

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Christopher D'Andrea [cdandrea@health.nyc.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2002 2:15 PM
To: Kelly McKinney
Cc: avaltronlr@dep.nyc.gov
Subject: Re: letter to DOE regarding asbestos concerns in Stuy HS



Stuyvesant HS letter

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attached is a final draft of our letter to DOE. DEP requested a look at our letter and are copied on the e-mail

October 11, 2002

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

Dear Deputy Chancellor Grimm:

This letter addresses concerns that have been raised by parent groups and others about environmental issues at Stuyvesant High School ("Stuyvesant") resulting from the collapse of the World Trade Center.

The Department has reviewed the results of recent environmental sampling performed at Stuyvesant for lead in settled dust, lead in air, and, asbestos in air. Based on our assessment of the data collected by an independent environmental consultant employed by the New York City School Construction Authority, the Department concludes that the environmental sampling and cleanup conducted at Stuyvesant is sufficient to protect the health of the students, teachers and staff.

The Department has consulted with United States Environmental Protection Agency personnel and others about the sonication analysis method. Because no data exist to interpret the results of this method, the Department concludes that this method is not a valid indicator of the potential for asbestos fibers to be released into the air or of exposure risk. A similar situation exists with respect to ASTM D5755-95: *Standard Test Method for Microvacuum Sampling and Indirect Analysis of Dust by Transmission Electron Microscopy for Asbestos Structure Number Concentrations*. According to ASTM, the "test method does not describe procedures or techniques required to evaluate the safety or habitability of buildings with asbestos-containing materials." Potential health risks from exposure to asbestos fibers should be determined by air sampling.

Air monitoring results reviewed by the Department indicate no increased risk to human health from the presence of porous fabrics or the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system within the school. However, the Department of Education may wish to consider removal of floor carpeting as a precautionary measure but not as a result of any identified risk.

There is no need to restrict access or use of carpeted areas and removal should be scheduled over the course of the school year and summer to avoid disruption to school operations.

The Department has reviewed "Carpet Removal Protocol" as provided by the Department of Education (attached). The Department concludes that such removal, if performed in accordance with the attached protocols, would be sufficiently protective of the health of students, teachers, and staff within the school such that the removal process itself would not create a risk to health.

Sincerely,

Kelly R. McKinney P.E.
Associate Commissioner for
Environmental Health