

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Avaltroni, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2003 12:30 PM
To: 'Onek Matthew'
Subject: RE: FEMA Reimbursement

2/1

March 3, 2003

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

Dear Deputy Chancellor Grimm:

After consulting with the Department of Education and reviewing the letters of support from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the New York City Department of Health (NYCDOH), please be advised that we acquiesce to their recommendations regarding the carpet removal at New York City Department of Education schools impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center.

USEPA and the NYCDOH have stated that the removal of carpet is a reasonable and proper action to eliminate concerns regarding potential contaminants in this porous material. The DEP concurs with this assessment.

According to our information, the environmental air sampling results at these schools indicated sampling and analysis was in accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requirements. Specifically, the results indicate the clearance and re-occupancy criteria set forth in AHERA (70 s/mm^2) were met.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (718) 595-3721.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Avaltroni
Deputy Commissioner

-----Original Message-----

From: Onek Matthew [mailto:MOnek@nycboe.net]

3/6/2003

Sincerely,

Robert C. Avaltroni
Deputy Commissioner

-----Original Message-----

From: Onek Matthew [mailto:MOnek@nycboe.net]

Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 2:13 PM

To: ravaltroni@dep.nyc.gov

Subject: FEMA Reimbursement

Your office faxed me a copy of your new letter before it was mailed. I have a few comments if possible.

First, is it possible to specifically state that the DEP supports FEMA reimbursement for carpet removal (as the EPA did in their letter) or at the very least to say that DEP has consulted with us, reviewed the EPA and DOH letters *in support of FEMA reimbursement*, and acquiesce to those recommendations? Some mention of FEMA reimbursement is critical.

Second, per your second paragraph, the other agencies have strongly stated - not simply "suggested" as you put it - that carpet removal is recommended, reasonable, prudent, etc.

Please let me know. Also, I will have updated budget numbers for you shortly. Again, our initial estimate to FEMA was around \$1 million (our folks have no idea where the \$5 million they mentioned to you came from) but we expect the actual costs to be significantly lower.

Sorry this remains an issue - hopefully this will put the issue to rest. Thank you so much for all your support.

3/6/2003