

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Onek Matthew [MOnek@nycboe.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2003 1:18 PM
To: Avaltroni, Robert
Cc: Onek Matthew
Subject: EPA and DOH Letters Attached



Stuyvesant HS
FEMA carpet lett...



EPA letter re
FEMA.doc

Per our various emails and conversations, I am attaching both the

EPA and the NYC Department of Health's letters re carpet removal at Ground Zero schools to be used for FEMA reimbursement. As we discussed, FEMA has requested a similar letter from you. Your letter simply needs to restate that you have been consulting with us and that you recommended the carpet removal as part of our continued clean-up letters. If you have any questions, please call me at 374-0214. I will follow-up with you later today. FEMA would like us to submit our materials in the next few days. Thanks again for your continued help.

Matt Onek



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

nyc.gov/health

January 29, 2003

Deputy Chancellor Kathleen Grimm
New York City Department of Education
The Tweed Courthouse
New York, NY 10007

Dear Deputy Chancellor Grimm:

This letter was prepared at your request for the purpose of FEMA reimbursement. The letter addresses the issue of carpeting removal at public schools in Lower Manhattan that were affected by the collapse of the World Trade Center, that is, PS/IS 89, PS 150, PS 234, Stuyvesant High School, the High School of Economics and Finance and the High School of Leadership and Public Service.

There have been concerns raised about possible contamination of carpeting at these schools resulting from the collapse of the World Trade Center. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has worked collaboratively with the Department of Education, and its independent environmental consulting firm, on environmental sampling and clean-up efforts at these schools. The Department of Health strongly recommended that the Department of Education remove floor carpeting as part of their continued clean-up efforts.

The Department of Health reviewed the "Carpet Removal Protocol" as provided by the Department of Education. The Department of Health concluded that removal performed in accordance with these protocols would be sufficiently protective of the health of students, teachers, and staff within the schools such that the removal process itself would not create a risk to health.

Sincerely,

Kelly R. McKinney P.E.
Associate Commissioner

Draft

February 14, 2003
Kathleen Grimm, Deputy Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
The Tweed Courthouse
New York, NY 10007

Dear Deputy Chancellor Grimm,

As per your request, I am writing in support of FEMA reimbursement for carpet removal at Stuyvesant High School and other public schools that were impacted by the destruction of the World Trade Center (WTC). EPA has worked cooperatively with the Department of Education on sampling and data interpretation issues at schools impacted by the WTC disaster. In a previous letter (see enclosure) addressing the issue of asbestos contamination at Stuyvesant High School, EPA concluded that the asbestos air testing at Stuyvesant met the clearance criteria set forth in the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) for re-entry into schools. However, it was also noted that properly conducted carpet removal (in a manner consistent with DOE's "Carpet Removal Protocol" for Stuyvesant High School) would "eliminate any potential future risk associated with re-entrainment of asbestos fibers in carpet." Accordingly, carpet removal is a reasonable and prudent action to take at schools significantly impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center to eliminate potential reservoirs of asbestos.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Callahan