

RE: Article for Review: DEP Completes Downtown Cleanup

Page 1 of 5

Gilsenan, Michael

From: Hotz, Jonathan [Jonathan.Hotz@edelman.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2003 4:59 PM
To: 'Theodorellys, Penny'
Cc: Gilsenan, Michael; Radhakrishnan, Krish
Subject: RE: Article for Review: DEP Completes Downtown Cleanup

Looks like it's good to go. Thanks again for all your help.

-----Original Message-----

From: Theodorellys, Penny [mailto:pthodorellys@dep.nyc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2003 3:49 PM
To: Hotz, Jonathan
Cc: Gilsenan, Michael; Radhakrishnan, Krish
Subject: RE: Article for Review: DEP Completes Downtown Cleanup

This is a re-send with the underlining as requested.

Jonathan --

I changed the color to blue on phrases that should be edited. I added the explanation for you as well as a suggested change. Let me know if its okay.
 Thanks again. Penny

-----Original Message-----

From: Hotz, Jonathan [mailto:Jonathan.Hotz@edelman.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2003 3:13 PM
To: 'Theodorellys, Penny'
Cc: Radhakrishnan, Krish; Gilsenan, Michael
Subject: RE: Article for Review: DEP Completes Downtown Cleanup

Penny,

Thanks for your help. Very thorough, as always.

Here is the text of the article sent yesterday (not yet revised to reflect your comments):

NYC DEP Completes Downtown Cleanup

On March 31, 2003, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) completed work removing potentially hazardous dust and debris that accumulated on the roofs, windows and facades of downtown buildings following the World Trade Center collapse. DEP crews cleaned the surfaces of

4/10/2003

221 building, or more than 3.6 million square feet of exterior building space, during the 10-month long project.

We finished work on March 26, 2003, the contract ended March 31, 2003.

The DEP began inspecting buildings in Lower Manhattan in January 2002 for exterior residue containing more than 1 percent of asbestos, the threshold set by the EPA, the U.S. Department of Labor, New York State and the DEP. Among a small sample of buildings close to the WTC site, 48 percent tested positive for asbestos contamination. This finding prompted the DEP to begin a comprehensive inspection of the more than one thousand buildings in the area.

"There was great concern among people in Lower Manhattan," said Robert Avaltroni, Deputy Commissioner of the DEP. "We needed to act quickly to relieve that anxiety so people who live and work in the area could move forward with their lives."

The DEP inspected 1,073 buildings in Lower Manhattan, of which 323 - approximately 30 percent - were found to have some form of asbestos-contaminated WTC debris and were earmarked for cleaning to help alleviate public concern regarding potential exposure to asbestos and other contaminants.

We visually inspected for debris. If debris was present, we earmarked it for cleaning. We did not perform additional sampling because of the original results. Therefore, it is not accurate to state that 30% was found to be asbestos-contaminated. We could state "were found to have been impacted by WTC debris".

The DEP notified the owners of the affected buildings, giving them the option to have the cleanup done by the DEP or through an independent contractor of their own choosing. The owners of 102 buildings elected to have their buildings cleaned independently. (The DEP has since re-inspected those buildings and certified that asbestos-containing material had been removed.)

Same as above. For accuracy, "verified that WTC debris had been removed".

From June 2002 through March 2003, DEP cleanup crews cleaned the surfaces of 221 buildings, totaling approximately 3.7 million square feet of exterior building space. DEP crews reached building surfaces with cherry pickers, scaffolds and platforms. They used low-pressure spray-guns as well as their own hands to clean the debris, often working around the clock, weather permitting. Throughout the process of inspection, cleanup and re-inspection, the DEP worked closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the EPA.

Liz Berger, a long-time resident and employee in the area, said she appreciates the effort. "The City and the DEP were genuinely interested in

4/10/2003

understanding the issue and solving the problem," she said. "Thanks to their dedication, I feel much better in my apartment and in the building where I work."

"We're proud to have done our part to make Lower Manhattan a better place to live," said Avaltroni.

For more information on the DEP's exterior cleanup program and other environmental initiatives, please visit the DEP's web site.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Theodorellys, Penny [mailto:ptheodorellys@dep.nyc.gov
<mailto:ptheodorellys@dep.nyc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2003 2:46 PM
To: Hotz, Jonathan
Cc: Radhakrishnan, Krish; Gilsenan, Michael
Subject: RE: Article for Review: DEP Completes Downtown Cleanup

Jonathan -

I can't access the article. But I can clarify your questions/comments.

The figures were as follows:

1073 inspected

102 Cleaned by Owner

221 Buildings cleaned by DEP contractors (3,669,113 square feet)

We did not identify the presence of asbestos-containing material at these buildings. Rather, the clean-up was based on the presence of debris from the collapse of the WTC. Sampling performed initially indicated some of the

debris was ACM, but not all.

The discrepancy you noted were a result of the following:

1. We had three building owners who refused to participate in the clean-up program. Samples of the debris were collected and the analytical results submitted to the Department disclosed the material was not asbestos-containing material. As a result they were categorized as not requiring cleaning.
2. We also have a landmark building that is painted. The paint is lead-based paint and is deteriorated. The facade is complex and the windows do not seal properly. In brief, the scope of work could not be applied to the circumstances at this building. We have been in communication with FEMA

and are awaiting FEMA to proceed on this building. It was not a part of the

cleaning program that was completed. We will need a separate contract.

3. The number of inspections increased by one, because we performed an inspection at one additional building.

I hope this information, clarified the apparent discrepancy.

4/10/2003

-----Original Message-----

From: Hotz, Jonathan [mailto:Jonathan.Hotz@edelman.com
<mailto:Jonathan.Hotz@edelman.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2003 4:24 PM
To: 'ptheodorellys@dep.nyc.gov'
Subject: RE: Article for Review: DEP Completes Downtown Cleanup

Penny:

I realize this is somewhat short notice. While we would love to get this up tomorrow, it is not imperative that we do so. Just let me know what's feasible on your end.

Thanks again for all your help.

Jonathan

-----Original Message-----

From: Hotz, Jonathan
To: Radhakrishnan, Krish; Gilsenan, Michael; 'Theodorellys, Penny'
Sent: 4/7/2003 12:53 PM
Subject: Article for Review: DEP Completes Downtown Cleanup

Good afternoon.

We would like to post the attached story on www.lowermanhattan.info to be published tomorrow. We would appreciate if you could run through the necessary channels to review and approve.

The article is essentially a condensed and updated version of November's story. You can find that story by clicking through to:

http://www.lowermanhattan.info/tools/news/print_story.asp?referrer=/news
<http://www.lowermanhattan.info/tools/news/print_story.asp?referrer=/news>
< http://www.lowermanhattan.info/tools/news/print_story.asp?referrer=/news
<http://www.lowermanhattan.info/tools/news/print_story.asp?referrer=/news> >

/nyc_dep_to_complete_47584.asp. In the attachment, I have highlighted new numbers in blue.

You'll note that there seems to be some discrepancy between the last article and the current piece with regards to number of buildings inspected and number of buildings earmarked for cleaning. In November's story, we indicated that of 1072 buildings inspected, 326 were found to have some form of asbestos-containing material. According to the latest tally, there were 1073 buildings inspected, of which 323 were cleaned. In the interest of getting the facts straight, can you confirm/clarify this information and put it into appropriate context if necessary.

Of course, please feel free to make additional comments and suggestions as you see fit.

4/10/2003

RE: Article for Review: DEP Completes Downtown Cleanup

Page 5 of 5

Thanks again for all your help on this. Please drop my a line or give me a call with any questions you may have.

Regards,

Jonathan

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4/10/2003