

DRAFT-5/29/02

[DATE]

Mr. Brad Gair
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

Dear Mr. Gair:

The collapse of the World Trade Center (WTC) towers on September 11, 2001 resulted in the depositing of dust and debris on and/or in many buildings in lower Manhattan. Recent inspections of building exteriors near the WTC site revealed that, while many of the buildings are now free of debris, other buildings still have visible deposits of material from the WTC collapse.

The City of New York believes that it is in the public interest to remove this material from the exterior of buildings in the vicinity of the WTC site. Samples collected during the inspections indicate that asbestos may be present in some of the debris. Long-term exposure to elevated levels of airborne asbestos can, in certain circumstances, cause health-related problems. The removal of this material will thereby protect against any adverse effects on air quality or public health and safety.

In addition to removal of debris from building exteriors, area residents have expressed concerns about the possible presence of debris or dust in their homes, which is perceived as a health concern. While some interior spaces have been cleaned by building owners or residents, others have not. The City believes that it is also in the public interest to institute a program of cleaning interior residential spaces, to prevent asbestos (if present) from becoming airborne, and to provide assurance to residents that their concerns are being addressed.

Lower Manhattan is the financial capital of the world, and its revival is therefore critical not only to the City but to the nation as a whole. The efforts outlined above will encourage area businesses to stay in or return to the downtown area, and encourage residents to continue living there and contributing to the economic and social vitality of the area. This, in turn, will strengthen public confidence in the future of lower Manhattan and expedite and enhance the economic revitalization of the area.

The City therefore requests that FEMA provide the necessary funding for the hiring of contractors to perform the cleaning and/or testing of building exteriors and interior residential

spaces in lower Manhattan, as appropriate.

Very truly yours,

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

By _____
Christopher O. Ward, Commissioner

By _____
Title:

NEW YORK CITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

By _____
Title:

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