Market, now relocated to Hunts Point in the Bronx. The temporary market has only one-third the space of the old site.

are set by the individual consignees and are determined by a strange combination of weather reports, fishermen's gossip and the prices at the neighboring stalls.

The men still come to work at midnight, as they have for a century. Their language is rough and blasphemous. But many buyers, who come from as far away as South Jersey and northern Connecticut, are going to the Philadelphia and Boston mar-

kets rather than take their chances in the Bronx during the dark morning hours, the salesmen said.

Judging by the sanitary conditions of the temporary fish house, one cannot blame them. The quarters are wretched. Rodent droppings line the walls. Exhaust fumes from the forklifts mingle with the fish. The floors are a slop of mud and oil.

The few toilets are filthy, and there are only a few hoses to wash down the entire 50,000 square feet of indoor cooler and storage space. The equipment at the temporary market includes 20 diesel trucks used for refrigeration, 15 portable spotlights and a handful of outhouses. One truck recently malfunctioned and \$13,000 worth of seafood was lost overnight.

A city official who works with the market seemed content with the cleanliness of the Hunts Point location, saying the area is power-washed daily and the garbage is picked up.

"Have you ever seen Fulton Market?" the official said. "It always looks filthy at the end of the selling day."

There is also the economic health of the old neighborhood to consider. Carmine's restaurant, at Front and Beekman Streets, and a favorite of market hands, has lost most of its food business, the owner reports.

Then there is Annie, a pillar of the Fulton Fish Market. She earns a meager living selling newspapers and socks and cigarettes. She has no pension. What happened to Annie, the men asked yesterday morning.

Around 4 a.m., she arrived by car service. They were glad to see her until someone figured it out.

"Annie's here?" he said. "Oh, God. That means we're here to stay."

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Tighter security at Indian Point nuclear plant

By GREG WILSON
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Since the World Trade Center attack, security has been tightened at the Indian Point nuclear power plant in Westchester, where a suicide terrorist strike could have a devastating effect on the metropolitan area, experts say.

The plant is located in the Hudson River town of Buchanan, 45 miles north of lower Manhattan, and its two reactors send power to about 2 million homes and businesses. Coast Guard cutters now patrol nearby waters, and communications with law enforcement and military authorities have been established, said Indian Point spokesman Jim Steets.

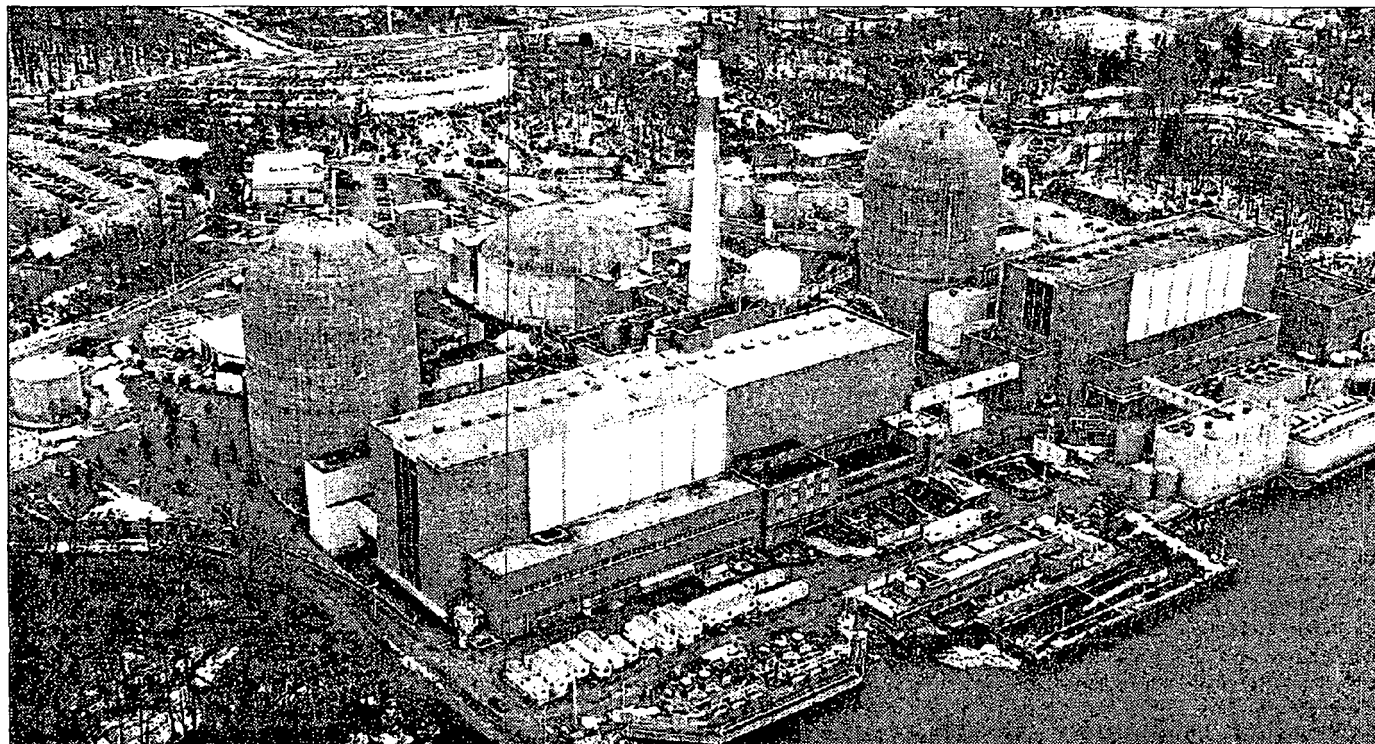
"I can't go into details, but before Sept. 11, we had security capabilities beyond those which a normal facility would have, and after Sept. 11, we added several others," he said.

Security also has been beefed up at the other 102 nuclear reactors at 65 sites around the nation, which supply 20% of the nation's energy.

Meanwhile, the House Energy and Commerce Committee yesterday approved measures to require the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to boost security at the 103 nuclear reactors.

One bill, if enacted, would require the commission to reassess the threat of a suicide attack by individuals "with sophisticated knowledge of facility operations" using modern explosives and weaponry.

Another approved measure boosts maximum penalties for sabotage against nuclear facilities to \$1 million from \$10,000, and maximum prison terms to life without parole from a 10-year maximum.



POSSIBLE HOT SPOT Three domelike structures at Con Edison's Indian Point nuclear plant in Buchanan, Westchester County. Security has been beefed up there after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Concerned experts warned this week that had terrorists flown hijacked planes into Indian Point — instead of the World Trade Center — the carnage would have been many times greater.

Officials at the International Atomic Energy Agency have conceded that no plant is designed to shield a reactor from a 200-ton jet flown by a terrorist with a death wish.

The Washington-based Nuclear Control Institute has called on the federal government to use troops and anti-aircraft defenses to protect power plants. Discussion of such a measure was tabled yesterday by the House Energy Committee.

Indian Point's reactors are under 5-foot-thick, steel-reinforced concrete domes built to contain radiation in case of a meltdown.

But institute physicist Edwin Lyman

said that if a containment dome was somehow shattered, the safety systems would likely prove useless.

Experts say an uncontained meltdown would send a large plume of highly radioactive material as far as 50 miles downwind.

Those closest to the plant could be killed within days, while those within a 50-mile radius would have greatly increased chances of getting cancer.

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WAITING  FOR WAR

City prepares to fight bioterror attack

CHECKLIST: FAMILY DISASTER KIT

What to pack in your family survival kit, as recommended by the American Red Cross:

- ☐ Supplies the family needs — infant formula, diapers, contact lens solution (also good for rinsing irritants out of eyes)
- ☐ First-aid kit and manual
- ☐ Prescription medications
- ☐ Change of clothes and sleeping bags for all
- ☐ Flashlight with working batteries
- ☐ Battery-powered radio
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Food and bottled water
- ☐ Some cash
- ☐ Copies of birth certificates and passports



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Red Cross suggests guidelines to stay safe and informed

By SUSAN FERRARO
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

In the unlikely event of a biological or chemical attack, there are practical, common-sense steps people can take to protect themselves and their families.

"Everybody should be prepared for any type of disaster anytime," said Darren Irby, spokesman for the American Red Cross. "The attacks of Sept. 11 proved that."

The first sign of a biological attack would probably be an unusual outbreak of infectious disease, said Stephen Morse, a civil-preparedness expert at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health.

"Be watchful" and report odd or severe symptoms, or water that tastes strange, he said.

Here's a guide New Yorkers can follow

to prepare for an emergency, according to the Red Cross and others:

- Choose an out-of-town contact, whom everyone knows to call and who can relay news of people's whereabouts.

- "If you are working midtown, and your daughter is staying with a friend in Brooklyn ... you can have a way to make sure everyone is fine," Irby said.

- Establish a meeting spot, or a place where you can stay overnight. Plan for family pets, because shelters and hotels won't take them.

- Put together an easily carried disaster kit.

- Find out what your child's school emergency plan is. Make sure schools have your most recent contact numbers.

- If told to evacuate your home, follow directions. Grab your disaster kit. Phone

your contacts if you have time. Lock your doors. Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and sturdy shoes.

- If told to "shelter in place," stay inside. Close and lock windows and outside doors. Shut off fans, heating and air conditioners.

- Go to a room above ground without windows: Some chemicals are heavier than air and seep into basements. Seal off cracks around doors and vents with duct tape.

- Don't let young children watch repeated TV tapes of a disaster; they think it's happening over and over again. Radio reports might be better.

- Listen to the Emergency Broadcasting System, which will be on most channels. People can take other steps that might

make them feel more comfortable. For example, they can outfit their families with ID bracelets.

But other moves — for example, buying a gas mask and chemical protection suit — may be of limited value.

And stockpiling and taking antibiotics such as Cipro just in case can be wasteful and foster antibiotic resistance, rendering the drugs useless when they are needed.

Preparation can save lives and inspire confidence.

"People shouldn't panic, but should be educated about it, so that they don't have to be so fearful," said Paul Richard, a publisher who has written a terrorist survival guide and posted it on the Web at www.newerasurvival.org.

THE AGENTS: RECOGNITION & RESPONSE

Some of the most dangerous and worrisome chemical and biological weapons:

Anthrax

Symptoms: May at first resemble common cold; then breathing becomes difficult. Kills by putting body into shock, shutting respiratory system.

Transmission: Contact with infected animals or by aerosol; most deadly when inhaled. Not contagious.

Incubation/time factor: Symptoms can occur two days to six weeks after exposure.

What stops it: Antibiotics, usually Cipro, if given early. Vaccines (mostly for military) involve a series of six shots over many months. Other antibiotics may help.

Botulinum toxin

Symptoms: First, blurred vision, then muscle weakness, paralysis, respiratory failure, death.

Transmission: Usually in food, through porous mucous membranes in mouth or digestive system. Botulism is the most poisonous substance known. Not contagious.

Incubation/time factor: Two hours to eight days; usually 12 to 72 hours.

What stops it: Prompt treatment with antitoxins. Vaccines in development appear to work against five of seven types of known botulism.

Smallpox

Symptoms: Fever, fatigue, severe headache and backaches; sometimes stomach pain and delirium. Then a rash appears, blossoming into deep disfiguring blisters. Often fatal.

Transmission: Aerosol attack, then person to person or through contaminated bedclothes. Very contagious.

Incubation/time factor: 12 to 14 days.

What stops it: Vaccine, if given before or within four days of exposure. Seven million doses available in U.S., with 40 million more on the way. Side effects: One in 300,000 vaccinated people develops encephalitis.

BIOLOGICAL

DAILY NEWS

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

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Plague

Symptoms: Fever, chills, trouble breathing, cough, bloody phlegm. Infection destroys organ function.

Transmission: Aerosol attack, which produces the especially deadly pneumonic plague — infection of the lungs.

Incubation/time factor: One to six days.

What stops it: Antibiotics such as streptomycin or gentamicin. A vaccine may be somewhat effective if given before exposure.

Tularemia

Symptoms: High fever, then pneumonia and infection. Can kill by shutting the respiratory system.

Transmission: Animal and insect bites, direct ingestion of food or water. Not transmitted human to human.

Incubation/time factor: One to 14 days, but usually three to five days after exposure.

What stops it: Antibiotics such as doxycycline and ciprofloxacin. Vaccines provide some protection.

CHEMICAL

Nerve agents: Tabun, Soman, Sarin, VX.

They affect transmission of nerve impulses. Most were developed as pesticides.

Symptoms: Low dose: Mouth filled with saliva, chest pressure, failing vision, headache. Higher dose: Breathing problems, convulsions, death caused by respiratory failure.

Transmission: Can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin (Sarin mainly through skin).

Incubation/time factor: Can kill or incapacitate in minutes if dose is big enough.

What stops it: Atropine, given as soon as possible. Most nerve agents disperse in several days, though some can last on the ground for several weeks.

Mustard gas

Symptoms: Terrible blistering on skin, eyes, lungs and gastrointestinal tract. If inhaled, blisters in throat and lungs. Can cause lasting damage or kill.

Transmission: In a gaslike cloud or liquid.

Incubation/time factor: No pain for two to 24 hours, after cell damage has occurred.

What stops it: No antidote; patient must be decontaminated. Pain or infection must be treated.

Susan Ferraro

Experts say more needs to be done

By LUKE CYPHERS, TERI THOMPSON and ROBERT INGRASSIA

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

With Attorney General John Ashcroft warning of a "clear and present danger" of a followup terrorist attack using hazardous materials, city officials are redoubling efforts to protect against a chemical or biological assault.

The city has a plan to respond to any bioterrorism, but security experts and health officials said the city and federal government must do more.

"We can't forget about this threat once the World Trade Center attack cools off," said Stephen Morse, director of the Public Health Preparedness Center at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. "We have to keep building our response system."

Some terrorist experts warn that biological and chemical attacks, such as the release of anthrax or the spraying of sarin gas, are the next frontier of terrorism.

Others downplay the likelihood of such warfare, saying biological agents are difficult to obtain and even harder to spread in a way that would infect large numbers of people.

Despite the uncertainty, New York officials have established a program designed to detect any sudden outbreak of disease.

Quietly, simulated attacks have been conducted to test response efforts.

Special squads of firefighters have been created to handle chemical incidents, though many of them are believed to have perished in the World Trade Center collapses.

Those squads, which usually respond to gas leaks and other possible poisonings, are equipped with chemical and biological agent detectors, nerve gas antidotes and protective suits. Squad members also are trained to summon trucks to decontaminate victims.

Experts warn that if terrorists were to succeed in unleashing smallpox or anthrax germs, the attack could go unnoticed for days.

Early detection of an outbreak is considered a key to New York's plan for treatment of bioterrorism victims and its

efforts to prevent the spread of any biochemical attack.

To that end, a computer system maintained by the city Office of Emergency Management evaluates daily input from 911 calls, hospital admissions, sales of flu medicine and other health data, according to Jerome Hauer, a security expert and former director of that city agency.

"If you see a spike in emergency room admissions, you can track it quickly and investigate it," he said. "It could be bad tuna fish at school or it could be something more threatening."

The Health Department also has trained emergency room workers and family doctors to report the appearance of odd diseases. That program helped the city recognize the presence of the West Nile virus in 1999.

Mobilization planned

At the first recognition of an outbreak, health officials would mobilize trained staffers to interview sick people and physicians to determine where victims were exposed.

The city would activate up to 300 centers across the five boroughs to distribute antibiotics or antidotes. It also would create alternative care sites so hospital beds could be reserved for the seriously ill.

Last week, the Greater New York Hospital Association conducted a seminar for hospital workers, and, officials said, the training will be expanded in the coming months.

"This needs to be done not just in hospitals, but for physicians in private practice," said Dr. Allan Rosenfield, dean of Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health. "In a lot of these cases, doctors aren't familiar with the agents, and that has to be a big part of the program."

If an outbreak in the city turned out to be widespread, the federal government would get involved, quickly tapping into emergency medical warehouses at eight sites around the country.

Each of those federal facilities contains 50 tons of medical supplies — vaccines, syringes, IVs, antibiotics, antidotes, gas masks and ventilators — that can be rushed to attack locations.

Taking no chances

Trucks loaded with such supplies — and enough medicine to treat 10,000 people for anthrax, the plague and other diseases — arrived in New York within hours of the Sept. 11 Trade Center attacks.

The attacks also triggered parts of the city's bioterrorism response plan. Within hours, a specially trained National Guard unit from upstate Scotia was testing for airborne chemical or biological agents. The city Health Department sent doctors to 15 sentinel hospitals to look out for unusual illnesses.

While the city is working hard to make sure that its response plan is adequate, any perception of readiness is speculative — public-safety agencies have never handled a large-scale biological or chemical assault.

"We shouldn't mislead people by saying how ready we are," said Dr. Rex Archer of Kansas City, Mo., who chairs a bioterrorism panel for a national group of health officials. "On a readiness scale of zero to 100, even the best-prepared cities like New York are probably a 10."

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Experts Call for Better Assessment of Threats

By WILLIAM J. BROAD

Federal agencies and Congress are racing to check the security of everything from soybeans to municipal water supplies to nuclear reactors to whole cities. Last week, concern rose with the disclosure that the suspected jet hijackers had investigated crop-dusters — and thus, conceivably, the possibility of spreading deadly germs or chemicals.

"Terrorism is a clear and present danger to Americans today," Attorney General John Ashcroft told the Senate Judiciary Committee a week ago. On Sunday, Mr. Ashcroft renewed the alert, saying American retaliatory strikes might cause the already sizable risk of terrorism to rise.

But some private and public experts, including Congressional investigators who examined secret federal data, say American intelligence officials, for example, have at times exaggerated the risk posed by terrorists armed with weapons of mass destruc-

tion, which by definition can maim or kill tens of thousands or even millions of people. They say there are daunting obstacles to making and deploying these germ, chemical or radiological weapons.

That is not to say they dismiss chances of serious terrorist attack. But they regard more mundane instruments — firearms, car bombs or even hijacked truckloads of hazardous wastes — as more credible threats.

Federal officials reject such criticism. Though they say they have no knowledge of

imminent threats from weapons of mass destruction, they say the danger is real and rising. And experts agree that the surprise attacks on some of the nation's most important buildings on Sept. 11 show the difficulty of anticipating all threats.

The dispute is throwing light on an obscure speciality of military theorists: threat assessment.

More art than science, the discipline relies on technical knowledge of what is possible and inferences about what resources terrorists have — money, materials and

expertise — leavened with as many intelligence clues as possible as to their aims and goals. The field is rife with uncertainties, disagreements and, most basically, the challenge of disentangling vulnerability from real danger.

"You get the best and brightest and do your level best," Representative Sherwood Boehlert, a New York Republican who is chairman of the House Science Committee, said in an interview. "It's ~~anything~~ but simple."

Over the past few years, a growing number of federal agencies in charge of intelligence, agriculture, health, emergency preparedness and law enforcement have undertaken their own civil threat assessments. But they often disagree. And how fully they share information is unclear.

Federal threat assessments are sometimes kept secret to prevent foes from gaining possibly useful information from them. So the details of some remain unknown. But the General Accounting Office has reviewed them all, and its assessment of the assessments offers a window into this arcane world.

David M. Walker, who as comptroller general heads the General Accounting Office, testified recently before Congress that drawing up a comprehensive assessment of likely terrorist threats "has become an urgent imperative."

Some experts in and out of government say the assessments have often tended to be alarmist. The risk of a terrorist striking with weapons of mass destruction, they say, is lower than generally perceived and at times claimed in departmental appraisals.

It is extremely difficult, they insist, to acquire and use the complicated equipment needed to scatter deadly pathogens, chemicals or radioactivity in devastating ways. All too often, these critics say, assessments inaccurately miscast terrorists as technical sophisticates.

"There is an ocean of difference between learning how to steer a jetliner into a building and overcoming the technical hurdles in the dispersal of a biological agent to cause mass casualties," said Dr. Amy E. Smithson, an expert on chemical and biological weapons at the Henry L. Stimson Center, a private group in Washington that studies military assessments.

Dr. Brad Roberts, a terrorism expert at the Institute for Defense Analyses, a private group in Alexandria, Va., that advises the Pentagon, said experts were so shaken by the recent attacks that they now tended to see only worst-case scenarios.

"It's mostly 'The sky is falling,'" he said. "I don't find many people sketching out the middle ground."

Even so, most experts agree that the risks of serious attack are destined to rise slowly over the years and decades as science, technology and arms expertise spread around

the globe, making accurate assessment of them all the more crucial.

"Anybody who knows what's possible knows this could get a lot

worse," Dr. Roberts said.

The roots of superterrorism lie in the success of modern science in producing lethal armaments. None, however, are easy to obtain.

Nuclear weapons require mines, reactors and huge factories, putting their acquisition beyond all but nations. Chemical and biological arms are cheaper and easier to build, if the raw materials are obtainable.

Germ weapons, pound for pound, are usually the most potent, in some cases surpassing chemical and nuclear arms in terms of killing power. But they, too, are difficult to use. After the end of the cold war, and particularly after the breakup of the Soviet Union, many Western security experts warned that the means of mass destruction could fall into terrorist hands.

Alarms rang loud only after Aum Shinrikyo, a Japanese cult, attacked

Daunting obstacles to making weapons of mass destruction.

Tokyo subways with sarin nerve gas in 1995, killing 12 people and sickening hundreds. Investigators found the cult had already unsuccessfully launched germ attacks meant to kill millions of people. Its chosen banes included anthrax and botulinum toxin, the deadliest poison known to science.

Congress and the Clinton administration launched an antiterrorism push whose annual budget eventually hit \$10 billion.

As spending rose, Congressional investigators in the General Accounting Office began to question existing agency threat assessments, many of which were not in accord.

For instance, the Federal Bureau of Investigation ignores smallpox as a major danger, possibly because the virus was eradicated from human

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EXPER TS

populations decades ago and would be, theoretically at least, difficult to obtain. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sees smallpox as a top threat. One reason: If unleashed, the virus can spread rapidly because of its extreme contagiousness.

A lengthy G.A.O. report in September 1999 found some threats plausible and others doubtful. The report saw more risk from substances already in wide use, like chlorine, an industrial gas that is highly toxic. But the report ranked most germ agents as only possible or unlikely threats.

"Although most biological agents are easy to grow if the seed stock can be obtained," Henry L. Hinton Jr., a G.A.O. official, said at a House hearing in October 1999, "they are difficult to process into a lethal form and successfully deliver to achieve large-scale casualties." For instance, he said, the microscopic particles of an infective mist had to be just the right size to penetrate deep into human lungs and start infections.

In July 2000, the G.A.O. faulted the nation's spies, saying intelligence officials at times falsely portrayed chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear arms as easy for terrorists to make and use. The lack of caveats, Norman J. Rabkin, a G.A.O. official, told a House subcommittee, may give policy makers in Congress and the administration "an exaggerated view" of the mass-destruction threat.

But intelligence officials denied

any embellishing. In interviews, they noted that George J. Tenet, director of Central Intelligence, last year warned Congress that terrorists were exploring how "rapidly evolving and spreading technologies might enhance the lethality" of strikes and that operatives of Osama bin Laden "have trained to conduct attacks with toxic chemicals or biological toxins."

With national jitters high after the Sept. 11 attacks, many people are making informal judgments about what attacks might come next. Security experts, while often disagreeing over long-term trends and dangers, say most of these snap calls are overreactions.

It is unlikely now, they say, that terrorists could steal an atomic bomb, buy one on the black market or crash a jet into a nuclear reactor to produce a radioactive cloud.

Anxiety nonetheless abounds. "Sales are up," said Dan Sythe, president of International Medcom, a company in Sebastopol, Calif., that makes radiation detectors. "People are concerned about nuclear terrorism."

Experts agree that the easiest nuclear weapon to acquire would be radiological, sometimes known as a "dirty nuke." These use conventional high explosives to scatter highly radioactive materials to poison targets rather than destroying them with blast and heat. Their effects on people range from radiation sickness to cancer.

Iraq tested such a bomb in 1987 but scrapped the project as too hard, the radiation levels too low.

"At worst, a dispersal device could create a lot of panic," said Dr. Frank von Hippel, a physicist who advised the Clinton White House and now

teaches science policy at Princeton. "It's more a psychological weapon. My chances of getting cancer might increase from 20 to 20.5 percent." He added that federal officials are "overdoing the warnings, in terms of panicking people."

People are also stocking up on bottled water, fearful that terrorists could poison reservoirs. But germ warfare experts dismiss such threats as verging on the impossible.

"Municipal water supplies are very difficult to contaminate to cause widespread casualties," Frederick R. Sidell, William C. Patrick III and Thomas R. Dashiell wrote in "Jane's Chem-Bio Handbook," a 1998 reference used by the police, doctors and firefighters. "Dilution and diffusion factors as well as chlorination combine to make this type of operation nonfeasible."

Perhaps the greatest current fear is that terrorists will lace the air with lethal germs. The news that some of the accused hijackers had investigated crop-dusters caused a stir because experts had long identified the agricultural craft as a possible way to spread deadly pathogens.

Dr. Michael T. Osterholm, an epidemiologist, warned of such an attack in his 2000 book, "Living Terrors: What America Needs to Know to Survive the Coming Bioterrorist Catastrophe." He envisioned a crop-duster attacking a stadium with anthrax, infecting 54,000 fans and nearby people. The disease of coughing and high fevers is usually fatal unless treated soon after exposure.

But in his book, Dr. Osterholm conceded that a number of factors, most especially fickle winds, make such an attack "a risky proposition."

Other hurdles include getting the right strain, or subspecies, of the germ. Experts say *Bacillus anthracis* comes in scores of different ones, most of which would likely produce a weak or ineffectual weapon.

If able to brew up swarms of lethal microbes — a dangerous process — a terrorist would have to coax the fragile rod-shaped bacteria into forming spores, a hardy, hardened, dormant state. Doing so can be a tricky step involving heat or chemical shock.

Even with a supply of deadly bugs, a terrorist would face dispersion hurdles. For instance, commercial crop-dusters usually dispense liquids, and their nozzles produce droplets far too large to get deep into human lungs. A terrorist would have to do major modifications to adapt the sprayer's nozzles to produce a finer mist of particles.

Dr. Richard Spertzel, a former head of biological inspections in Iraq for the United Nations, said Baghdad tried to make such nozzle modifications before the Persian Gulf war but

Even if he has deadly bugs, a terrorist faces dispersion hurdles.

encountered great difficulties and was forced to buy needed parts abroad.

Experts say dry anthrax is even more difficult to make than the wet variety but is better for attacks because it can sail farther on the wind. However, shifting winds can also complicate anthrax attacks, especially in urban areas. Cities generate heat, and rising air currents can carry anthrax germs high into the atmosphere, diluting the cloud of microbes and making them less likely to kill. It takes an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 anthrax germs lodged in the human lung to start a lethal infection.

"People don't understand how difficult it is to pull off a biological attack," said Dr. David R. Franz, a former top official in the Army's germ-defense program and now an officer at the Southern Research Institute, an arm of the University of Alabama.

Dr. Steven M. Block, a germ-terror expert at Stanford, agreed. "A crop-duster is likely to do a very bad job," he said. But he noted that fears rooted in unrealistic appraisals of the germ threat can greatly magnify an assault's effectiveness.

"A bad job may be all that's necessary to sow panic and disruption," he noted, even if the attack itself produces "a mere handful" of fatalities or serious infections.

EXPERTS.....

Terror in the Air: Assessing the Dangers

The General Accounting Office, Congress's investigative arm, issued a report in 1999 evaluating the chances of terrorist attacks with chemical and biological weapons. These were its conclusions about 10 selected agents.

CHEMICAL				
	EASE OF MANUFACTURE	PERSISTENCE IN THE ENVIRON- MENT/STABILITY	LETHAL EFFECTS	OBSERVATIONS
CHOKING AGENTS				
Chlorine	Industrial product. Does not require a "precursor" chemical.	Not persistent	Low	Likely agent; widely available commercially.
Phosgene	Industrial product. No precursor required.	Not persistent	Low	Likely. Widely available commercially.
NERVE POISONS				
Tabun	Precursors available. Relatively easy to manufacture.	Moderate	High	Likely because of ease of manufacture.
Sarin	Moderately difficult. Precursor chemical is regulated by inter-national agreement.	Not persistent	High	Likely, although restrictions on precursors could create difficulties for production. Used in the 1995 Tokyo subway attack.
VX	Difficult to manufac-ture. Precursor is regu-lated.	High	Very high	Not likely because of manufacturing problems.
BLOOD POISONS				
Hydrogen cyanide	Industrial product. Precursor is regulated.	Very low	Low to moderate	Likely, although precursor availability may be a problem.
Cyanogen chloride	Not easily produced. Available as a commercial product.	Low	Low to moderate	Likely, although precursor availability may be a problem.
BIOLOGICAL				
BACTERIAL AGENTS				
Inhalation anthrax	Virulent stock is hard to obtain and process.	Spores are very stable. Resistant to sun, heat and some disinfectants.	Very high	Possible, but requires sophistication to manufacture and disseminate.
VIRUSES				
Hemorrhagic fevers (Ebola)	Very difficult to obtain and process. Unsafe to handle.	Relatively unstable	Depending on strain, can be very high.	Unlikely
Smallpox	Difficult to obtain seed stock and to process. Only confirmed sources are in the U.S. and Russia.	Very stable	Moderate to high	Questionable because of limited availability. But consequences of an attack are deemed especially serious.

pnae 3 of 3

DNA Map For Bacterium Of Plague Is Decoded

By NICHOLAS WADE

Biologists have decoded the full DNA, or genome, of the bacterium that causes plague, a disease that has caused three world epidemics in recorded history and killed some 200 million people.

The decoding of the genome is widely expected to help devise better vaccines against the bacterium, which is endemic in some parts of the world, including the western United States. Plague is also a possible agent of biological warfare, because the bacterium, when caught by inhalation, is almost always fatal within days.

The genome was decoded by scientists at the Sanger Center near Cambridge, England, who describe their work in the issue of *Nature* released today. Decoding is the spelling out of the sequence of units in DNA, the chemical that encodes an organism's genetic information.

From the genome, the biologists have been able to identify many of the genes that underlie the bacterium's complex life cycle and its ability to infect different species like rats, fleas and people.

The work goes some way to explaining the relative speed with which plague evolved. Previous studies have suggested that the bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*, emerged at between 1,500 and 20,000 years ago, a blink of an eye in evolutionary time.

The bacterium's ancestor evidently lived in the mammalian gut. The decoded genome shows that at some stage the ancestral bacterium acquired large suites of genes from other bacteria, including some that let it move from the gut to the blood, and others that conferred the ability to colonize fleas.

Thus armed, the bacterium changed from being probably a minor cause of stomach upsets to a scourge that has three times erupted on the world stage, causing the Justinian plague in the sixth to eighth centuries A.D.; the Black Death, which killed a third of the population of Europe from 1347 to 1350; and modern plague, which first spread from southern China in 1894 and still causes 3,000 reported cases a year around the world.

The bacterium prefers to live in rats and spreads by hitching rides on rat fleas. But when rats are scarce, the rat fleas will bite people. Among people, plague can spread via human fleas, a different variety, or directly on exhaled droplets.

Once in the human bloodstream, the bacteria infect and swell the lymph nodes, a condition called bubonic plague. When the bacteria spread to the lungs the disease is called pneumonic plague and is swiftly fatal.

To be sure of decoding a variety that can spread by direct inhalation, the research team used a sample from a Colorado veterinarian who died in 1992 after an infected cat had sneezed on him while he was trying to rescue it from beneath a house.

With the genome in hand, vaccine designers can pick out particular genes like those that specify the proteins of bacterium's coat as promising targets for a vaccine.

"Having the complete genome means you're not reduced to scrabbling around," Dr. Julian Parkhill of the Sanger Center said. "You can go into the genome and select candidates."

Reflecting a possible use in biological warfare, the team included Dr. Rick Titball, an expert from Britain's biological warfare establishment at Porton Down. Dr. Titball said he saw no danger in publishing the bacterium's genome. The likelihood of using the genome to design a worse pathogen was small, he said, because nature had already designed one that "causes devastating disease, with near 100 percent mortality after one or two days' incubation, and is almost impossible to treat."

Biological warfare mongers can, however, make bacteria resistant to antibiotics by standard methods. Hence, defenders prefer to rely on vaccines, which are much harder to defeat. An old vaccine against plague exists, but it has many side effects. Since the Persian Gulf war in 1991, Dr. Titball has been developing a new vaccine that he said was being tested in people, though just for safety, because tests of effectiveness can, for ethical reasons, be done just in animals.

The Sanger team found that the plague genome consists of four rings of DNA, a large circular chromosome made up of 4,653,728 bases of DNA and three much smaller rings, or plasmids.

An interesting feature of the genome is that 150 of its genes have been rendered inactive by natural mutation, a process that affects any gene that the organism no longer needs. The inactive genes include several that are known in other bacteria to be involved in colonizing the

gut and, presumably, reflect the plague bacterium's ancestral style of life before it moved from gut to blood. Dr. Brendan Wren, who studies gut-infecting bacteria at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said the inactive genes provided a useful list of what a bacterium requires to colonize the gut.

NYTimes
10.4.01

Biological and chemical warfare does not lend itself to martyrdom

■ Poisoning a city is harder than in our nightmares

By AVIGDOR HASELKORN
LOS ANGELES TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in masterminding the terrorist attacks on the United States, has never denied his interest in acquiring nuclear, biological and chemical weapons — although that doesn't appear to be the direction in which he is headed.

In a television interview in 1999, he said, "To seek to possess the weapons that could counter those of the infidels is a religious duty."

Indeed, in court documents unsealed in 1998 in connection with the trial of the bombers of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, U.S. prosecutors charged that bin Laden has made efforts to obtain the components of chemical weapons as early as 1993. One of his disciples, Ahmed Ressaam, who was sentenced to 140 years in prison for his role in the plot to bomb Los Angeles International Airport, testified in court that he and others were taught to use cyanide, including how to feed it into air ducts in buildings to kill large number of people.

In an affidavit filed recently by the U.S. Justice Department to extradite two members of bin Laden's Al Qaeda terrorist organization from Britain, evidence was presented of at least two attempts by the group to buy enriched uranium to make a nuclear weapon.

The recent attacks on U.S. soil amply demonstrate that America's strategic deterrence has failed. Indeed, in the wake of the horrific attacks on the U.S., many have concluded that the use of weapons of mass destruction may be imminent.

On Sept. 11, the FAA temporarily grounded all crop-dusters for fear they could be used to spray

chemical or biological agents. Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., chairman of the Senate's Select Committee on Intelligence, said that the CIA told him that "there were other acts of terrorism in the U.S. and elsewhere that were part of this plan. Not necessarily hijacking another airliner but maybe putting a chemical in a city's water system." On Sept. 18, the Senate Press Gallery told reporters they would be given gas masks as a precaution. Yet on closer examination it appears that bin Laden so far has opted for using "conventional" weaponry in his war on the United States.

There are numerous reasons for this choice. First, while it is relatively easy to produce chemical and biological agents, dispersing them effectively requires a high level of technical proficiency. Recall that early Iraqi attempts to conduct chemical war-

fare in its war with Iran were not only ineffective, they ended up contaminating Iraqi soldiers themselves.

The Japanese terrorist group Aum Shinrikyo, also known as the Aum Supreme Truth, simultaneously released the chemical nerve agent sarin on several Tokyo subway trains in 1995. It was able to kill just 12 people and injure several thousand — most of the latter from the ensuing panic — because of problems with the agent as well as its method of dissemination. The group attempted to disperse anthrax and botulinum toxin at least five times without success, despite the fact that the group had at its disposal chemists and molecular biologists as well as modern laboratories.

Similarly, attempts to poison the population of a U.S. city by contaminating its water supplies with chemical or biological agents would likely fail.

Palestinian terrorists have tried the chemical route against the Israel national water carrier without success. Generally, chlorinated water supplies inactivate toxins within 20 minutes. Even fresh water naturally inactivates botulinum toxin within three to six days.

The point is that bin Laden's method of attack

provided higher confidence in the results.

Equally important, the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon indicate that bin Laden sought to achieve the following objectives:

First, inflict mass casualties to signal the ruthlessness of the attackers and frighten and intimidate the United States.

Second, cause mass destruction, allowing bin Laden show to his followers as well as enemies that U.S. power would turn into rubble when confronted by Islam's warriors.

Third, martyrdom; by opting for a suicide mission, bin Laden has signaled that he is undeterrable. "We will win because we are ready to go all the way and pay any price," is the unmistakable message.

Fourth, destroy the symbols of America's might; the attack was aimed at the centers of the U.S. military and economic power.

While chemical and biological attacks could certainly cause mass killings and could even be pinpointed against a building such as the Pentagon, such attacks would not provide the spectacular destruction that bin Laden sought. Moreover, biological and chemical warfare does not lend itself to martyrdom the way a fiery crash of a plane does.

Thus, if these criteria continue to hold, the greatest care should be given to protecting the U.S. government's nuclear, biological and chemical facilities and laboratories from a suicide attack either from the air or the ground.

Avigdor Haselkorn is the author of "The Continuing Storm: Iraq, Poisonous Weapons and Deterrence."

SI Advance
9.30.01

Artificial Butter Suspected in Lung Disease

By PHILIP J. HILTS

Workers in two states have come down with a severe lung disease that is apparently linked to their work with vats of artificial butter flavoring, doctors have reported.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health issued a report in August that described the cases of nine workers in a small Missouri factory who developed a rare and disabling lung disorder, bronchiolitis obliterans, and an additional seven workers who had other lung problems after being exposed to artificial flavoring while mixing and packaging microwave popcorn.

The lung damage from bronchiolitis obliterans appears to be permanent, and four of the workers are so ill that they are on the waiting list for lung transplants.

Today, in a telephone interview, a doctor in Nebraska described a similar case of the lung disorder in another patient, who is also a worker handling artificial butter flavoring for popcorn.

Doctors who investigated for the federal agency said that the problem appeared to be limited to workers who inhaled large amounts of the liquid flavoring and that there was no danger to anyone eating the flavoring on popcorn or in other foods.

Dr. Talmadge E. King, chief of medicine at the San Francisco General Hospital and an expert on bronchiolitis obliterans, said these cases were the first time he had heard of an outbreak of the disease, which usually occurs in individual patients. He said it sometime occurred in transplant patients whose immune systems are compromised and historically has been seen in people who had heavy exposure to chemicals in accidents like the explosion of chlorine tanks, or when farmers have opened corn silos and inhaled large amounts of nitrogen oxides at once.

Dr. Kathleen Kreiss, who led the investigation, said that the finding was a surprise and that two important questions are now being pursued by government scientists: are there cases that have not been reported, and what ingredient in the flavoring may have triggered the disease?

The cases were first reported in The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday.

The illnesses occurred in workers at a Gilster-Mary Lee Corporation plant in Jasper, Mo., where microwave popcorn was mixed with salt, oil and flavoring, then packaged.

Government investigators and the doctor in Nebraska, Dr. Susanna Von Essen at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, who treated a work-

er at a Nebraska company, declined to identify that company. But the government has begun to work with the Nebraska company to investigate the case, and investigators said the worker contracted the disease after working with vats of a different brand of butter flavoring from the one used in Missouri.

In Missouri, 16 current and former employees have filed a workers' compensation claim against the Gilster-Mary Lee Corporation, and a class-action lawsuit against International Flavors and Fragrances, based in New York and New Jersey, which makes the flavoring. Seven plaintiffs are still employed at the Gilster-Mary Lee factory, though some are on disability leave.

The plaintiffs are seeking an undefined amount in damages to cover medical costs.

Workers exposed to high concentrations of a flavoring got a severe ailment.

"Some of these people can't even help out with household chores like mowing the lawn because they're so out of breath, and things like playing with their kids are hard for them," said Amy Powell, a lawyer with Humphrey, Farrington, McClain & Edgar, a firm in Independence, Mo., that is representing the plaintiffs.

Gilster-Mary Lee has denied liability and until recently also denied benefits, Ms. Powell said. She said International Flavors and Fragrances had not yet responded to the class-action lawsuit filing.

Calls to Gilster-Mary Lee and to International Flavors and Fragrances were not returned.

The workers in Missouri were young, averaging 36 years old, and that "is part of the reason this is so alarming," Ms. Powell said.

One of the Gilster workers was Angela Nally, 48, who began working on the production line in October 1993. Until then, she had been a homemaker, and she decided to take her first job outside the home only because her husband had lost his.

Mrs. Nally drove 11 miles from her home in Carthage to the factory on the outskirts of Jasper. She worked the late shift, from midafternoon until midnight, making \$5.50 an hour.

About four months after Mrs. Nally

started working at the factory, she developed a persistent cough. She did not think anything of it at first. "It was kind of like a cold or a flu-type thing," she said in an interview. "I'd get to feeling better after the doctors gave me something for the cough, but it gradually kept getting worse and worse. I thought I was going to get over it, but I didn't."

Breathing became more difficult and she started coughing so hard that she broke a rib. She consulted doctors in Carthage, Joplin, Springfield and St. Louis, and soon was so weak and short of breath that her doctors advised her to quit working. So in June 1994, she did.

In October 1994, Mrs. Nally went to a hospital in Denver for a lung biopsy. Her lungs were so inflamed and damaged that doctors warned she might have only a year to live, and she was put on a waiting list for a double-lung transplant.

Her condition has now stabilized, and she said she has been moved to the "inactive" waiting list. Mrs. Nally said she suspected her illness was linked to her job because she had been active and healthy before starting at the plant, and she soon noticed that other workers shared her symptoms. But no one in the company or on the production line ever talked about it, she said.

The investigation of the outbreak began more than a year ago when a doctor in Kansas City, Mo., Allen Parmet, who handles occupational health problems, noticed that several patients had the rare, disabling lung problem. Late last year, he saw six patients at the same time with the disorder, all from one small area of Missouri. That was four more than he had seen in his entire career.

He reported the cases to the Missouri Department of Health, where an investigation was begun.

Dr. Eduardo Simoes, the state epidemiologist for Missouri, said his group calculated that the odds of having that number of cases in a town as small as Jasper were less than one in 10,000. Federal investigators were asked to aid the investigation in August 2000.

The investigators have done a test on rats, and have found that when they inhale substantial amounts of butter flavoring like that used in the Missouri plant, many develop similar lung disease.

The chief ingredient in the flavoring is a chemical called diacetyl, said Dr. Greg Kullman of the federal agency, and it may be the agent that triggers the problem. Tests of the effects of diacetyl on rodents have begun, Dr. Kullman said.

NYTimes 10.4.01

Health Secretary Testifies About Germ Warfare Defenses

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3 — Federal health officials said today that they were accelerating production of a new smallpox vaccine, and taking other steps to strengthen the nation's biodefenses.

Speaking before a Senate panel, Tommy G. Thompson, the secretary of health and human services, said his agency had arranged for the vaccine's manufacturer, Acambis P.L.C., to deliver 40 million doses of the smallpox vaccine by the end of next summer — two to three years earlier than originally planned.

But the vaccine will not be used to immunize Americans against smallpox, a disease that was essentially eradicated worldwide in 1977.

Instead, doses will be kept in government stockpiles, for use if terrorists use smallpox as a weapon.

As far as federal health officials know, stocks of smallpox virus exist only at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and at Russian government laboratories in Moscow. But some bioterrorism experts suspect that other nations have access to the virus and have been using it to plan biological warfare. There is concern that terrorists could gain access to these stocks.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said that the smallpox vaccine would be an improved version of earlier vaccines and would have to undergo testing even as it was stockpiled. He said he believed there would be no problem finding volunteers.

The administration eventually hopes to stockpile enough smallpox vaccine to treat every American.

"That's the ultimate plan," Dr. Fauci, who will oversee testing of the vaccine, said. "Not just stop at 30 or 40 million doses, but to at least have the capability that if we need to vaccinate everybody, we can."

In his testimony, Mr. Thompson cited the hastened production schedule as evidence the Bush administra-



Associated Press

Senators Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, and Bill Frist, Republican of Tennessee, listened yesterday to testimony on preparedness for bioterrorist attacks. "We are highly vulnerable," Mr. Frist said.

tion was moving aggressively to defend against a possible biological attack. But he was greeted with skepticism by a number of senators, among them Robert C. Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia, who asked Mr. Thompson if he stood by his recent assertion that the government could respond to "any contingency."

Mr. Thompson said, "I do," but Mr. Byrd asked, "Will you still love me if I say to you I don't believe that?"

The audience laughed, but the underlying message was clear: While Mr. Thompson sought to reassure a nervous nation, most experts agree that, while the United States is better prepared than three or four years ago, much more needs to be done.

"We are highly vulnerable," Senator Bill Frist, Republican of Tennessee, said at today's hearing before a subcommittee of the Appropriations

Committee. "We are vulnerable not because we are unprepared today, but we are underprepared."

Many limitations, Mr. Frist and others said, stem from deficiencies in the nation's public health system. Doctors are not trained to recognize symptoms of diseases caused by biological agents, like smallpox, anthrax, botulism or plague. Hospitals lack even simple technology, like Internet access, that would enable them to receive and report information in the event of an emergency.

For example, Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, state epidemiologist for the Iowa Department of Public Health, testified that only 10 of the 99 local health departments in her state have someone on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mr. Frist and three other senators are urging their colleagues to appropriate from \$1.4 billion to \$1.6 billion

to improve the nation's preparedness. Mr. Thompson said today that he had asked the Office of Management and Budget for \$800 million.

Of that, Mr. Thompson said, \$60 million would be used to speed smallpox vaccine production. But that, he said, was just one of several steps he had either taken or was proposing.

Mr. Thompson said his agency would begin holding annual conferences to train emergency physicians about how to recognize and treat diseases. He has also created a new bioterrorism advisory council.

The health secretary also proposed assigning C.D.C. epidemiologists to work at health departments in every state. Currently, 42 such experts, trained to spot trends that might signify outbreaks of infectious disease, work in 37 states.

"Public health is a national security issue," Mr. Thompson said.

NYTimes 10.4.01

West Nile virus outbreak is seen through lens of terror

By **DAVE SALTONSTALL**
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attack, public health experts are mulling a troubling new question: Could the West Nile virus outbreak that struck the city two years ago have been the work of bioterrorists?

The idea gained currency with the publication last month of "Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War," a book by three New York Times reporters who noted that the virus' arrival was briefly investigated as a "germ attack."

But such theories are now discounted, note the authors, who use the outbreak to point out

weaknesses in the nation's public health infrastructure.

And, according to a range of public health and terrorism experts surveyed by the Daily News, the answer to the new question appears to be no.

But many stressed that while the West Nile virus would be an unlikely agent for terrorists — given its slow spread, sensitivity to weather and other variables — no one really knows how it reached New York, where it killed six people in the summer and fall of 1999.

"There is no conclusive answer as to how it got here," said Ward Stone, chief wildlife pathologist for the state Department of Environmental Conser-

vation. "But I think it was most likely an accidental introduction — and we can expect more."

Saddam tome gives pause

The most obvious culprits have always been known carriers, such as birds or blood-bearing mosquitoes, which could have slipped into New York on planes or boats from Africa, India or other regions where the virus thrives, Stone said.

Which is not to say terrorism wasn't considered by federal investigators, who recalled a memoir once written by a man who claimed to have been a bodyguard for Saddam Hussein.

In the book, "In the Shadow of Saddam," Mikhael Ramadan recounted how the Iraqi dictator

told him of plans to make a strain of the West Nile virus a weapon that could destroy "97% of all life in an urban environment."

Saddam certainly had access to the virus. A 1994 congressional inquiry found American companies had legally shipped West Nile and other killer viruses to Iraq for research purposes, with the full consent of the U.S. Commerce Department, documents obtained by The News show.

"It was like Satan's shopping list," said Denise Donnelly, who researched the shipments for "Falcon's Cry," the 1998 book she co-authored with her brother about the mysterious ailments suffered by many returning Gulf War veterans.

Ultimately, experts said, the West Nile virus doesn't make sense as a terrorist's tool.

For starters, its kill rate isn't close to "97% of all life in an urban environment." In 1999, only 67 people got sick enough to seek hospital treatment, and of the six who died, most were elderly and considered susceptible to illness.

"If you try to think like a terrorist, the one thing that seems to be a common theme is that they want to see the result of their work immediately, like the arsonist who sticks around and watches the fire," said Dr. Dickson Despommier, a Columbia University microbiologist.

"And that isn't going to happen with most infections."

DAILY NEWS

Thursday, October 4, 2001

MUAEOLA: 2 DIAGNOSES OF NILE FEVER Two elderly Nassau County residents are the 9th and 10th New Yorkers to receive diagnoses of West Nile virus this year, health officials said yesterday. The State Department of Health diagnosed the virus in a 70-year-old woman from East Meadow and a 73-year-old man from Seaford, both of whom were hospitalized late last month, said Cynthia E. Brown, a spokeswoman for the Nassau County Department of Health. The patients' names were not released. Of the remaining eight New Yorkers stricken by West Nile, five live in New York City, one in Suffolk County and two others in Nassau — one of whom, a 75-year-old woman from Valley Stream, has since recovered. Ms. Brown said
Elissa Guttman, NYT

NYTimes 10.3.01

Environmentalists Oppose Shift on Hudson Dredging

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2 — A half-dozen environmentalists told officials at the Environmental Protection Agency here today that they opposed altering the government's half-billion-dollar directive on how the General Electric Company should dredge the Hudson River of poisonous chemicals.

The agency is considering inserting specific performance standards in its directive now rather than during the next three years of analysis in the design phase of the project, as is customary.

Environmentalists argued that this change would allow G.E., which has always resisted the cleanup plan, to scuttle it by setting standards too high to meet.

Tina Kreisher, a spokeswoman for the agency, said the environmentalists had said bluntly that they believed that General Electric was behind the proposal to insert performance standards at this stage.

She said that Eileen McGinnis, chief of staff to Christie Whitman, the agency's administrator, had responded that it was Mrs. Whitman who had come up with the idea "to ensure this was done correctly and have some accountability."

The environmentalists at the meeting said Ms. McGinnis also told them that because Mrs. Whitman deemed the project to be of such national significance — it is at least 10 times bigger than any other cleanup project in the nation's history — she might want the project to be overseen by the agency's Washington headquarters rather than its regional office in New York.

Andy Mele, executive director of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Inc., said after the meeting, "We are concerned that G.E. will exploit the fact that the E.P.A. staff in Washington hasn't been following this issue."

Ms. Kreisher said the agency was still exploring whether to incorporate the standards in the final record of decision, which has been delayed by several weeks, in part because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and whether to move the project from New York to Washington. "That's what we're listening about," she said. "We're just taking information."

Ned Sullivan, president of Scenic

Hudson and one of those meeting today with agency officials, said the agency wanted to set specific standards regarding the rate of progress and what was called resuspension — that is, how much the dredging stirred up chemicals from the bottom of the river.

"This is setting up the project for failure," Mr. Sullivan said. "You can only make judgments about production rate when you have a specific design."

"We're very concerned that these performance standards are G.E.'s concerns, and the notion that there could be significant 'adjustments' — their word — in the remedy because of a failure to achieve some kind of production rate in the first year sends up red flags to us that these reflect G.E.'s continued desire to see this project fail."

Environmentalists and supporters of the dredging project have criticized the agency for meeting with General Electric, suggesting the two were in cahoots to provide a bureaucratic way to kill the project after the agency announced in August that it would proceed.

Gary Scheffer, chief spokesman for G.E., said that company officials were furious at implications that they have been using the cover of the terrorist attacks in New York, which displaced the regional E.P.A. offices, to try to kill the dredging project.

In fact, they were trying to kill it before then, spending more than \$60 million on an intense anti-dredging advertising and lobbying campaign.

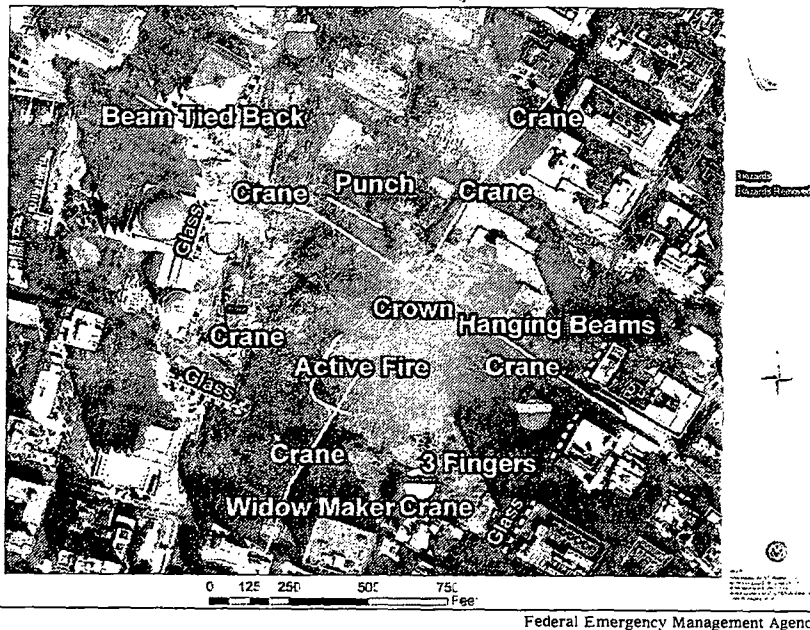
Mr. Scheffer said General Electric's primary focus in the last three weeks had been on helping New York recover from the disaster.

"We had two people killed, one in an airplane and one in the trade center," he said. "We have given \$10 million to start the mayor's Twin Towers Fund, our employees gave \$1.5 million to the American Red Cross and we're going to match that, for \$3 million to the Red Cross."

He said the company had also supplied equipment like power generators and medical diagnostic machines in Lower Manhattan and the personnel to run them, bringing G.E.'s total expenditures in the last three weeks to nearly \$20 million.

NYTimes 10.3.01

Site Hazards 9/21/2001
DR-1391-NY New York City



An aerial photograph of the World Trade Center site with overlaid locations of hazards like fires, overhead cranes and hanging debris.

Mapping the Hazards To Keep Rescuers Safe

By CATHERINE GREENMAN

WHEN Glenn Sekins arrived on Sept. 12 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, a staging area for rescue operations after the attacks on the World Trade Center, he took a black felt-tip marker and drew a crude map of the streets and buildings at the disaster site on a piece of cardboard left over from a trade show.

As situation unit leader for the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, a task force established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Sekins faced the long task of providing rescue workers with detailed data about potential hazards at the site and helping task force leaders coordinate the relief effort.

As he had in other catastrophes, Mr. Sekins, who is based in Yorba Linda, Calif., would rely on Geographic Information System software, which can assemble and manipulate data that is identified by location and display it, usually on a map.

But in the first four days after the attack, neither the G.I.S. equipment, including computers and color plotters for printing out maps, nor the technicians needed to operate them were available because the planes to transport them were not flying.

At one point Mr. Sekins used a World Trade Center shopping guide to draw a map of unstable buildings and other dangerous structures. He made copies at a Kinko's copy center and handed them out to the rescue teams.

When computers and G.I.S. operators arrived, Mr. Sekins said, "We could finally let the computer do something that it would take a skilled worker hours and hours to do."

Using four G.I.S. workstations and two color plotters at the Javits center, Mr. Sekins and his team have been able to create maps ranging from simple guides showing the locations of command posts, first-aid centers and food stations to others depicting hazards like lingering fires and debris hanging from buildings.

Debris on the ground is also carefully tracked. "They're playing a giant game of pick-up sticks, so we have to plan out what thing gets moved next to avoid a secondary collapse," Mr. Sekins said.

One of the most heavily used maps relies on a daily aerial shot of the site taken with a heat-sensing camera to detect fire patterns in the rubble. As hot spots are identified, the G.I.S. team overlays the image with a map showing the location of underground tanks that held diesel fuel for genera-

tors to see if the fuel was feeding the fires. (Often it was). Rescue teams would then decide where to work that day, based on the patterns.

One tool often used in conjunction with G.I.S. is a Global Positioning System device, which can determine a location by using satellite transmissions. G.P.S. units do not work well at the disaster site, however, because the surrounding tall buildings interfere with the satellite signals. Rescue workers must instead count out steps and plot their positions on their own within the grids on the maps.

But even without the precision of G.P.S. units, people involved in the rescue effort agree that the Geographic Information System is a crucial tool. "I can't stress how important it is, and it's so easy to put together and do," said James Lee Witt, the director of FEMA. "It's amazing that you can take a building like the World Trade Center and put that information into the G.I.S. and be able to put a plan in place."

The ability to maintain a well-organized, readily available archive is another advantage, one that will come in handy this week as some members of the Urban Search and Rescue Response System finish their work in New York and turn over the G.I.S. archives to the Fire Department. "We're leaving a very solid record of events, so we're sure the transition will be smooth," Mr. Sekins said.

NY Times
10/4/01

**A guide, regularly
updated, to the
dangers in the rubble.**

Uprooted Greenmarkets Seek Spaces ✓

By MARIAN BURROS

THE 16 farmers who had set up their stalls at the Greenmarket at Liberty and Church Streets on Sept. 11 escaped with their lives when the twin towers were destroyed, though several suffered smoke inhalation and burns, and 10 lost their trucks. Traffic restrictions below Canal Street since then have forced the closing of three other markets, and security concerns have closed the one at the United Nations. That means there are more than 40 farmers with lots of produce and nowhere to sell it.

Forced to strike their tents were the markets at Bowling Green, Federal Plaza,

Greenwich Street (between Chambers and Reade Streets in TriBeCa) and Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, which was shut down because of its proximity to the United Nations.

The Greenwich Street farmers have found a new home in a parking lot at Worth and West Broadway. The Borough Hall market at Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn, open on Tuesdays and Saturdays, has added Thursday hours to accommodate displaced farmers.

And a new market may soon stand in front of All Souls Church at Lexington Avenue and 80th Street if the necessary permits can be secured.

"We are reaching out to everyone to help the displaced farmers, and people are responding," said Joel Patraker, assistant di-

rector of the city's Greenmarket program. Even those farmers who did not lose their marketplaces have experienced a drop in business, both from restaurant clients and neighborhood shoppers.

Tony Mannello, Greenmarket director, estimates, assuming half the markets are re-established, that displaced farmers will lose at least \$500,000 in sales this year. Some unsold produce was used to help feed rescue workers.

A fund has been set up to help farmers who lost their stalls, produce and equipment in the twin towers disaster. For information, contact the Farmers' Market Federation of New York, 2100 Park Street, Syracuse, N.Y. 13208.

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10.3.01

CITY HALL ✓

4 Companies Are Hired To Oversee Contractors

By JENNIFER STEINHAUER

In the wake of reports that World Trade Center debris has been plundered, the Giuliani administration has hired four private companies that will start today to monitor contractors and subcontractors working at the site.

The move, which contracting experts said was highly unusual for a disaster scene, came several days after a Manhattan grand jury began to hear testimony about several truck drivers who took debris from the scene to scrap yards on Long Island and New Jersey rather than to the Fresh Kills landfill where it was supposed to go.

Edward Kuriansky, head of the Department of Investigation, said yesterday that four companies — Decision Strategies/Fairfax International; Pricewaterhouse Coopers; Stier, Anderson & Malone; and Thacher Associates — all run by former federal prosecutors, would work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to vet contractors, monitor their activities and oversee uniform record-keeping and billing procedures.

The construction companies hired by the city to clean up the site are Amec Construction Management, Bovis Lend Lease, Tully Construction and Turner Construction. The subcontractors, too, will be supervised by the new monitors.

The department will also staff a round-the-clock hot line (866-226-4944) for tips about wrongdoing.

"Their job will be to background the contractors and subcontractors working at the site, to track the equipment, personnel, material and debris moving in and out of the site," Mr. Kuriansky said. "We have many, many months ahead of us in this effort, many millions of dollars to be

expended, and we want to be sure that we have appropriate protocols in place."

Indeed since the attack on the trade center, the city has suspended normal bidding rules in awarding four \$250 million contracts for the removal of rubble. The contracts were awarded on a "time and material" basis, under which haulers are paid by the hour or day rather than by the amount hauled, which can lead to abuses because there is little incentive to work quickly.

People familiar with government construction projects and disaster relief said that the appointment of outside overseers was highly unusual.

"Unless there is information he has that I don't have, I don't know why he would take this kind of action," said Louis Coletti, chairman of the Building Trades Employers Association, about Mr. Kuriansky. "This is not normal on emergency sites. There are other cities that have procedures and guidelines for projects that come through a normal process, but I don't know what any of this means. I have never heard of it under the kind of conditions that we have now."

Yesterday, the mayor's office took pains to stress that this was a normal process used to monitor city business with private contractors, and that it had been planned since the recovery effort first got under way.

Others in the administration insisted that the grand jury hearings had nothing to do with the appointments of the companies.

"Those instances that have been previously reported are under active investigation by the Manhattan district attorney," Mr. Kuriansky said. "All of those incidents occurred within the first seven or eight days of a fairly chaotic situation."

Mr. Kuriansky said that he had no knowledge of any contractors working at the site who are barred from doing business with the city, although he said that three of the companies already had private inspectors monitoring them. "But obviously there are many subcontractors that are brought in as well," he said. "and we really want to get a handle on them as well."

The Giuliani administration has made rooting out organized crime one of its pet causes; it worked over the years to eliminate organized crime's influence in the Fulton Fish Market and the commercial carting industry and sought tighter control over other contracted industries.

"I think it is an issue that has been on the mayor's agenda," Mr. Coletti said. "It seems to me that the mayor is taking another step in an agenda item he wanted to move a few years ago, which is the licensing of contractors."

**Private groups will
monitor the work at
ground zero.**

NYT
10/5/01

THE PENSION FUNDS

Leaders Say Union Funds Will Help Rebuild City

By CHARLES V. BAGLI

State Comptroller H. Carl McCall met yesterday with city and state union leaders who oversee a combined \$280 billion in pension funds to develop a plan to help finance the rebuilding of office towers and transit systems destroyed by the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

The union leaders emphasized their desire to invest what could potentially be more than \$1 billion in transportation projects and new commercial buildings in Lower Manhattan, alongside the federal government, which has promised \$20 billion in aid to clean up the debris at the trade center and rehabilitate the area.

Also attending the meeting in Manhattan late yesterday afternoon were City Comptroller Alan G. Hevesi, who helps oversee five pension funds for municipal employees, and Felix G. Rohatyn, the financier who was at the heart of the city's recovery after the fiscal crisis of the 1970's and who has advocated investing pension funds in infrastructure projects nationally.

"We want to make it clear that we stand ready to provide some of the financial resources to move projects forward," said Mr. McCall, who serves as the sole trustee for the \$112 billion of the state employees' common retirement fund. "We expect the federal, state and city governments, as well as the private sector, to do their part as well. We're willing to participate in the overall investment pool."

The meeting yesterday reunited Mr. Rohatyn with the city's municipal union leaders in an echo of the 1970's, when New York City was teetering at the edge of bankruptcy. In 1975, Gov. Hugh L. Carey and the State Legislature appointed Mr. Rohatyn chairman of the Municipal Assistance Corporation and a member of the Financial Control Board, which had been created to salvage the city's dire financial structure. The financier wielded considerable power through the assistance corporation and the control board, which had the power to reject city budgets, contracts and labor agreements.

The group that met yesterday did not make any specific commitments, and said that individual developments would have to be identified by state and city officials and private developers. But Mr. McCall said that the pension funds could purchase bonds issued by the state or the city and guaranteed by the federal government, could provide mortgage financing for office development or could invest directly in a project.

"Everybody's on board with the concept," said Alan Lubin, executive vice president of the New York State United Teachers, which represents about 460,000 members. "It's an important investment, given the crisis we're facing in the city and across the state. To me, the first need is for office space to try to keep the business and jobs in New York. I'm sure they're getting entreaties to go to Jersey."

Mr. Lubin and Mr. McCall, who were among the 30 people at the meeting in Manhattan yesterday, said that investments would be consistent with their fiduciary responsibility to get a good return. They said they hoped that the Federal government would agree to guarantee whatever bonds were issued.

Last month John Sweeney, president of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., said that the national unions in the association would make available \$500 million in pension funds for economic development in the city.

Since the Sept. 11 attack, the city has endured a cascade of bad news, starting with the loss of more than 5,000 lives and continuing through the destruction of about 15 million square feet of office buildings.

Mr. Hevesi's office estimated yesterday that the disaster would cost New Yorkers as much as \$105 billion over the next two years. So far only \$126 million of a promised \$20 billion in federal aid has seeped into the city. There is a great deal of confusion about whether the money can be used for new projects, tax breaks and to replace lost tax revenues.

In 1975, Mr. Rohatyn brought together union leaders and bankers under the banner of "shared sacrifice" in the effort to resurrect the city's fiscal affairs.

But the bankers closed the credit markets to New York City. So it was city employees who did much of the sacrificing. Mr. Rohatyn ultimately persuaded city labor leaders — Victor Gotbaum, Barry Feinstein and Albert Shanker — to accept a municipal wage freeze and layoffs and to use pension funds to buy more than \$2 billion in municipal bonds.

Although the union leaders took an enormous risk, the bonds turned out to be a good investment, said Mike Wallace, a history professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

NK/IT
10/6/01

Trade Center Leaseholder Pledges to Rebuild

By ALESSANDRA STANLEY

The schedule for a Nov. 11 lecture at the Real Estate Institute of New York University called for its moderator, Larry A. Silverstein, to relive his triumph in acquiring a 99-year lease on the World Trade Center, a feat he accomplished in July. Last week, Mr. Silverstein, a real estate developer, decided not to cancel the lecture. Instead, he altered the pamphlet to read, "The World Trade Center: What Is to Come," and did not include a question mark.

Less than a month after the famed twin towers fell to dust, Mr. Silverstein is making plans and hiring architects to rebuild the center.

"I am obligated by my lease to pay rent for 99 years, I am obligated to rebuild, and I have the money to rebuild," he explained, referring in an interview to his expectation

that insurance companies would pay him more than enough money to build what he vowed would be "world class quality" office buildings. "It seems to me I am going to end up rebuilding; the only question is how best to accomplish that," he said.

That sunny confidence, arching over the gulch of questions and concerns confronting survivors, financiers, lawyers, engineers and city, state and federal officials, works as a tonic for many who fear that the financial district may never recover. But Mr. Silverstein's pledge — he said he wanted to erect an "appropriate" memorial to the 6,000 victims and resurrect ten million square feet of lost office space — also serves as a way for him to stake his claim early in a shifting landscape of loss, economic uncertainty, competition and clashing political interests.

Mary Ann Tighe, vice-chairwoman of the

real estate brokerage firm Insignia/ESG Inc. and a longtime friend of Mr. Silverstein's, described him as an "extraordinary combination of optimism and total shrewdness." He was not among the leading candidates to acquire the trade center until very late, when Vornado, a larger firm that bid higher, pulled out, making room for Mr. Silverstein to achieve his "crowning glory" and win a niche in the chronicles of New York real estate. Its destruction made him a sad footnote in the nation's history.

But at 70, Mr. Silverstein wants to play a leading role in the city's future. "I simply decided to dedicate the next five years of my life to this," he said. He added a cautionary message to local and national officials, many of whom have already hinted that the reconstruction effort needed in downtown

Continued on Page B11



Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times

Larry A. Silverstein says he is obligated.

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P. 10/2

A NATION CHALLENGED: The Aftermath in New York**THE REAL ESTATE**

Leaseholder for Center Pledges He Will Rebuild

Continued From Page B1

Manhattan is far too vast and complex for any one developer: "Given good health and cooperation from the federal and city government, the governors of New Jersey, New York, the Port Authority, we're going to rebuild this thing."

Observing him as he lays the groundwork for what he described as a patriotic mission is a little like staring at an Escher print; in one blink, his persona is suffused in optimism, in another, shrewdness dominates. Some in government, troubled by his haste, see mainly the latter. "It is still early to talk about this in terms of real estate," one city official said. "Larry needs to be careful not to slide from civic pride to crass personal interests."

Mr. Silverstein has attended memorial services and fund-raisers, and he has also met with his lawyers, advisers and government officials. Last week, he hired the prominent architect David Childs of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. New York officials went to Washington to meet with the New York congressional delegation

Making plans, hiring architects and counting on insurance.

to press for more federal aid. So did Mr. Silverstein, in meetings yesterday with Representative Charles B. Rangel and others. Mr. Silverstein sought federal guarantees for construction loans and protection from lawsuits brought by the victims or their families, according to a government aide who attended the meeting.

Mr. Silverstein, who resembles a thin Arthur Godfrey, has a bouncy, avuncular manner in person that barely slows when he talks about the attack. He lost four employees and many friends and colleagues, and he steers the conversation away from death, lifting his arm at one point to

ward off memories like bats. Instead, he focused on the few bright spots, speaking, for example, of watching rescuers go down into the tunnels below the twin towers and 7 World Trade Center, which he built and which was also destroyed. "They were taking one hell of a risk, if you'll excuse my language," he said. "It is so staggering to see how Americans will help each other in a time of crisis."

The developer first heard about the news when his associate, Geoffrey P. Wharton, called him on his cellphone from the site, saying "something really bad is happening." Mr. Wharton had just reached the lobby from a breakfast meeting

at Windows on the World when the plane hit the tower. Badly shaken, Mr. Wharton rode a squad car back to the company's headquarters on Fifth Avenue and 43rd Street, reaching it in time to watch on television alongside the proud new leaseholder as the two towers collapsed.

"He was shocked, like everybody, but this was so personal, it just knocked the wind out of him," said Lisa Silverstein, the developer's daughter and a vice president in the company.

She said that he rallied quickly, but that something had changed. "This took a toll mentally and physically," she said. "He is still off-kilter. He usually bounces through the door like Tigger, then whoosh. And it was gone."

Born in Washington Heights, Mr. Silverstein learned the real estate business working for his father Harry, a smalltime broker, while attending Brooklyn Law School at night. He started his own business in the 1950's, and rose to prominence and real wealth in the early 80's, buying a yacht, chairing the real estate board, and creating the real estate institute at N.Y.U.

In 1981, his optimism reached a peak: he began building 7 World Trade Center before signing up a single tenant. The much-celebrated agreement by Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. to rent space in the tower fell apart at the last minute when the Ivan Boesky scandal erupted. Mr. Silverstein eventually found another brokerage firm, Salomon

Brothers, to lease the space, but lost profit when he had to refit the space to accommodate the new tenants.

By 1998, he was buying major buildings again, and also preparing his move on the World Trade Center. He seems anxious to soothe the sensitivities of the Port Authority, which lost dozens of employees, including its executive director, Neil Levin.

"In no way is this a unilateral act," he said, saying he would seek cooperation of all agencies and authorities involved.

Mr. Silverstein said that he was entitled to \$3.6 billion in insurance to cover the losses in each terrorist attack, and that since there were two, he was counting on \$7.2 billion. He acknowledged that the insurance companies disagreed with his theory, but added, "they are showing every sign of acting like statesmen."

P.J. Crowley, vice president of the Insurance Information Institute, an industry education group, said: "The issues are extraordinarily complex in this unprecedented event. This is a matter that will take months, if not years, to work through."

Mr. Silverstein prefers to cast the catastrophe as a low moment in a continuous cycle. "I've been through tough times in the 1960's, and in the 70's and the 1990's, and here we are in 2001," he said. "We can get through this too."

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P-2072

A Looming New York Fiscal Crisis ✓

The New York economy, already shaky before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, is headed for an aftershock that could produce the biggest budget crisis since the 1970's. Estimates of lost city and state tax revenues over the next 18 months approach \$10 billion. The shortfalls would come on top of multibillion-dollar deficits already projected for the next fiscal year. In preparing his first budget, the next mayor of New York City may have to close a gap of \$4 billion or more, a nearly impossible task without major sacrifice by New Yorkers and help from Albany and Washington.

Until recently, some of the mayoral candidates might as well have been campaigning on the moon for all the attention they paid to the challenge lying ahead. Now they are beginning to speak more frankly about the future problems. But the difficulties with the city's budget were not all created by the terrorists. Irresponsible practices over the last several years allowed the Giuliani administration and City Council to use surpluses from the Wall Street boom to plug deficits that were bound to remain when the boom faded away.

The city can probably limp through its current fiscal year, which ends next June 30. But for the year beginning July 1, the Giuliani administration is projecting a \$4 billion gap. That would represent about 8 percent of the budget, and it does not include any raises negotiated in future labor contracts. It would be heartbreaking for City Hall to have to ask the city's heroic work force, especially its uniformed services, for pay freezes and givebacks. It would be almost suicidal to try to deny the teachers a significant wage hike at a time when higher-paying suburban schools are competing for staff and city students are being required to pass increas-

ingly difficult achievement tests. But some very tough choices are in the offing.

The city will no doubt call for help from Albany, and the state needs to do what it can. But Gov. George Pataki and the Legislature are not likely to have much leeway. The state budget is itself dependent on the very businesses that have been hit hardest — finance, insurance, tourism and retail sales. With its so-called "bare-bones" budget passed earlier this year — and decried as inadequate by everyone from Mr. Pataki to the local school districts — the state can very likely make it to the end of its fiscal year on March 31. For the next year, the state could easily face its own deficit of several billion dollars.

One way of easing the crunch would be through federal aid — if Washington can be persuaded to compensate the city for tax revenue lost because of the destruction of the World Trade Center. The city also may be able to use \$2.5 billion in emergency borrowing allowed by the Legislature. But that could create new problems: If the city runs a deficit of more than \$100 million, the laws enacted during its fiscal crisis of the late 70's call for a control board, headed by the governor, to take over city finances. To address all these problems, Mr. Pataki should begin working immediately with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, the legislative leaders and all the mayoral candidates.

In a time of trial and tragedy, it will be hard for the city to get used to the fact that the economic boom of the last several years is now gone. In fact, it was gone even before the attacks on the World Trade Center. Deferring the task of dealing with the coming emergency will only make that emergency worse.

NYTIMES 10.3.01

City's Budget Is Battered In the Aftermath of Attack

Officials May Seek to Double Aid to \$40 Billion

By JENNIFER STEINHAUER

The attack on the World Trade Center has doubled the city's projected budget gap to roughly \$4 billion, forcing the Giuliani administration to order all agencies to curtail spending.

Some city and state officials are now calculating that just to clear the damage, they will ask the federal government for \$40 billion or more, twice the amount already approved. In addition, they would also like federal help to stem losses in tax revenues caused by the attacks.

Many of the expenses related to the cleanup, like the overtime for firefighters and police officers and the removal of the wreckage, will likely be covered by the federal aid. But the concurrent sharp decline in revenue from thousands of fewer tourists and the loss of businesses in Lower Manhattan will cut deeply into the next mayor's budget, almost certainly leading to abandonment of many promises made along the campaign trail for things like housing and smaller class sizes.

To the veterans of the city's fiscal crisis of the 1970's and the severe cutbacks at the beginning of the last decade that led to dirtier streets, deteriorating schools and the exodus of many professionals to the suburbs, the economic forecast this time threatens to undercut much of the successes of the last several years.

"We think this is going to be as bad as the early 1990's, if not worse," said Charles Brecher, research director of the Citizens Budget Commission, a civic research organization. "We were already saying that a new mayor would have big budget

problems, but there are added problems now. Outside of the immediate losses, the mayor has to deal with restoring the psychological sense of security, which has implications for keeping business here. Housing plans will have to be rethought. I think everything will be on the table now."

The gap for the 2003 fiscal year, which begins in July, was already expected to be between \$2 billion and \$2.5 billion because of a softening economy, bloating debt load and impending labor negotiations. Now that is likely to grow to \$4 billion, analysts and city officials predicted.

Estimates of the costs related to the disaster are staggering: \$5 billion to remove the debris, \$14 billion to rebuild the area, \$3 billion for overtime for uniform workers and \$1 billion to replace destroyed vehicles and equipment. Fire Department accident response vehicles, for instance, are \$400,000 each.

How much money the city will get from the federal government remains unclear, but some expenses will be picked up by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The city had already been promised part of \$20 billion in new federal aid, but city officials have revised their estimated need to \$40 billion, and the state's calculations are shifting even higher. New York City officials have already met twice with Bush administration aides to discuss the city's financial needs, and they are working now, along with the state, to come up with a detailed estimate of the costs. City and state

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City's

officials plan to present their proposals to the New York Congressional delegation in the next several days, but both Democratic and Republican congressmen say they expect an uphill battle in trying to get billions more in aid. Congressional Republicans had already resisted approving the initial package of \$20 billion.

"It is a steep cliff we're climbing; that's why it's going to be critical for there to be consensus among us New Yorkers," said Representative John Sweeney, an upstate Republican who is close to Gov. George E. Pataki and helps oversee appropriations.

Senator Charles E. Schumer said that the New York delegation recognized how tough it would be, but added: "We will have opposition. But so far the support has been overwhelming. I hope and pray it stays that way."

As for the White House, Adam Barsky, the city's budget director, said the Bush administration had encouraged city officials to present economic development plans, which he said was a stark contrast to Gerald Ford's infamous response to the

city's fiscal crisis in the 1970's.

New York is likely to suffer the most long-lasting financial effects in areas like the falloff in tourism, depleted personal and corporate tax revenue and a possible downward spiral of real estate taxes. Mitigating factors, like the increase in construction and a successful bond issue, could staunch some losses.

But city and state officials are not taking any chances, and are already angling for ways to get the federal government to take the unusual step of reimbursing the city not just for expenses, but also for a loss of revenues. There is some precedent for Washington making up lost toll revenue after a state is hit by a natural disaster, but there is less precedent for reimbursements for corporate and personal tax losses. "FEMA's policy has been to not reimburse for those types of revenue losses," Mr. Brecher said.

But the city plans to make the case that unlike a hurricane, the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center was really an attack on the country, and that therefore the federal government should take up more of the bill. "It is very important that there be a recognition that a significant

cost of the attack will be a direct and indirect loss of revenues," Mr. Barsky said. "If the city is unable to get full reimbursement for all of its cost including those lost revenues, there will be difficult choices that have to be made."

The Giuliani administration had already asked agencies to come up with \$500 million in reductions in anticipation of shortfalls from the state, and is pressing them for real proposals to make cuts, officials said. The administration is also examining programs that can be cut and other ways to trim costs, but doesn't plan to seek layoffs for now.

City officials and independent budget analysts concede that the future is uncertain. For instance, it is not yet clear whether hotel occupancy rates, which have fallen by 40 percent to 80 percent since the attack, will remain low, along with other aspects of the tourist industry.

Some losses, like the roughly \$1 million a day lost to meter revenues and parking tickets since the attack, will be limited in the normal course of things, once the city drops its carpooling regulations and reinstates alternate-side-of-the-street parking. And the effect on the city's real es-

tate tax base is entirely unpredictable.

"The long term issues are clearly unresolved," said Colleen Woodell, managing director in the public finance department of Standard & Poor's.

The federal government has already set aside \$20 billion for recovery efforts in New York City, northern Virginia and Pennsylvania. The first \$10 billion will be distributed at the president's discretion among the three sites and the rest will be assigned by Congress later. And lawmakers are studying the appropriation bill carefully, trying to ascertain what expenses can be picked up with it.

But New York is already asking for another \$20 billion that it insists is needed to cover losses. Among them are increased pay for the families of the dead, rebuilding the city's office of emergency management — for \$150 million — and heavily increased security around the city. The city also may find itself with increased applications for financial help; 1,369 people applied for food stamps or emergency funds so far.

Outside of the government aid and various funds set up by the city to

assist victims' families, other factors may come into play. As insurance proceeds flow into the marketplace and construction begins, the boost to the city's economy may resemble what happens in cities that suffer natural disasters. The city issued a bond whose proceeds will be used to rebuild businesses downtown, and yesterday it received \$2 billion in orders from institutional investors, on top of the \$387 million sold Monday to individual investors making it the biggest city bond sale ever, Mr. Giuliani said.

The mayoral candidates have offered their own proposals for rebuilding the city's financial health. The Democrats, Mark Green and Fernando Ferrer, have talked about creating a panel of business leaders and others to come up with a detailed plan, and Mr. Ferrer said yesterday that he would immediately begin construction of lost office space and complete construction and rehabilitation of at least 10 million square feet of office space within two years. "The next administration will have to come up with a long-term plan to deal with this," said Jeffrey Sommer, acting executive director of the Financial Control Board.

THE ECONOMY

City Puts Attack's Costs at Up to \$105 Billion

By LESLIE EATON

City Comptroller Alan G. Hevesi issued the first official estimate yesterday of how much the World Trade Center disaster will cost New Yorkers, and the number is a shocker: as much as \$105 billion over the next two years.

The estimate includes \$34 billion in property damage and up to \$60 billion in economic costs, including lost jobs and lost rents.

The encyclopedic study calculates everything from the cost of rebuilding the twin towers (\$6.7 billion) to revenue lost because fewer traffic tickets will be issued (\$82 million).

While the comptroller's office is widely respected for its economic forecasts, it is clearly in the city's interest to make the total as big as possible so that officials can ask for increased federal aid. Mr. Hevesi urged them to do so, saying, "We took the hit for America."

The report was issued as Gov. George E. Pataki's budget director estimated that the state would lose \$1 billion to \$3 billion in revenues in the fiscal year that ends in April, and \$2 billion to \$6 billion in the next fiscal year, as a result of the attack on the trade center. The budget director, Carole E. Stone, acknowledged that those were rough estimates based mostly on anecdotal information.

The governor has promised to balance this year's budget without resorting to layoffs or tax increases. Ms. Stone ordered state agencies in a letter yesterday to hold spending in their budgets for next year at this year's levels.

Almost 6,000 people who applied

for unemployment benefits in the last week said it was because of the trade center disaster, bringing the total of disaster-related job losses so far to 16,747, according to the New York State Department of Labor.

The Hevesi report estimates that the city will lose 115,274 jobs in its current fiscal year, which ends June 30. The largest losses — 28,717 — will come in services, including at least 6,000 airline jobs. Sales, retail or wholesale, will also be hard hit, with job losses of more than 17,000.

But the biggest chunk of lost wages — which will total almost \$9.6 billion — will come from a loss of Wall Street paychecks totaling \$3.4 billion.

One of the report's most controversial figures may be its estimate of the loss of "human capital," \$11 billion. "It is impossible to put a real value on a human life and the pain of losing a loved one," Mr. Hevesi said.

But Mr. Hevesi noted that economists "ascribe value to human life" by calculating how much people might earn in their working years. Economists in his office assumed that about 5,600 people were killed in the disaster, that they had about 20 working years left apiece, and that their average income was \$100,000.

The damage to the city's budget, while serious, is not as severe as the overall injury to the economy, Mr. Hevesi said.

Tax collections are likely to drop by \$738 million this fiscal year, the report said. The biggest decline will be in hotel and sales taxes, which are forecast to fall by \$338 million.

Because the city has been running a small surplus, it will be able to take "manageable" steps to balance its

budget, as required by law, Mr. Hevesi said. But the next fiscal year may be more of a problem. The comptroller's office had been predicting a deficit of at least \$3.6 billion, and that will grow if tax collections fall by an estimated \$567 million.

The report calculates that replacing the entire trade center complex and repairing damaged buildings nearby will cost \$12 billion. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's losses in addition to the trade center (it owned the buildings and leased them to a private developer) are \$2.4 billion.

Fixing the subways will cost about \$3 billion, while repairing phone and electrical systems will cost \$2 billion. Replacing what was lost in the trade center's stores adds another \$2 billion to the tab. The report estimates the value of property in and around the towers, from cars in the garages to computers, was \$12 billion.

There will be some money coming into the city that will help offset New Yorkers' losses, the report notes. Families of the victims are likely to receive about \$4 billion from life insurance payments, while property insurance should contribute \$17 billion. Other kinds of insurance, covering disabled workers and interrupted business, could pay as much as \$18 billion, while workers' compensation would amount to about \$3 billion.

Finally, there is federal and state aid. Congress has appropriated \$20 billion for recovery, but the money must be shared with Pennsylvania and Washington, where hijacked planes also caused damage. "Clearly, given the costs," Mr. Hevesi said, "this will not be enough."

NUT
10/5/01

Only Certainty To Economists Is Dire Outlook

Predicting a Rebound But a Hard End to 2001

By LESLIE EATON

As President Bush met with corporate executives yesterday to discuss the national economy, New York politicians, economists and business leaders began to grapple with an economic outlook that ranges from awful to appalling.

The number of jobs in the city has probably plunged by 28,000, and is likely to drop by at least 40,000 more this year — maybe by 87,000 if the national economy stumbles into a severe recession. The unemployment rate, already edging up to 5 percent, could end the year as high as 6.7 percent, and might hit 8 percent by the end of next year. And the city's economy, which before the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11 appeared likely to grow slightly in the just-ended third quarter of the year, instead shrank sharply.

All of these statistics come from forecasts produced by Economy.com, which specializes in regional financial data. While many economists have been reluctant to assign such specific figures to the future, they tend to agree with the thrust of the analysis, which foresees a very hard end to 2001.

"There's going to be a very painful contraction," said Rae D. Rosen, a senior economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Like many analysts, she predicts that things will improve early next year, but "a lot depends on how quickly people are in any position to rebuild."

Even if that rebuilding begins relatively soon, not everyone thinks the rebound will be sharp.

One is Stephen Kagann, the chief economist for Gov. George E. Pataki, who said yesterday that many areas that had experienced disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes had seen their economies bounce back quickly when federal aid and insurance money kicked in.

But in those places, he said, most of the damage occurred in residential areas, where homes could be repaired with relatively small sums of money.

"When people's houses are wrecked or damaged, they can move very quickly — I call it the Home Depot effect," Mr. Kagann said. Spending to rebuild Lower Manhattan's business district, he said, is likely to happen at a slower pace.

There are many imponderables that are making economists' crystal balls even cloudier than usual. One, of course, is the amount of federal aid and the speed at which it will arrive. So far, only \$126 million in aid has trickled in to the city, according to the office of State Comptroller H. Carl McCall.

While the federal government has released \$5 billion of the promised \$40 billion in special spending, half of that is going to the Department of Defense and to repair the Pentagon, the comptroller's office said. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is to receive \$2 billion, but some of that money will go to Pennsylvania, where a hijacked plane crashed, and Virginia, for the Pentagon. President Bush, during his visit to the city yesterday, announced that he would seek \$75 billion from Congress, but that would go toward stimulating the national economy.

The Small Business Administration said yesterday that it had approved 117 loans worth a total of \$11.9 million in the wake of the disaster. That is a tiny fraction of the 759

loan applications it has received, and an even smaller fraction of 7,881 applications that businesses have requested but have not sent back to the agency.

Looming even larger are questions about war and about terrorism "Will there be a more permanent impact, or will people just hole up in their homes, with their home theaters?" asked Robert Kurtter, a senior vice president at Moody's Investors Service, which analyzes the city's economy for investors. "I don't think any of us have built in an assumption of perpetual terror attacks or war, but it's clearly a risk."

Another question for economists is what will happen to the national economy, which had been skidding into recession before Sept. 11. That prompted Mark M. Zandi, the chief economist at Economy.com, to develop three forecasts of the aftermath, which are progressively more negative depending on the national situation.

For example, his predictions for the city's unemployment rate at the end of 2002 range from 6.4 percent to 8 percent. If the twin towers had not collapsed, that rate would have prob-

The large number of imponderables make crystal balls cloudier than usual.

ably been about 5.2 percent, he said. In New York City, a group of economists and consultants is racing to

put together a detailed description of the state of the city's economy before the attack, the short-term effects and the long-term outlook. The effort is being organized by the New York City Partnership, a business group, because "after the loss of lives, the loss of livelihoods is the next most urgent issue to address," said Kathryn S. Wyld, the group's president.

The city's economy, so strong for so long, had already begun slipping before the trade center disaster.

But the collapse of the towers toppled three of the city's most important engines of economic growth: finance, tourism and entertainment, and retailing.

The loss of life has been, of course, the worst thing. Some small but important Wall Street firms like Keefe

Bruyette and Cantor Fitzgerald were devastated in the attack.

Several very large firms, like Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers, had to move their operations to other parts of New York and to New Jersey. Others, like Goldman Sachs, were simply shut out of their offices for almost a week.

The Securities Industry Association, the trade group for financial firms, estimates that 45,000 employees of its members and their suppliers had to leave Lower Manhattan; about 25,000 of those found space elsewhere in the city.

The good news is that the Federal Reserve's move to slash interest rates helped keep firms' losses relatively small, said Frank Fernandez, chief economist of the Securities Industry Association. The bad news is that those operating losses do not include the billions of dollars firms have spent and will spend to replace the property that was damaged and for relocation, he said.

Many of the 14,000 businesses in Lower Manhattan that were affected by the disaster were small shops selling jewelry or cigars or offering shoe repairs. Others were restaurants that cater to the Wall Street crowd. While business seems to be coming back near the tip of the island, many shops near the trade center remain closed, and the city's consumers are keeping their credit cards in their wallets.

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Only.....

Empty tables are easy to find at restaurants all over Manhattan, and probably half the hotel rooms in town are vacant, said John A. Fox, senior vice president of PKF Consulting. Typically, he said, occupancy rates would be as high as 95 percent in October, one of the busiest months in New York's hotel business. "This couldn't have happened at a worse time," he said.

On the other hand, there are some signs that tourism may be ticking up a bit. "You see on a daily basis that people are regaining confidence in airlines," said Arnon A. Mishkin, a partner at the Boston Consulting Group, one of the firms working on the New York City Partnership's economic study.

The weekend after the trade center disaster, he bought tickets to the "Lion King" — for that day's performance, he said, adding, "You can't do that any more."

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Page 2 of 2

MANHATTAN: BUILDING EVACUATED Two people were evacuated from a three-story building at 783 Eighth Avenue last night after the facade bowed on one side. After responding to reports from onlookers just after 8 p.m. of a gaping crack next to a second-story window of a building between 47th and 48th Street, police and firefighters closed off several blocks along Eighth Avenue to traffic. Traffic resumed at 9 p.m., when an inspection found no imminent threat that the building would collapse, officials said.

Thomas Lueck (NYT)

NYTimes
10.4.01

Relief for Battery Park dwellers as restrictions eased

By PAUL H.B. SHIN
and LEO STANDORA
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

The frozen zone around the ruins of the World Trade Center thaws a bit this morning for people who live in Battery Park City.

Starting at 8 a.m., vehicles — taxis, delivery trucks and even personal cars — will be allowed onto First Place in the southern part of the neighborhood to drop off or pick up passengers and goods, officials said.

First Place will be a no-parking zone, they said.

People who want to get to the northern sections of Battery Park City will be able to use a van service based on First Place.

The checkpoint for residents of the neighborhood is being moved up the block from the intersection of West St. and Battery Place to First Place and Battery Place.

The easing of restrictions was

announced last night at a loud and often angry informational meeting for people displaced by the Trade Center disaster.

But many of the more than 1,200 apartment dwellers, small-business owners and others who packed the Regent Hotel ballroom at 55 Wall St. felt the gathering was too much like the one at Post University on Friday night — long on wind and short on specific information.

Residents heard from representatives from the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, NYPD, Health Department, Board of Education and other agencies.

But lawyer Howard Tisch, 62, said the officials mostly were unable to answer basic questions, such as, "Can I get into my home or is it going to be an armed camp?"

At one point, a federal Environ-

mental Protection Agency official was nearly booed off the stage when he said the air around the disaster site was safe to breathe.

"They say it's safe," said artist Jeff Stone, 56, who lives in Gateway Plaza, shaking his head in disgust.

"But when you go there, your eyes burn and you cough. A lot of us feel they're just trying to push us into the buildings to start collecting rents again."

A NATION CHALLENGED: The Aftermath in New York**SECURITY**

City Tries to Become Safer In Ways Large and Small

By AL BAKER

At the Wall Street firm of Bear, Stearns, the idea of a visitor's pass and directions to the elevator are a thing of the past: everyone must now be escorted to the offices he or she is visiting.

The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on the East Side, which used to operate its X-ray machines only during things like visits by world dignitaries, now uses them to examine everything from bed linens to single-malt Scotch for the hotel's Bull and Bear bar.

At 50 Catholic elementary schools in Manhattan, security identification cards are being given to principals who never had them before, and the policy may eventually be extended to both teachers and students.

Meanwhile, at some city libraries, where safety is suddenly a concern that goes beyond whether books might be stolen, what comes in is being checked as thoroughly as what goes out.

There are, of course, more conspicuous signs of the city's heightened security: Armed National Guard troops, for example, will be stationed at the airports. And the Police Department is stopping trucks at nearly every crossing into

Everything from the way train tickets are sold to the way food enters restaurants to the way fans can enjoy early October baseball games is being affected. And that is not to mention all the personal adjustments millions of New Yorkers face, from the way husbands and wives say goodbye every morning to the decisions about whether to buy gas masks or antibiotics.

"It is not paranoid at all to think in terms of preparing for the next attack on New York City, or the state, because we know the terrorists are after us," said State Senator Roy M. Goodman, who is co-chairman of a local task force on terrorist threat assessment and preparedness.

In high-rise offices and on the streets below, at residences and houses of worship and in subway cars coursing underground, the question on the minds of many New Yorkers is not whether another terrorist attack will come, but when. Whether the new security measures being instituted will last forever is another question.

Some of the most onerous options are apt to disappear as anxiety wanes, some security experts said. Those defenses deemed most necessary, like airport security, may become more permanent.

"I think a lot of it depends on world events," said Michael Stapleton, president of a New York company that bears his name and provides bomb-sniffing dogs. "The lines are going to be longer, the inconveniences are going to be increased and there is going to be a lot more scrutiny and, unfortunately, people are going to be less and less tolerant."

At the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, the decision to give principals of Manhattan elementary schools identification cards may be replicated in all of the archdiocese's elementary schools. Other staff and faculty members may also be given credentials in those schools, an official said.

"This is not something we would have even thought about had we not had a Sept. 11th," said Nora Murphy, a spokeswoman for the diocesan system of elementary and secondary schools in Manhattan, the Bronx, Staten Island and seven Hudson Valley counties.

The United States Customs Service has gone to a code red, its top level, from a code green. It means that at Kennedy and Newark International Airports, and at the seaport

in Elizabeth, N.J., federal inspectors began "more intensive examinations of passengers, of freight and of mail," after Sept. 11, said James F. Michie, a customs spokesman.

"We are looking for anything at all that could pose a terrorist threat to this country, including components of weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Michie said.

Security concerns have kept cars and trucks from being allowed on the three Staten Island ferries equipped to carry vehicles, said Tom Cocola, a spokesman for the city's Department of Transportation.

The attack has also led to security changes for Amtrak. Those buying tickets at Amtrak stations, sending a package by train or checking luggage must have a valid photo ID, said Karen Dunn, an Amtrak spokeswoman. Starting Monday, she said, tickets will no longer be sold aboard trains.

At large corporations, physical security and safety plans are being revisited, security experts said. At Bear, Stearns, Raymond W. Kelly, a former New York City Police commissioner who is the head of global security, said a range of safety measures had been implemented. Not only are escorts being enforced on all visitors, but detailed floor plans that include fire exits and other information are being distributed.

And because of the Sept. 11 attacks, Mr. Kelly said, the firm may consider such safeguards as barring more than one executive from taking any individual airline flight.

Since Sept. 11, the New York Weill Cornell Center has doubled the number of guards at its entrances, where blue police barricades have suddenly gone up. Guards are now checking car trunks and passenger compartments, asking questions and requiring visitors to show some form of

photo ID, said Ben Scaglione, the center's director of security. "There always was an officer in the front circle," he said. "But now we are literally not letting you on the property until we can verify that you have business in the hospital and that the vehicle is safe to enter the property."

At Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, heightened security must compete with what has been a perennial sense of pennant fever in New York. Briefcases, backpacks, bottles, cans, coolers, hard containers and umbrellas are now banned at games. Players and the team manager, Joe Torre, are not exempt.

But even in the current environment there are, for the moment, limits. While security is a concern at St. Patrick's Cathedral, no one should expect the church to lock any doors, said Joseph G. Zwilling, the archdiocese's spokesman.

"We are a house of worship and a house of prayer," he said. "If we don't allow the people to come in, there is no reason for us to exist."

*In hotels and schools
and libraries,
conspicuous signs of
heightened security.*

Manhattan, with traffic jamming back into the suburbs.

But since the Sept. 11 assaults on the World Trade Center, there have been myriad other safety steps, some subtle and others symbolic, taken by security experts, law enforcement officials and those in public and private life. They are all part of an ongoing effort to gain, if not the unachievable state of maximum protection, a slightly greater sense of safety in a crowded, complicated, largely unbowed city.

New York Times
10/15/01

BATTERY PARK CITY

City Lifts a Ban Against Vehicles, at Least Partly

By SUSAN SAULNY

The mayor's Office of Emergency Management announced last night that delivery trucks, taxis, school buses and city shuttles, along with resident vehicles, would be allowed in the southern part of Battery Park City, ending a total traffic ban that left residents angered and isolated for the last three weeks.

John Odermatt, a spokesman for the office, met with more than 1,500 people who live and work in Lower Manhattan at the Regent Hotel on Wall Street to discuss the future of

the area. Mr. Odermatt told the crowd that the streets south of Albany Street between West Street and the Hudson River would open by 8 a.m. today. Residents, taxis and buses will still have to be checked.

Much of the meeting was devoted to questions about the air quality in Lower Manhattan. Despite repeated assurances that the air was safe, residents remained skeptical.

While the traffic announcement seemed to be an important step toward normalcy, people were anxious to know when outside traffic could

circulate freely, and when the area north of Albany Street would be accessible. Some buildings there have yet to be cleaned and rendered safe.

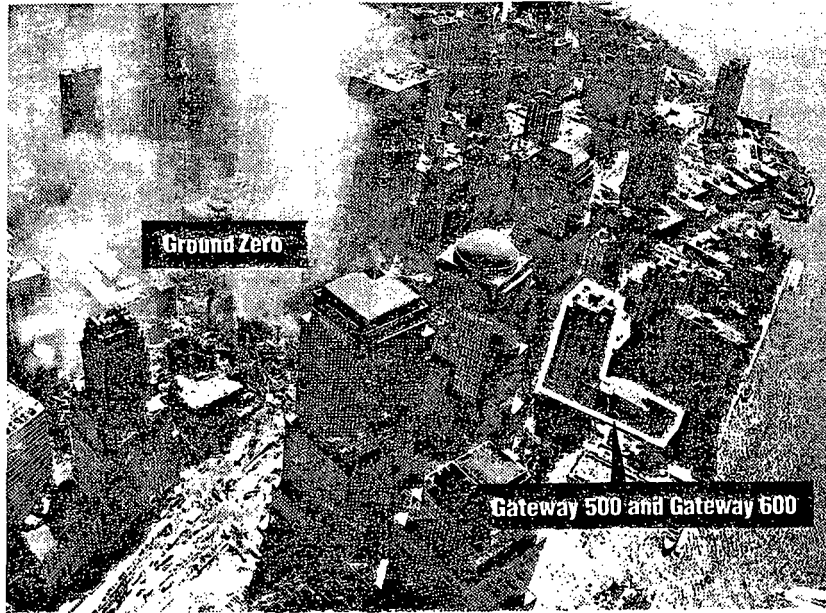
Donald Scherer, president of the Battery Park City Residents' Association, said the meeting was a good start.

"The key thing is that it's like a morgue late at night," he said. "We want to know when are cars going to be let below Canal freely? We've got to remember it's not a rescue operation any more. No one should be put out of work because of this."

NYTimes
10.4.01

Access Denied

Residents have been allowed to move back into all buildings in Battery Park City except Gateway 500 and Gateway 600. It is not known when they will be reopened.



AP Photo

Newsday / Justin Gilbert

Some Neighbors Still Homeless

Battery Park City tenants wait for word

By Roni Rabin

STAFF WRITER

Alastair Onglingswan doesn't like to complain — he knows he's one of the lucky ones. But his Gateway Plaza studio apartment in Battery Park City looks like Pompeii, he's running out of clothes and he's been sleeping on couches since Sept. 11.

Gateway Plaza, which has 1,712 apartments in five residential buildings along with a sixth commercial building, is the only section of Battery Park City that has yet to be opened for reoccupation. Though most services have been restored, confusion was the order of the day, and it was still not clear yesterday when the Gateway section would be rehabilitated.

"We know the city is overburdened with the rescue and now recovery effort. But being left in the dark now is really taking a toll," said Onglingswan, 33, whose apartment is in Gateway 500, on 385 South End Ave.

"It would be great if someone would say, 'Look, you're at Ground Zero, you should expect it to take three months.' But no one's making that determination."

Part of the confusion is rooted in the Gordian knot of landlords and city, state and federal agencies that are all jointly involved in clearing the area for rehabilitation.

Yesterday, for example, Gateway Plaza manager Jamie Lefrak indicated most apartments could be reoccupied and the only holdup was the lack of approval by the city's Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Environmental Protection. Yet DEP Chief of Staff Charles Sturcken said the landlord had yet to complete a cleanup operation. The cleanup was stalled, Lefrak explained, because residents insisted on being present during the maintenance work, having heard that some apartments had been ransacked.

Going home isn't the only question on Gateway residents' minds. Pregnant women and families with children are concerned about air quality. Onglingswan said he gets headaches every time he stops by his apartment to pick things up. And despite repeated assurances by city and federal environmental agencies, some residents wonder whether their proximity to Ground Zero devastation will be detrimental to

their physical or mental health.

The concern over Battery Park City may be reflected in the rate of return of tenants: Only 61 percent of the occupants of north Battery Park City, which reopened Sept. 21, have returned home, and a mere 36 percent of south Battery Park City residents have come home, according to Battery Park City Authority president Tim Carey. The local supermarket just reopened and ground transportation has been limited.

Though a shuttle bus from the Bowling Green subway to the southern end of Battery Park City has been introduced, and the M20 bus route has extended a spur into the northern neighborhood, cars, buses and taxis are still banned.

"Right now the hurdle we must get over is access," said Carey, who predicted it could take several months before residents of the most severely damaged Gateway 600 building return home. "We have problems with access for child care, and access for home health care."

But, Carey said, he was optimistic. "They had a moving van there [in Battery Park City] yesterday," he said. "I assumed people were moving out. They were moving in."

Newsday 10.2.01

ATTACK ON AMERICA

'MISSING' LIST DROPS 233

By DAREH GREGORIAN,
LORENA MONGELLI
and MARIA ALVAREZ

The number of people missing in the World Trade Center disaster decreased by more than 200 yesterday.

City officials said the large drop — from 5,219 missing to 4,986 — was caused by a number of factors, including foreign nationals who were feared missing in the Sept. 11 attack and have since been located.

Another reason, officials said, was that the city is continuing to find duplicate names on the massive and tragic list.

The number of missing — which stood at more than 6,500 in the confusion shortly after the attack — is also being reduced as rescue workers find more and more bodies in the rubble.

To date, 369 people have been confirmed dead, of whom 310 have been identified.

The tragedy continues

to affect survivors living near ground zero — more than 1,000 residents of Battery Park City were told last night their apartments had been contaminated with toxic dust and cancer-causing asbestos.

Joel Miele, the city's commissioner for the Department of Environmental Protection, warned the residents to get certified cleaners to help with the decontamination and cleanup.

"There are high intensities of asbestos and if it

gets in your lungs, it's a problem over an extended period of time in a contained area," he said.

He said the levels had dropped "dramatically" since Sept. 11 but that the first dust that covered most Battery Park City apartments was "contaminated."

Residents who have remained in the complex are still concerned.

"People are walking around with headaches, stuff in their throat, but I'm thinking about the fu-

ture of our children," said Sol Reischer, father of a year-old son. "I don't know how anyone can expect a child to live here."

Yesterday, many of those who were robbed of their livelihoods or homes went to the city's disaster assistance center at 141 Worth St. seeking help in moving forward with their lives.

"I feel like part of me is dead and is still at the World Trade Center," said Lisa Feliciano, 24,

who worked as a security guard in the lobby of the south tower and was at the center looking for help in finding a new job.

Feliciano, who saved lives by keeping people from boarding elevators after the first plane struck, is still shaken by the memories.

"You feel like you wanted to help so many more people, but you just couldn't," she said, adding she is taking anti-depressants and getting psychiatric counseling.

Circle Line Somberly Views Altered Skyline

By DAN BARRY

With its foghorn sounding farewell to Midtown, the ship edged away from the pier and pushed south along the Hudson River. The waters that surround Manhattan Island are uncertain these days, but life must go on, and so must the Circle Line. There are things to point out, things to see.

The Coast Guard cutter Tahoma, for example, guarding the mouth of New York Harbor. And the wave-skipping patrol boats, packed with armed soldiers. And the military helicopters whock-whock-whocking from above. And, of course, the standing remnants of the World Trade Center, including the silvery skin of the south tower — “the building you saw in all of the pictures,” as Chris Mason tells tourists.

What had once been an ooh-and-aah celebration of Gotham in its glory has now become a somber glide past a communal burial ground, as well as a dramatic reminder that for all its skyscraping splendor, New York City is so naked and vulnerable that it needs soldiers and gun turrets to guard its shores.

These are awkward times for Mr. Mason, a tour guide for Circle Line, the city's oldest and perhaps best-known sightseeing cruise operation. For the last 15 years he has generally followed the Circle Line script in describing the landmarks that can be seen from the Hudson and East Rivers: historical summaries of the Empire State Building and the Woolworth Building, tributes to the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty, a couple of New York wisecracks, and he's done.

But now a centerpiece of the standard tour is gone; in its place is a seamless cloud of smoke rising from Lower Manhattan. And Mr. Mason, 38 years old and a son of Brooklyn, has to rely on words like “devastation” and “attack” to touch upon what the sightseers already know. Sometimes, he said, mere silence works best.

“It depends on the mood of the trip,” he said.

When the second tower of the World Trade Center collapsed on that sunny morning of Sept. 11, the Circle Line was one of several ferry and sightseeing operations that spontaneously began to take panicked people across the Hudson River free. By nightfall, the Circle Line had ferried about 30,000 people — 600 at a time — to Weehawken, where they set foot on suddenly blessed New Jersey soil.

For several days after the attack, the company's ships remained moored at Pier 83; it was not the time for sightseeing, no matter how respectful. Even the upbeat Circle Line brochure had become a glossy remnant of the time before, with its 10 pictures of the twin towers and its promotion of a “sea and sky package” that included a trip to the top of one of the towers.

On Sept. 20, Mr. Mason was the tour guide on the first post-attack three-hour cruise around Manhattan. It was a gray day, he recalled, with only about 100 passengers, many of whom were interested in where he was when the planes struck the towers. Like so many others in the region, he explained, he was in the midst of the mundane: sitting in his home in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, listening to traffic reports on the radio before he commuted to the city.

As that first ship glided past the site, Mr. Mason said, “I did sort of a moment of silence.”

“Now, we're getting on three weeks later, and there's more of a getting over the tragic part of it,” he said. “They're taking lots of pictures, and they should go for it, because it's definitely part of history.”

On Monday afternoon, 151 tourists — one-quarter of the ship's capacity — lined up in the drizzle to board Circle Line XVII for a two-hour tour. They were immediately greeted at the gangplank by an armed security guard, who checked their bags and, in some cases, patted them down — all part of new Coast Guard restrictions, explained Peter Cavrell, the Circle Line's senior vice president for sales and marketing.

Once on board, they were greeted by the knowing and mellifluous voice of Mr. Mason, whose father, John, has been a Circle Line tour guide for four decades. Wearing a white shirt

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CIRCLE.....

with epaulets and holding a cordless microphone, the guide explained that after passing a few Midtown sights, "we'll be down at ground zero, where we'll see some of the devastation, and then on to the Statue of Liberty."

As the ship nudged south along the Hudson, in waters as gray as the overcast sky, Mr. Mason generally followed a time-honored patter: to the right was Hoboken, "the birthplace of Ol' Blue Eyes, Frank Sinatra"; to the left, Greenwich Village, "the so-called bohemian part of the city." Now and then, though, his ad libs reflected how much life had changed in three weeks; he told his listeners, for example, that builders of a riverfront park in Manhattan had "shut down operations due to the attack."

Moments after Mr. Mason explained that TriBeCa meant "triangle below Canal," the captain of the Circle Line XVII cut his engines and the ship fell silent. Every passenger looked to the east to see the smoke, the police helicopters, the blackened wreckage — the void.

One of the sightseers, Jane Rogers, later began to cry while describing how she felt at that moment, looking eastward as the waters of the Hudson gently rocked her. She said she and her husband and their three children had driven three days from Parker, Colo., to stick with a months-old plan to visit New York City in early fall. But now, the 40-year-old

A former gee-whiz tour is now a glide past a communal burial ground.

woman could not shake an image from a 12-year-old photograph: a much younger Jane Rogers, smiling with the World Trade Center towers gleaming behind her.

"It was just very hard for me," she said.

After the moment of silence, which was never requested but uniformly understood, Mr. Mason described which wreckage used to be which building. "When we turn around later on," he said, "we'll get some different angles of Lower Manhattan and the devastation."

The Circle Line glided past the Tahoma, the 270-foot Coast Guard cutter that has become a kind of New York landmark in its own right. Mr. Mason made no reference to it, nor to the patrol boat that skipped past just 30 yards away, a half-dozen soldiers in camouflage standing in its hold, their weapons in plain view.

But he did point out Governors Island — "1,500 National Guard have been stationed there since the at-

tack" — as well as Battery Park, which he described as now looking "almost like a scene 'from 'M.A.S.H.' " And he did turn the tourists' attention to the dull-green military-transport helicopters that cut across the sky before disappearing behind the Lower Manhattan skyline.

The Circle Line sliced past Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, which Mr. Mason said were closed because of the attack. It then went up the East River to about 23rd Street before turning around and swinging once again past the tourist attraction now called ground zero. The captain cut his engines again, but this time Mr. Mason's words broke the silence:

"That's the American Express tower, which took a real big hit. ... Such a tough sight to see. ... It's amazing how many buildings were not affected. ... Just all the devastation and horror. ... According to the mayor, the cleanup here might take up to a year."

Camcorders whirled and cameras clicked. But Frank and Margaret McGrath sat still as they stared out the Circle Line window, like a pair of churchgoers searching for meaning in a stained-glass design. The camera that they had brought from Dublin for their first visit to the United States stayed packed away in a bag at their feet.

Taking pictures, they had decided, would be inappropriate.

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The Call of the City Above the City

By DAVID KOEPPPEL

The horror of the attacks on the World Trade Center has left millions of Americans with a kind of collective acrophobia. For many, airplanes, skyscrapers and even elevators provoke feelings of fear.

But others who have made their careers away from the confines of the cubicle-crammed offices of New York City say that nothing can pull them away from the precarious heights of a workplace without walls. And while some confess that their enthusiasm for working high above the city may have been temporarily dampened, they still prefer the great outdoors to the constraints of office life.

Many are window washers and construction workers, but an amazing variety of other professions thrive up in the sky, and for the inhabitants of this alternate world, it is a very special place to work. "I still love being out on roofs; I feel no less secure," said Harry Wilks, a professional photographer who has spent more than 20 years on Manhattan rooftops. "It's completely isolated, like going on vacation."

Mr. Wilks's photographs merge rooftop images with building ornaments. He often shoots at angles that distort shapes and size, so that gargoyles and lions' heads tower menacingly in some photos.

Only days after the disaster, Mr. Wilks climbed to the top of a 21-story building in Union Square to document a giant memorial vigil below. The trade center figured prominently in several of his photographs and he compared its destruction to the loss of a loved one.

Most people who work above the city pursue less artistic visions, and those jobs rarely get more practical than providing water to the masses. Enter Andrew Rosenwach, president of the 128-year-old Rosenwach Group, which installs and repairs the wooden water tanks that loom above the city's skyline. On a recent afternoon, Mr. Rosenwach stood on the roof of a 14-story office building on West 57th Street, admiring the view as one of his employees dangled on the rim of a new 14-foot-high basin made of western yellow cedar.

Since the destruction of the trade center, Mr. Rosenwach said that his company had continued to work on rooftops throughout the city. "We're more determined than ever to deliver to anyone needing service," he said. "I like to think our water tanks are also symbols of the city, they're like flags that are still flying high."

A longtime employee, Roger Martinez, said he once worked indoors as an upholsterer, but preferred the open air. "I still love it up there because you can see how beautiful the city is," he said. "Everyday, it's a different job, and I'm away from all the noise."

It is that yearning for tranquillity that inspires city dwellers to seek out the services of rooftop landscape architects like David Kamp and Jamie Purinton.

Mr. Kamp says urban rooftop gardens will be in more demand than ever, as people seek ways to cope with the aftermath of the attacks. In describing a rooftop retreat he created for a private client on the Lower East Side, he spoke almost dreamily about the pleasures of gazing down on the city from on high. "Lying in bed you could see the World Trade Center framed with vines," he said, recalling the garden. "Now there's a big hole in the view. We used that landmark as an anchor, and it was not as permanent as we all thought."

Though Ms. Purinton now lives upstate in Ancram, N.Y., she spent many years designing penthouse terraces in New York City for well-heeled clients. One of her favorites was a garden for a transplanted Texan that

included a small orange grove, blue and purple hydrangeas, Calla lilies and brooms. "It was so liberating, like working with a fresh palette," Ms. Purinton said of doing a job so far above the ground.

Nobody tracks the number of people who make their living atop or alongside the city's buildings, but there are a lot of them. The New York metropolitan area counts about 5,000 iron workers, many of whom work on skyscrapers and on bridges and have participated in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center. And the window cleaners' union has about 750 members.

Gerard McEneaney, who spent seven years washing the windows of skyscrapers like the World Financial Center before heading back to earth as a union delegate in April, used to think that the danger of working so high up added spice to the job. Then his window cleaners' union lost two men at the trade center on Sept. 11.

"There's a tremendous amount of fear and rightfully so," he said. "Many of our guys are hesitant to go out there again."

The fun of working up high has also faded for Ken Dybing. As an electrical worker for the New York Bridge and Tunnel Authority, he volunteers for death-defying cable walks across the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge to repair its 1,500 red-and-white lights.

On a clear day, Mr. Dybing's view from 700 feet above the water extends from the seashores of Sandy Hook, N.J., to the Watchung Mountains of New Jersey. From time to time, Mr. Dybing and his colleagues say, they are even "buzzed" by low-flying peregrine falcons.

Of course, there is also the unobstructed panorama of the city skyline, a view he says was so recently fraught with joy and now with sadness. "I don't remember the skyline before the World Trade Center, and being up on the bridge every day is a constant reminder that it's gone," he said. "But we'll persevere. Some day, I hope I'll find it as exhilarating as it once was."

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The

If the recent experience of Anthony Pereira is any guide, his hope will be fulfilled. Mr. Pereira's three-year-old company, Alternative Power, installs solar-electric panels on rooftops, but the attacks have delayed several projects in Battery Park City, and he is waiting to start another one in Clifton, N.J. "Lately, I've been cooped up in an office, feeling miserable," he said. "When you're up on a roof and see the sun shining and the blue sky, it feels good. The New York skyline is still the greatest in the world."

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WOODSTOWN: 2 ACCUSED OF WASTE VIOLATIONS

Two men have been indicted on charges that they recklessly disposed of agricultural waste, including pig waste, from their farm, possibly polluting streams in the area. The men — Joseph R. Johanson, 54, and his son Robert, Jr. — were accused on Monday of allowing rainwater runoff on their Woodstown farm. The elder Johanson's lawyer said the two were not guilty. He said the Johansons had been forced to sell their pigs and take jobs as corrections officers because of an unrelated state lawsuit.

Steve Strunsky 10/3/01

NYTimes 10.3.01

Expect a mild season for energy markets

■ Natural gas is 57 percent less expensive than a year ago

By BRAD FOSS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the mercury falls, energy prices are moving in the same direction and analysts say consumers should expect significant savings on home heating bills this winter.

Because of weak demand from industrial users and a glut in supply, natural gas is 57 percent less expensive than a year ago. Crude oil, from which heating oil is refined, is about 30 percent cheaper per barrel compared with last year.

With no quick turnaround in sight for the U.S. economy, experts believe the downward pressure on energy prices could persist through December.

"Natural gas prices are a fraction of what they were last year and, on average, consumers should expect tremendous savings," said Fadel Gheit, an energy analyst at Fahnestock & Co. in New York.

The Energy Information Administration, the Energy Department's statistical arm, releases its outlook for winter fuels on Thursday. Mary Hutzler, the agency's acting administrator, said the government's forecast "jibes" with what industry analysts are predicting, but she would not provide details.

Last winter, Americans paid through the roof to heat their homes as natural gas supplies were extremely tight and demand from industrial users was strong. The wholesale price, which traded around \$2.50 per 1,000 cubic feet in the late 1990s, soared above \$10 in January.

For a while, natural gas companies raked-in huge profits as they cranked up production. But their aggressive drilling eventually smacked up against a sharp drop in demand as the U.S. economy faltered. Supplies were replenished and prices began to flatten.

The decline in natural gas prices was compounded by the fact that many industrial users switched to less expensive distillate fuels, sapping nearly 5 percent from daily natural gas demand.

The impact has been dramatic. Injections of natural gas into underground storage facilities have been robust since late spring and are likely to continue through early November, said Paul Wilkinson, an economist at the American Gas Association in Washington.

The country had 2.84 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in storage for the week ended Sept. 21, compared with 2.40 trillion cubic feet during the same period in 2000. The wholesale price is now slightly above \$2.15 per 1,000 cubic feet, compared with \$5 per 1,000 cubic feet at the beginning of last year's home heating season.

Electricity could also be cheaper, as more than 15 percent of the nation's power is derived from natural gas.

About 51 percent of all homes in the United States are heated with natural gas, according to the AGA. Thirty-two percent use electricity.

9 percent rely on heating oil and the remainder use wood, alternative fuels or have no heat at all.

When it comes to heating oil, which is primarily used in the Northeast, analysts say homeowners could save an average of 30 cents a gallon compared with last year's prices. For example, a household using 600 gallons of heating oil during the October-March season could save \$180.

The driving force behind these savings is cheap crude, which traded at \$23.28 a barrel yesterday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, compared with \$33 a year ago.

"Most people think that crude is going to flirt with \$20 a barrel before it flirts with \$30 again," said Tom Kloza, director of Oil Price Information Service in Lakewood, N.J.

Heating oil for November delivery ended yesterday at about 66 cents a gallon, about 20 cents below year-ago levels.

Homeowners will experience even more savings, analysts said, if demand remains weak for jet fuel, which is similar to heating oil from a production standpoint.

Airlines have already trimmed capacity by 20 percent nationwide and, if the trend holds, refiners might tweak their production to make more heating oil, which could further dampen prices.

Refiners could disturb what is, for now, shaping up to be a mild season for energy markets if they significantly cut back production, said Peter Beutel, publisher of the Cameron Hanover Energy Hedger in New Canaan, Conn.

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EXPECT.....

"You could see heating oil get tight," but it's not likely, Beutel said.

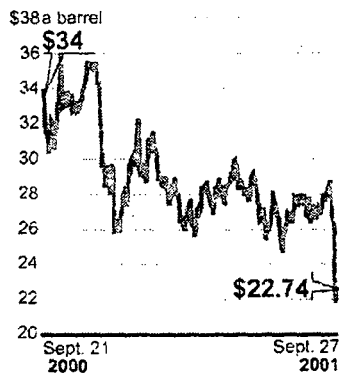
Another wild card, according to Kloza, is the effect of U.S. military action in the Middle East in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Barring that, it's difficult to come up with a scenario that is going to lead to higher prices during the six-month heating season," Kloza said.

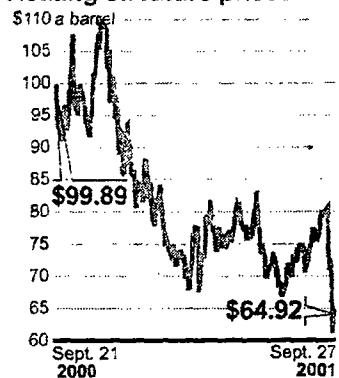
Energy savings may be on the way

Compared to the volatility of last year's energy prices, analysts expect this year's prices for heating oil and natural gas to bring decent savings to consumers.

Crude oil prices



Heating oil future prices



SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Energy

AP

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White House Criticizes Republican Farm Bill

By ELIZABETH BECKER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3 — The Bush administration came out against the \$171 billion House version of a farm bill today, saying it would give too much money to commodity subsidies and not enough to conservation efforts. The White House stance set up a battle within the Republican Party over who would determine farm policy for the next decade covered by the bill.

Minutes after debate began in the House, the Office of Management and Budget released the administration statement, urging the House to

rewrite the bill and make it "better for rural America, better for the environment and better for expanding markets."

The statement drew a bitter retort from Representative Larry Combest, a Texas Republican who is the chairman of the Agriculture Committee and the bill's chief sponsor.

"For you to come now at the last minute is an insult," Mr. Combest said, referring to the administration of his fellow Texan. "How could you dare do this to us?"

Moderate Republicans led by Representative Sherwood Boehlert of

New York said they were ecstatic with the new administration view, as it mirrors an amendment they are offering to shift \$19 billion from crop subsidies to conservation projects.

Mr. Combest has promised to pull his bill if the House approves that amendment, which is also sponsored by Representative Ron Kind, Democrat of Wisconsin.

At the beginning of debate on the wide-ranging bill, which covers food stamps, rural development, conservation and crop subsidies, supporters said it amounted to an economic stimulus package. But as word

spread through the chamber that the Republican administration had turned against their bill, speaker after speaker rose to denounce what they considered a cowardly betrayal.

"What this means is that Secretary Veneman needs a wake-up," said Representative Jim Nussle, the Iowa Republican who is the chair-

man of the Budget Committee, referring to Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman.

Mr. Nussle joined Mr. Combest in questioning why the administration's public opposition came so late.

Ms. Veneman said she had presented her agriculture principles since taking office and hoped to work with Congress in writing legislation.

An open war had been building for

several weeks and had included a preliminary round last Friday when Ms. Veneman told the Senate that there might not be enough money in the budget to pay for the House version. Nonetheless, lawmakers and advocates seemed surprised.

"I've been working on farm legislation since 1977, and I've never seen such a harsh assessment from the White House of any farm bill," said Ken Cook, president of the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit group supporting conservation programs.

In an effort to shore up support for the bill, the office of Representative Charles W. Stenholm, a Texas Democrat who is a co-sponsor of the House measure, sent an e-mail message to

the offices of Democratic lawmakers warning that if they did not vote for the bill, their favorite programs, especially food stamps and nutrition programs, would be undercut.

Mr. Combest had anticipated several of the administration's objections in an amendment filed on Monday that would give the agriculture secretary authority to cut subsidies if they violated trade agreements.

And in a nod to growing support for international food aid since the attacks, Mr. Combest agreed to establish an international food program, named for former Senator George McGovern, now the ambassador for United Nations food programs, and Bob Dole, a former Senate majority leader.

NYTimes
10.4.01



News Home Page

House Approves \$170B Farm Bill

By Philip Brasher
AP Farm Writer

Friday, October 5, 2001; 12:33 PM

Food — Industry Watch —

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WASHINGTON — The House on Friday easily approved a \$170 billion overhaul of farm programs after turning aside a bid by urban lawmakers and environmentalists to shift billions in crop subsidies into conservation programs.

The White House has sharply criticized the bill, which would reverse the 1996 "Freedom to Farm" law that was supposed to wean farmers from government supports.

"We wanted to get rid of the bad and keep the good parts, and that's what we did," said Rep. Larry Combest, R-Texas, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

The bill, approved 291-120, creates a new subsidy program to protect grain and cotton farmers when prices are low and resurrects supports for sheep and honey producers that were eliminated in the 1990s. Authors of the legislation say the existing financial safety net for farmers is inadequate.

"The 1996 farm bill is an utter failure," said Texas Rep. Charles Stenholm, the committee's top Democrat.

The White House this week said the subsidies would encourage overproduction and benefit farmers who need assistance the least. The administration wants more money put into conservation programs.

"We do believe there can be additional things added into the bill to reach a broader number of people and a broader number of farmers," said Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman.

But the House defeated, 226-200, a proposal Thursday that would have moved \$19 billion from planned crop supports into payments for farmers who idle farmland or take steps to curb runoff of fertilizer and animal waste.

Groups representing grain, cotton and soybean growers viewed the proposal as a major threat to their government support and had secured a pledge from Combest to shelve the bill had the amendment been

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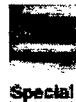


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The House approved an amendment moving \$1 billion in crop subsidies into rural development. But the farm bill still would boost commodity programs by \$49 billion, or about 63 percent, over the next 10 years. Conservation spending would grow by \$16 billion, or nearly 75 percent.

The bill counts on using \$73 billion in surplus funds that were set aside in a congressional budget agreement earlier this year.

The Senate Agriculture Committee is expected to start writing its version of the bill this month.

The committee's chairman, Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, along with Sen. Dick Lugar of Indiana, the senior Republican, want to boost conservation programs. Harkin is pushing a plan to make special incentive payments to farmers who improve their farming practices.

"The momentum for this kind of reform is going to build and build," said Ken Cook, president of the Environmental Working Group.

Critics of the House amendment said it would have taken too much land out of production, harming rural businesses in the process.

"We don't need the federal government controlling more land," said Rep. Tom Osborne, R-Neb.

A program that pays farmers to idle environmentally sensitive land would have been expanded from the current 34 million acres to 45 million acres, 5 million more than the bill allows. The amendment also would have provided up to \$500 million annually – 10 times what the bill permits – to farmers near urban areas who pledge not to sell land to developers.

The House voted 239-177 Thursday against a proposed reduction in price supports for sugar. The program keeps U.S. sugar prices artificially high, raising costs for candy and food manufacturers.

The House approved 235-183 an amendment that would annually shift \$100 million in crop subsidies to rural water grants and other development programs. Rep. John Peterson, R-Pa., said the money amounted to a "crumb for rural America."

The bill is H.R. 2646.

On the Net:

House committee: <http://www.agriculture.house.gov>

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Libby, Montana: America's version of Chernobyl?



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bobby Whitefield stands outside his home near Libby, Mont. Whitefield moved from Texas to Libby despite reports of death and illness linked to asbestos contamination in the area.

■ **The small town is the latest asbestos crisis to come to light — it's also one of the worst cases**

By KIM MURPHY
LOS ANGELES TIMES NEWS SERVICE

LIBBY, Mont. — The legacy of industrial poisoning in America is a grim one: There are the copper mines of Butte, that created a poisonous pit more than a mile wide and 1,800 feet deep. There is Cleveland's Cuyahoga River, once so polluted it caught fire. There is New York's Love Canal. But for sheer human misery, there rarely has been anything like Libby.

At least 200 people have died because they worked at the Zonolite Mountain vermiculite mine, or had a husband who worked there,

or jumped as children from ropes into fluffy piles of vermiculite, or played on the high school running track or the elementary school ice rink, both filled with mine tailings.

At the grocery store, you're likely to run into one or two Libby residents with oxygen boosters slung over their shoulders, connected to plastic tubes running into their nose.

The ones who can't get to the store sit home next to their oxygen tanks. They struggle to get a breath of air in lungs that can't expand anymore, they cough until they vomit, they peer from behind oxygen masks through eyes filled with fear. They wait for their children to show signs of the disease. Many already do.

Asbestos — the invisible, deadly fiber that laces the vermiculite at Libby — seems a problem from the past. Many people assume it has been banned. Wrong on both counts. And the fact that asbestos lurks in the lungs for up to 40 years before sickening and killing

means that mortality rates still are expanding, decades after the world first realized asbestos could kill.

Annual claims for work-related asbestos exposure hit 50,000 last year — more than double the rate of the mid-1990s — with medical and environmental cleanup claims projected to reach \$200 billion in the United States by 2030.

Libby is the latest asbestos crisis to come to light — exposed less than two years ago by a group of residents, their lawyers and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. It also — in the way asbestos disease has afflicted much of an entire town — is one of the worst.

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LIBBY

The small northwest Montana town's 2,700 residents have the distinction, said Environmental Protection Agency toxicologist Chris Weis, of experiencing "the most severe residential exposure to a hazardous material this country has ever seen."

Death rates from asbestosis in Libby are 40 to 60 times the national average. And Libby has stunned toxicologists with evidence for the first time that asbestos, long known as an occupational hazard, has affected large numbers of people who never worked with asbestos — or lived with anyone who did.

A wide-ranging health survey released last month showed that at least 18 percent, and possibly as many as 30 percent, of the 5,590 residents of Libby and surrounding rural communities had lung abnormalities. Many had no exposure to asbestos other than breathing Libby's air. A total of 48 percent of former mine workers had lung problems.

With cleanup costs estimated at \$50 million for the town alone — not counting the massive contamination at the old mine itself — the EPA will decide over the next few months whether to add Libby to the federal Superfund program, which provides aid for the nation's most polluted industrial sites. As an alternative, W.R. Grace & Co., which operated the mine from 1963 until it closed in 1990, has offered to do the cleanup itself.

Grace, a \$1.6 billion chemical and building materials company, has already paid \$20 million in individual claims and spent more than \$2 million cleaning up its plants in Libby. The company has pledged millions more to pay medical bills for anyone in Libby diagnosed with an asbestos-related illness and \$250,000 a year to the local hospital for health screenings.

EPA administrator Christie Whitman will take on the difficult question of whether Superfund cleanup money can be used in Libby to remove Zonolite home insulation, which was installed in anywhere from 800,000 to 10 mil-

lion attics across America. Libby attics are eligible for Superfund money only if the EPA finds a public health emergency or if someone not living in the home could be exposed to dangerous quantities of asbestos.

The extent of asbestos contamination in this town is hard to grasp. While it's perfectly safe to breathe Libby's mountain air — the mine's processing plants no longer belch asbestos fibers into the atmosphere — all you have to do is scratch in the dirt in some places to find it.

Vermiculite is a naturally occurring mineral that has been used for decades in insulation, soil conditioning, fireproofing compounds and fertilizers. While vermiculite itself is nonhazardous, its ore is sometimes threaded with tremolite, a rare and extremely toxic form of asbestos. Milling removed most, but not all, of the tremolite. And Libby's ore had a higher-than-normal tremolite content.

In Libby, vermiculite was free. Residents drove away with pickup loads to distribute in their gardens as mulch and their attics and chicken coops as insulation.

Federal agencies for years documented — and largely ignored — potential hazards to workers. It took a series of lawsuits to begin tallying the deaths. When Paul Peronard was sent from the EPA's Denver office in November 1999 to check out news reports that as many as 200 people had died of asbestos exposure, he didn't see how it could be true.

"The reports didn't really reconcile with what I'd been taught about asbestos-related disease and exposure," Peronard said. "My understanding of asbestos was it's an occupational problem. You need long-term exposure with fairly consistent doses, and you rarely if ever saw it outside the workplace. And it's an old problem, one that's going away," added Peronard, who now is the EPA's on-site coordinator.

"What I saw was a pretty stark contrast to that."

The asbestos in Libby is more insidious than the more common serpentine asbestos, such as chrysotile, found in old flooring, roofing materials, brake linings and pipe insulation. Tremolite produces sharp, thin fibers that lodge in the outer pleural membrane of the lungs in a way beyond the body's ability to remove them.

Over a period of 15, 20, even 40 years, scar tissue buildup decreases the lung's ability to expand, leaving victims to suffocate, a tortuous process that can take years. The clinic in Libby is now handling 680 active asbestos cases.

"In the last five years, I have seen an alarming number of patients from Libby who had no direct exposure to the mine or to the miners who had asbestosis," Spokane, Wash., physician Alan Whitehouse testified before Congress earlier this summer.

Of the 24 patients of Whitehouse's who have died in Libby over the last three years, only 18 were miners. It is "easily conceivable," he added, that as many as 2,000 Libby residents ultimately will show symptoms.

In Libby, it is hard to find a family that doesn't have a case of asbestos disease, or at least a close friend with a bad chest X-ray.

Don Kaeding, 79, spends most of his days in his living room, hooked up to his oxygen booster. His problems, he believes, date to the 30 months he worked at the mill and up at the mine, mostly doing carpentry jobs.

"I really feel that W.R. Grace, some of their CEOs, should be tried for murder, because murder is what they committed in this town," Kaeding said.

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Libby.....

So far, he said, Grace is paying \$1,042 a month for his oxygen costs, along with all medical bills stemming from Libby contamination. But what happens if the company, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection earlier this year, runs out of money?

Many residents fear a Superfund cleanup could drag on for years and discourage new businesses from coming to Libby, which already has double-digit unemployment and a stone-cold real estate market. But considering all they've been through, hardly anyone has left town: Many know they couldn't sell their houses now for what they're worth. Most realize that Libby, for all its past problems, is now a safe place to live. And few, after living all their lives here, have anywhere else to go.

The EPA tries to be reassuring. Peronard says nine of the worst sites in town will be cleaned up this fall and vows he can get the rest of the job done in three years — going from house to house, cleaning up properties that need it. The mine itself is in another category, he admitted — so contaminated it could take the rest of this century to fix.

"Look," said Mayor Tony Berget. "There's contamination, and we want it cleaned up. I have small children, and I want them to grow up in a safe environment. But we're not America's Chernobyl."

"You can still hike up to a mountain lake here, you can spend a whole week and never see another person. And there's not a whole lot of places in the country that can say that," Berget said.

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