

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Ilan, Lee [ilan@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 3:20 PM
To: Alan Leidner; Alessandra Sumowicz; Anita Richichi; Anita Sher; Anne Mari Santangelo; Barry Dinerstein; Ben Mojica; Bernard Orlan; Bob Adams; Bob Avaltroni; Bob Williams; Brad Gair; Brian Clarke; Bruce Rottner; Carl Johnson - DEC; Cesar Pereira; Christopher Zeppie; cwelsh@cdc.gov; Dana Tulis; David Ippolito; David Klasfeld; David Nussbaum; Dawn Roberts; Diana Chapin; Dore LaPosta- EPA; dosepu@attglobal.net; Doug Williamson; Edward Gabriel; Elizabeth McCabe; Elizabeth Palladino; Eric Kim; Erica D'Avanzo; Erin Stevens; Frank McCarton; Gene Pezdek; gguzi@panynj.gov; Haeda Mihaltzes; Harold Shultz; Heidi Rubinstein; Jake Cooper; James Miller; Jane Maldonado; Jessica Leighton; Jim Alexander; Joe Picciano; John Katsorhis; Jordan Barowitz; Josh Sirefman; Judy Pincus; Kathryn Tannert Niang; Kathy Callahan; Kelly McKinney; Kerry Kelly; kris.hoffman@osha.gov; Kym Spell; Lai-sun Yee; Laurel Blatchford; Lisa Maluf; Lisa Sacks; [REDACTED] PII; Mark Silberman; Mark Topping; Mary Ellen Kris; Mary Mears; 'mhemida@nycboe.net'; michelled@buildings.nyc.gov; Mike Gilsenan; Nicholas Sbordone; Pat Clark- OSHA; Paul Bekowies; PESH- Maureen Cox; Randi J. Walker; Rich Wager; Robert Greene; Robert Kulick; Robert L. Chinery; Robert Tranter; Roger Hayes; Ron Tramontano; Sam Benson; Sarah Knapp; Shuchi Batra; Steven Levi; Susan Amron; Susan Kupferman; Sven Rodenbeck; Sylvia Pryce; Terry Weiss; tot01@health.state.ny.us; Vincent Coluccio
Subject: FW: PowerPoint with overview of the Asbestos Mapping Application



Dear Colleagues-

Attached please find a PowerPoint of the application the buildings-parks-data group has been working on. Also, for the Task Force meeting on 8 May at 2:30 at 100 Gold Street, please inform RoseAnn Ryan (rryan@cityhall.nyc.gov, 212-788-2924) of your phone number if you need to be called.

Thanks, Lee

—Original Message—

From: Jim Hall [mailto:jhall@plangraphics.com]
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2002 3:07 PM
To: ilan@cityhall.nyc.gov
Cc: jmiller@health.nyc.gov; sbenson@oem.nyc.gov
Subject: PowerPoint with overview of the Asbestos Mapping Application

Lee - My team and I are working on developing an asbestos-related database and web application to support the needs of the Buildings-Parks-Data Committee of the Lower Manhattan Air Quality Task Force.

Our team has created a web site that we've called the "Asbestos Mapping Application". It is only available for Citynet users at the present time and in the interest of letting other folks who don't have Citynet access (e.g. EPA) to see it, I've compiled the attached PowerPoint presentation.

Since I don't have the e-mail addresses of all of the participants in the Lower Manhattan Air Quality Task Force, would you mind forwarding the attachment to the group.

Please call with any questions or comments.

Thanks, Jim

Jim Hall
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Avaltroni, Robert

From: Jim Miller [jmill@health.nyc.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2002 12:44 PM
To: avaltronir@dep.nyc.gov; michaelgi@dep.nyc.gov
Subject: 150 Franklin

The DN story from 5/2 states that DEP and EPA tested bulk dust from 150 Franklin (see below). If the story is accurate, the results were ND on PLM and >2% by TEM from rooftop and elevator shaft samples.

Did the DN get the story right? What should happen next?

http://nydailynews.com/2002-05-02/News_and_Views/City_Beat/a-149516.asp

**Asbestos Fallout Is Found
 In Co-op Near WTC Site**

By Juan Gonzalez

A seven-story co-op building half a mile north of Ground Zero was recently found to be contaminated with high levels of asbestos.

The building, at 150 Franklin St. in Tribeca, has housed a family-run child care center for years, and neither the child care center nor other tenants in the building evacuated their homes following the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

Like many people who live downtown, the building's tenants simply cleaned up the dust in their apartments and tried to return to normal.

Not until mid-April - seven months after the collapse of the twin towers - did the building's co-op board discover the high asbestos levels.

"Yes, there is an asbestos problem in the building," said Jim Stratton, a member of the board and the Democratic District leader for Tribeca.

"But the whole asbestos problem downtown was essentially hidden by EPA and the city, which kept assuring us the air was safe."

Tests in mid-April by the Environmental Protection Agency detected asbestos levels 2% and higher in dust samples. Two of those were on the roof of the building and two on the inside window ledges of an elevator shaft.

Any test results above 1% asbestos are considered hazardous by the EPA and require immediate asbestos removal by certified contractors.

Toddler Center Safe

Stratton, whose wife operates the Treehouse toddler center out of the couple's apartment, insisted that "the children have not been exposed to anything," because no asbestos was found inside the toddler center.

The building's elevator, like many in the former warehouse buildings that dot Tribeca, has an iron gate instead of a solid door, and its shaft has windows that face the street.

Since several of the shaft's windows were broken on Sept. 11, dust from the trade center collapse may have easily penetrated the elevator area, Stratton conceded.

At the time, according to Stratton, the co-op board believed the assurances from EPA and city officials that air quality downtown was safe, so it did not conduct extensive testing within the building.

One of the co-op tenants, however, said she was worried about environmental hazards.

The dangers from asbestos, such as asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma, show up only after 15 or more years, and usually after long-term exposure.

Called for Help

The one tenant was worried enough that by mid-April she asked Joel Kupferman of the New York Environmental Law and Justice Project to come to 150 Franklin and collect dust samples.

Kupferman sent three samples to a laboratory. The lab results showed levels of 1.2%, 1.4% and 1.8% asbestos. He immediately notified the EPA and the city's Department of Environmental Protection, and those agencies analyzed new samples on April 18.

The DEP, using a crude analytical method called polarized light microscopy, detected no asbestos. But EPA scientists, using a more sophisticated method called transmission electron microscopy, found even higher levels, from 2% to 5% asbestos.

"We recommended that it be professionally cleaned," said EPA spokesperson Mary Mears.

According to several political and community leaders, 150 Franklin may not be an isolated case.

"For almost eight months now people in lower Manhattan who took the word of the EPA have been living in conditions that are potentially hazardous to their health," said Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-Manhattan) through a spokesman yesterday.

Nadler has been demanding for months that EPA test and cleanup the indoor spaces in every building near Ground Zero.

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman announced a plan recently to assist the city in cleaning the facades and roofs of buildings downtown, and her aides now say they are considering what to do about indoor spaces.