

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Callahan.Kathy@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2002 2:10 PM
To: joe.picciano@fema.gov; brad.gair@fema.gov
Cc: avaltronir@dep.nyc.gov
Subject: draft letter on indoor air, etc., issue for funding support



kathy.wpd

joe, brad, here is a version that i think meets with your comments, yet does not create a potentially inflammatory statement if interpreted by general parties.

let me know what you think & we can get finalized.

(See attached file: Kathy.wpd)

Kathleen C. Callahan

212-637-3724

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Joseph Picciano
 Acting Regional Administrator
 Federal Emergency Management Agency
 26 Federal Plaza, Room 1307
 New York, New York 10278

Dear Mr. Picciano:

I appreciate your attention and support on the indoor air related issues we have been discussing.

Individuals living in spaces that contain World Trade Center-related debris/dust may have an increased long-term risk of exposure to asbestos. This potential risk will be reduced by thoroughly removing the debris/dust in the residential units. Therefore, we believe it is necessary to offer professional cleaning and testing to residents of Lower Manhattan who are concerned about debris/dust. Additionally, since the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems in buildings could potentially be conduits for reintroducing polluted material into residential units from exterior sources, we believe it is important to better understand the mechanisms of potential exposure route in order to determine if additional protection measures are warranted.

EPA has identified the remaining uncleaned buildings near the WTC site as a source of potentially contaminated material. With the nearing completion of the WTC site clean up and the anticipated restoration activities, it is essential these buildings need to be professionally cleaned to prevent the possible introduction of asbestos and other pollutants into the environment or into the nearby buildings. This clean up activity must be undertaken immediately to assure that all potential environmental risks are addressed as the area is reopened..

Given these concerns, I believe we are appropriately targeting our joint federal, state and city efforts to develop programs which provide added support to the people in Lower Manhattan. Please contact me if you have any questions at 212-637-5000.

Sincerely,

Jane Kenny
 Regional Administrator