

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

B. Swattoni
in Langdon



Assemblyman
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May 14, 2002

Honorable Iris Weinshall
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Dear Commissioner Weinshall:

It is our understanding that the Department of Transportation (DOT) intends this summer to begin a total capital reconstruction project on Greenwich Street south of the World Trade Center site and Cedar Street between Greenwich Street and Trinity Place. It is imperative that DOT's project be coordinated with the efforts of the US Environmental Agency (EPA) and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to clean the exterior and interior of 125 Cedar Street as well as every other building affected by this project.

125 Cedar Street is a 12-story building with approximately 20 loft-sized residential units. The back of the building is on Liberty Street, directly across the street from the World Trade Center site. When the buildings collapsed on 9/11, the units at 125 Cedar Street were filled with dust and debris. The tenants were evacuated, remain evacuated and cannot return until the building is properly and professionally cleaned. Over the past several months, our offices have worked together with the relevant agencies to ensure that 125 Cedar Street will be properly cleaned.

In addition, 125 Cedar Street shares an air shaft with 114 Liberty Street. This shaft also was filled with debris when the towers collapsed. In order to remove the debris from the shaft, it must be taken through the apartments in the two buildings. It is important, therefore, that the exterior of the buildings be cleaned before the interiors. Otherwise, the cleaned apartments will be re-contaminated.

As you know, last week the EPA and DEP announced their plans to clean the exteriors and interiors of buildings south of Canal Street, river to river. This massive project is scheduled to begin June 1. We have asked the agencies to make certain that 125 Cedar and 114 Liberty Street be given top priority in the cleaning schedule as these buildings must be cleaned before the DOT reconstruction project makes the buildings inaccessible.

Please advise us of your efforts to coordinate your plans with those of EPA and DEP. Thank you for your help on this matter. We look forward to your reply.

Very truly yours,

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Sheldon Silver
Member of the Assembly

SS/JN:ym

cc: Honorable Christopher Ward, Commissioner, NYCDEP
Honorable Jane M. Kenny, Administrator, EPA Region II