

Gilsenan, Michael

From: Theodorellys, Penny
Sent: Friday, October 04, 2002 4:20 PM
To: Gilsenan, Michael
Cc: Radhakrishnan, Krish
Subject: The NYCDEP initiated a program to perform clean-up of exterior building surfaces with funding provided by FEMA



Commissioner.doc

**New York City Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Environmental Compliance**

Exterior Clean-up Program

The NYCDEP initiated a program to perform clean-up of exterior building surfaces with funding provided by FEMA. Initially, the Department performed outreach to building owners and responded to hundreds of inquiries from the public regarding testing and interpretation of results. Information was provided at the Department's web site, door to door visits, and by telephone. In January 2002, staff began surveying buildings block by block for visible debris on exterior building surfaces (roofs, facades, setbacks, courtyards, alleys, etc.). These inspections were performed at 1073 buildings. During the surveys, building owners and managers were provided with guidance for the assessment and clean up of the debris. Requests for environmental sampling results were also issued. We continue to respond to requests from the public and survey for the presence of visible debris.

NYCDEP hired contractors began cleanup activities in June 2002. To date, the clean up activities of exterior building surfaces have been completed at 159 buildings. Ninety-seven (97) buildings were re-inspected and were confirmed as cleaned by the building owners. We have 33 buildings that are currently being cleaned or will be starting during the next week. Less than 30 building owners/managers remain on the list of requiring follow up for cleaning activities. We anticipate the program to be completed by the end of October.

Unoccupied Buildings with Visible Debris

The NYCDEP has undertaken the interior cleaning activities of the remaining unoccupied buildings. Site specific cleaning activities were developed. Two contracts were awarded, one for the cleaning activities and one for the project monitoring and testing.

On September 12, 2002, the cleanup activities of 125 Cedar Street were initiated. These clean-up activities included provisions for pre- and post-clean up environmental sampling. Department representatives met with tenants and discussed clean up activities. Walkthrough visits were performed with tenants on multiple days and efforts were coordinated with tenants and the building management. The cleaning activities are still underway. On Thursday, October 3, 2002, Department representatives completed a preliminary inspection of the building and identified some areas that required additional clean up efforts. The cleaning of the residential portion of the building is at its final stages. Re-occupancy will not be approved until the cleaning meets our satisfaction and the post-cleaning environmental sampling meets the clearance criteria levels.

The Department has met with representatives and residents of 114 Liberty Street and discussed cleanup options. The Department has performed site visits, surveys, and assessments and has developed the scope of work for the cleanup of the apartments, the HVAC systems, and the project monitoring and environmental sampling. The developed documents were sent to the

building management and residents and further actions are pending their decisions. The building is currently unoccupied.

Indoor Clean up Activities

The Department developed a scope of work for the indoor cleaning activities. After multiple meetings with the USEPA and the USEPA meetings with local representatives and organizations, the USEPA modified the scope of work. The NYCDEP went out to bid with the scopes of work developed by the USEPA. The Department procured the contractors for the USEPA indoor residential clean-up program. In order to facilitate the management of the program lower Manhattan was subdivided. The program includes four monitoring and environmental sampling contractors, four clean-up contractors, and the hotline-operation contractor. The hotline was extended through December 28, 2002.

Residents may request cleaning and testing, testing only, reimbursement for an HEPA-equipped vacuum and/or an information packet. As of October 4, 2002, 5433 requests were received by the hotline. 4261 residents have requested cleaning and testing and 1123 residents have requested testing only.

Initial cleaning efforts that included wet wiping of surfaces and the use of vacuums equipped with HEPA filters were effective in cleaning surfaces impacted by debris. The available sampling information has not indicated the need for residents and visitors to be concerned.