NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

125 Cedar Street, Manhattan

June 20-23, 2002: Exterior cleaning activities by DEP contractor underway at the roof.

July 16, 2002: Environmental and HVAC consultants were contracted to examine the HVAC systems/exhaust systems and interior surfaces. The Department performed the inspection in conjunction with the consultants. Representatives from the tenants and Mr. Sheldon Silver's office were also present.

The Department prepared a scope of work for cleaning activities based on the reports prepared by the consultants and sent out the plan for comments to building tenants and the building manager.

The Department prepared a scope of work for environmental monitoring with input from the USEPA. The environmental monitoring procedures outlined sampling to be performed prior to, during, and after clean-up activities.

The Department requested funding from FEMA and prepared projections of cleaning and monitoring costs.

August 2 & 3, 2002: DEP walk through inspections performed with tenants and USEPA.

August 28, 2002: Mandatory pre-bid meeting was performed at the building with contractors, monitors, tenants, building management, and DEP on site.

September 6, 2002: Contract bid opening.

Department Counsel developed cleaning request forms and access authorizations. Some comments from tenants' counsel were accepted.

September 8 & 9, 2002: Pre-commencement site visits were performed with tenants and contractors who submitted lowest responsive bids (cleaning contractor & environmental monitor).

September 10, 2002: DEP coordinated efforts to obtain all cleaning request forms.

September 12, 2002: Cleaning and monitoring activities started.

September 12, 2002 – October 3, 2002: Department inspected work progress and provided contractor oversight at a minimum twice per day. USEPA also provided periodic inspections.

In addition to interior work, exterior cleaning activities were performed at a third floor set back, a second floor shaft, and the exterior portion of the 125 Cedar Street façade that was blocked by a sidewalk shed at the start of the project.

October 3, 2002: Visual Inspection performed by DEP, USEPA, third party air monitor, and contractor. Additional areas where cleaning was required were identified.

October 6, 2002: Visual re-inspection performed.

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

October 7 & 8, 2002: Initial post-cleaning environmental sampling performed. Additional cleaning and re-testing were performed where samples did not meet the re-occupancy criteria set forth in the environmental monitoring specifications.

November 7 and 8th, 2002: The Department performed final walk-through inspections with USEPA and tenants

November 12, 2002: Summary evaluation of analytical data received from USEPA indicating the criteria for the selected contaminants were met.

November 13, 2002: Department sent project completion letter to the building owner in care of the building management.

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NYC DEP COMPLETES CLEANUP OF RESIDENCE CLOSEST TO GROUND ZERO

Less than 300 feet from where the south tower of the World Trade Center once stood is an apartment building, at 125 Cedar Street, that is home to an eclectic, tightly knit group of Downtown pioneers. On September 11, 2001, their homes and their community were shattered when the building suffered extensive structural and interior damage. Since then, the residents have been displaced to other parts of New York. But thanks to the collaborative efforts of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), the building's tenants and owner, and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver's office, EPA125 Cedar – the residential building closest to ground zero – has been completely and thoroughly cleaned, paving the way for the residents' return.

Pat Moore, who lives with her husband in a third-floor apartment in the building, can attest to the terrible impact of that horrific day. Her apartment was filled with one-and-a-half tons of debris – blown-in windows, large boulders, receipts from Windows on the World, even a computer that had flown in from a tower office. Thick, white dust coated every visible surface, from door hinges to cable TV wires to the tops of light switches.

"We were the worst hit building in the entire city – every single square inch of our apartment was covered in World Trade Center dust," said Moore, a fashion and jewelry designer who has lived in the 24-unit building since 1977 and is a liaison between residents of 125 Cedar and cleanup officials. "The NYC DEP did a fantastic job of cleaning up this building."

Wearing protective gear, NYC DEP inspectors walked each tenant through his or her apartment. They identified problem-areas that needed to be cleaned, and determined which belongings needed to be discarded.

"We worked diligently with the Tenant's Association, Speaker Sheldon's Silver'soffice, and the building owner to ensure our cleanup efforts alleviated any safety concerns and made people feel comfortable about moving back to their homes," said Robert Avaltroni, Deputy Commissioner of the NYC DEP.

During the three-week cleaning process, DEP employed the same techniques they had initially recommended to all Downtown residents: wet-wiping surfaces and using a HEPA-filter vacuum to remove airborne particles. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tested for an array of toxic contaminants, including asbestos, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxin, lead, mercury, fibrous glass, and silica, while the Department of Health examined the apartments for mold.

The result of their work is a clean bill of health for the building. The EPA report stated, "for asbestos, the data we received indicates that asbestos is not a hazard at 125 Cedar Street." The same conclusion was drawn for all of the other analyzed chemicals.

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

Not only are the residents pleased with the results, but all partners in the effort were impressed by the cooperative spirit of the project.

"I believe that DEP and EPA deserve a great deal of credit for cleaning and testing the building in a thorough and timely manner," said Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who represents much of Lower Manhattan, including 125 Cedar Street.

Since 9/11, the tenants of 125 Cedar have temporarily relocated to Brooklyn, Connecticut, the Upper West Side, the West Village, and Battery Park City, and for the past eight months, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been covering their rent. Although their building now is clean, repair of its structure still is under way, and the tenants have not yet been able to return to their homes.

For Speaker Silver, the goal always has been to get the residents back home as quickly as possible.

"I have worked to ensure that the residents of 125 Cedar Street would be able to return to their apartments as quickly as possible and that their homes would be preserved throughout the redevelopment of Ground Zero," said Silver. "I am hopeful that the landlord will take the final steps that will clear the way for the residents to return before the end of the year."

Despite the delay, there is much relief that the cleaning techniques originally recommended by DEP following the disaster have proven to work well.

"The outcome at 125 Cedar not only validates the cleaning procedures we initially recommended to the public immediately after 9/11," noted Avaltroni. "These results are a good indication to all residents of Lower Manhattan that it is safe to return to normal activities."

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

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12/12/02

Charlie,

As per the attached 125 Cedar St clean up chronology as well as the Edelman article with quotes from Pat Moore Tel # PII and Speaker Silvers PII (cell) office.

C. C. Ward

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