

125 Cedar Street
AKA: 120 Liberty Street

The Department received a call from one of the tenants in the building on November 22, 2001 who was concerned about the clean up methods for the building. The caller reported that tenants of the building had taken samples that were found to be asbestos-containing material. The caller stated the building management had issued a time frame of ten days for removal of personal belongings so that clean up activities could begin. Caller was concerned about the work activities. A site visit was scheduled.

Numerous inspections were scheduled. Given the location of the building and restricted access to the zone, the interior of the building was not accessible.

The Department received results of sampling performed on October 26, 2001. The 23 samples collected were not ACM.

The Department received other calls requesting general information on appropriate procedures. Callers wished to remain anonymous and did not provide the information. Callers who provided contact information were called to schedule appointments to assist in gaining access. Callers would not schedule for Department meetings due to negotiations with the building owner. Department was told they would call when they need the Department to perform an inspection.

On December 15, 2002, the Department met a representative of Samson Management. The building owner had provided the Department with sampling results. The Department review of the sampling resulted in a request for additional sampling. The sampling had not been performed. The owner stated it was based on an agreement with the tenants.

The NYCDEP collected samples from the building roof on February 23, 2002. The samples disclosed the presence of ACM on the roof of the building.

On March 2, 2002, the Department performed an inspection of two apartments in the building. Sampling results were not available and clean up activities by tenants were in progress. The inspector was informed that the tenants, their attorney, and the landlord had agreed to these procedures. The Department required the debris be sampled. The tenants requested that DEP not perform any sampling.

In May 2002, the Department received a call from State Assembly Speaker Silver's office regarding the clean up of interior spaces by All City Cleaning. The Department contacted the building owner's representative and requested additional sampling be performed prior to the use of a contractor who was not licensed to handle ACM.

On May 20, 2002, the Department received 93 sample results taken from various floors throughout the building. The sample results disclosed the material present was not asbestos-containing material. During the review of the sampling locations, the Department requested additional samples from various floors.

The building is on the list of buildings scheduled for exterior cleaning. The owner has indicated the license agreement will be returned to the Department within the next few days.

5/23/02

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Ilan, Lee [lilan@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2002 9:39 AM
To: 'Jim Alexander'; 'Lai-sun Yee'; Sumowicz, Alessandra; Miller, James; Blatchford, Laurel; Barowitz, Jordan; Kupferman, Susan; Benson, Sam
Cc: 'Bruce Rottner'; 'Bob Avaltroni'; Lanaghan, Mark
Subject: 125 Cedar Brouhaha

FYI-

At yesterday afternoon's Lower Manhattan Task Force meeting, Bob Avaltroni of DEP reported some of the following information about work taking place and some residents' personal items being stolen from 125 Cedar Street. I spoke with Bruce Rottner of DDC to clarify what's been going on. (Bob, Bruce - if I get any of this wrong, please correct me.)

Sheldon Silver is having a previously scheduled meeting with residents of 125 Cedar this afternoon - DEP will be there, EPA likely as well - and this issue may become politicized. EPA's pilot location to study the effectiveness of cleaning techniques for WTC dust is close by (110 Liberty, a.k.a. 113-117 Cedar.)

In the course of doing inspections to close out recovery operations around the WTC site, FDNY found human remains on the roof of 90 West Street. They looked at some neighboring buildings too and developed a scope of work for debris they found, including steel and large pieces of the towers' facades, to be moved to the pit where FDNY would sort through it. Using this scope of work, DDC hired a contractor (called EROC, not "Iraq") to move the debris; this has been going on in 8 buildings in the area for the past two days. DEP and EPA personnel who were in the area observed that the contractor's staff were not wearing personal protective equipment and were not using wet wipe techniques after removing debris. Bruce notes the contractor had been instructed to have personnel wear half-face respirators with vapor cartridges and in some cases, more protective gear. DDC is having the debris handled in the same manner as other WTC debris found in the pit. After FDNY inspection and clearance for disposal, it will be discarded as traditional construction material, in accordance with a Governors Order.

Yesterday it came to light that some items are missing from people's apartments. The building's landlord and residents are very upset. It is likely that this afternoon's meeting, rather than showcasing the responsible approach the government agencies are taking towards work in the area, will focus on the problems with the debris removal and the missing belongings.

Hope this is helpful,
 Lee

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