

DRAFT

Progress
10/2/01M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Robert C. Avaltroni
FROM: Moustafa Fawzy
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SUBJECT: Future Progress at WTC Site

Currently, the DERTA staff does not believe we can safely move the site perimeter any closer to ground zero. This site is very dynamic with many unknown hazards still present. The condition of this site changes daily and is effected by many parameters such as weather. This site continues to pose new evolving risks.

The feasibility of moving the current safe site perimeter in closer proximity to ground zero can only be safely achieved after major site controls occur.

There currently are no sets of standards that exist to deal with this type of catastrophic disaster. There are no current outdoor standards for asbestos. Indoor standards for asbestos only _____ for abatement projects. There are no risk-based assessments or concrete background levels in air that there is consensus on. The TEM test performed for indoor abatement clearance of 70 asbestos structures can be argued as not being safe enough or being well above normal background levels found in air.

In addition, there are other particulates (such as fiberglass, paper, etc.) which one can argue pose an added risk to the public. Therefore, DERTA has been using a more conservative approach in ensuring air quality.

DERTA recommends, at a minimum, the following control measures be implemented at ground zero. Firstly, a permanent three story non-permeable barrier should be erected around ground zero. DERTA recommends a walk through with the appropriate agencies to develop the boundaries for this barrier. One will have to look at which

building can be quickly repaired and which will require more extensive work and one criteria for being inside the boundary.

Secondly, a permanent dust suppression control system needs to be employed inside the perimeter of the established boundary. A portable weather station would be used to monitor wind speed and direction in an effort to better direct suppression control activities.

Thirdly, entry and exit points should be kept to an absolute bare minimum to prevent the spread of contamination into the adjacent communities. Decontamination procedures need to be strictly adhered to by vehicles as well as personnel leaving the site.

All site activities will then need to be covered by a site safety plan, which would need to be followed by all personnel.

Once these or similar types of control measures are implemented as a minimum standard, then we can better address the feasibility of clearing outdoor areas in closer proximity to ground zero.