

Gilsenan, Michael (ex)

From: Mears.Mary@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2002 12:30 PM
To: Callahan.Kathy@epamail.epa.gov; LaPosta.Dore@epamail.epa.gov;
 Fitzpatrick.Robert@epamail.epa.gov; Santella.Dennis@epamail.epa.gov;
 Rotola.Joe@epamail.epa.gov; Basso.Ray@epamail.epa.gov
Cc: Bellow.Bonnie@epamail.epa.gov; FMcCarton@OEM.NYC.GOV; michaelgi@dep.nyc.gov
Subject: 125 Cedar

I got a call from NBC TV. The reporter said that residents from 125 Cedar are upset because EPA and the city "told them to remove their own debris" and now it seems that they may have unwittingly moved human remains. The reporter said that they have removed "tons of debris" from 125 Cedar (is that true I wonder?). I explained that EPA and the city directed building owners to get a professional contractor to remove debris and that we never recommended that they do it themselves. His issue is more why the city didn't look at the buildings to look for remains before. I gently reminded him that the city was dealing with a 7 story high debris pile, but I directed him to Frank McCarton at OEM. He said "so EPA doesn't care about human remains." I said of course we care, but that our role is on the environmental side and that OEM and FDNY took the lead in recovery efforts.

Charlie - Heads up

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

Ms. Lee Ilan
 Senior Environmental Planner
 Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination
 100 Gold Street, Room 2605
 New York, NY 10038
 Tel. 212-788-2929
 Fax 212-788-2941
<mailto:lilan@cityhall.nyc.gov> lilan@cityhall.nyc.gov
 URL: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/moec> www.nyc.gov/html/moec



**Department of
Environmental
Protection**

59-17 Junction Boulevard
Corona, New York
11368-5107

**Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E.
Commissioner**



www.nyc.gov/dep

(718) DEP-HELP