

Maldonado, Jane

From: Callahan.Kathy@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2003 3:17 PM
To: Maldonado, Jane
Subject: draft letter to department of education



WTCstuyasbestosF
EMA.wpd

hi jane! bob had asked me to share a draft of the letter we would propose to send to the dept. of education regarding some FEMA reimbursement support. i am attaching it to this mail. will you please bring to his/michael's attention? matt onek of the dept. of ed is very anxious to get this (and one from bob...), so if bob/michael can let me know if it looks good to them or they have any concerns, as soon as possible thank you. kathy

(See attached file: WTCstuyasbestosFEMA.wpd)

Kathleen C. Callahan
212-637-3116
212-637-3115 (fax)

February 5, 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. In a previous letter (see attachment) 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. EPA also commented on the strengths and limitations of the carpet ultrasonification test (EPA-600/J-93/167). To reiterate, the carpet ultrasonification test provides a good indicator of total asbestos content in the carpet but cannot be reliably tied to airborne asbestos level and, thus, risk. Positive ultrasonification results indicate a potential, albeit of unknown magnitude, for asbestos exposure. 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 impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center to eliminate potential reservoirs of asbestos.

Sincerely,

KC