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Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2002 3:07 PM
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Subject: Revised Background study information sheet with corrections to spelling.



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 pling_facts_...

The version I sent previously was correct but did need a couple of spelling corrections. The new file is attached.

Thanks

Carol L. Lynes
 EPA Region 2
 212-637-3585

(See attached file: wtc_background_sampling_facts_-final7.wpd)



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS IN WORLD TRADE CENTER STUDY TO DETERMINE PRE-9/11 POLLUTION LEVELS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) needs your help in its continuing response to environmental concerns raised by the attack on the World Trade Center (WTC). To better assess the impacts of possible contamination from WTC dust, the Agency needs to learn what levels of pollution existed prior to September 11. To do that, EPA needs to test the dust and indoor air in apartment buildings that were not directly affected by the collapse.

EPA will soon begin cleaning and testing residential dwellings in lower Manhattan that were impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center. In order to establish pre-existing or background levels of pollution, EPA will sample 28 residential units and 14 common areas within buildings located north of 59th Street.

Your building has been identified as an ideal candidate for the background study due to the building type (which is typical of housing in lower Manhattan) and its location well north of the WTC site. By volunteering to have your home sampled for pollutants, you can help fellow New Yorkers while receiving useful and interesting information about your home environment.

Background samples will be taken from two residential units and from the common areas in your building, such as the lobby, hallways and/or stairwells. Background samples are defined as samples taken from apartments and common areas that compare in layout to impacted locations near the WTC collapse. The background sampling results will be compared to data from buildings near the WTC Center collapse. The sampling for EPA's background study will be conducted by licensed contractors with direct EPA oversight.

In order to participate in the background study, EPA requests that you or your authorized representative:

- ✓ Agree to participate for a one-time, one-day, nine-hour period between on or about July 29 through August 16, 2002, from Monday through Friday (limited number of Saturdays available). EPA will schedule a time that is convenient;

- ✓ Allow small, low-suction air pumps to run continuously in your residential unit, or for building volunteers, in the common areas of the building, for a period of eight hours;
- ✓ For residences, to run fans or air conditioning units as would normally be used on a daily basis during the duration of the sampling;
- ✓ Complete a questionnaire provided by EPA;
- ✓ Allow EPA to collect and analyze wipe and vacuum samples; and
- ✓ Sign an access agreement provided by EPA.

Background samples will consist of the following:

- Air samples collected from pumps running eight-hours in each residential unit and from the common areas of the building;
- Low-suction vacuum samples from carpets, fabric furniture, and/or drapes, in each residential unit and the common areas, if available;
- Wipe samples of dust from horizontal surfaces of tables, counters, bare floors, and walls and ceilings;
- Samples from individual air conditioner units and/or from the air conditioning/heating unit for the entire building.

Sampling instruments will run for eight hours in selected common areas and residential units. EPA's contractor will stay outside the residential units or near the common areas as they are being sampled. The contractor will check the pumps hourly to ensure that they are working properly.

If you volunteer to have your home or building tested, EPA requests that you or your authorized representative be present during the sampling. For sampling in the common areas of the building, the owner or his or her authorized representative may decide whether or not to be present.

Costs for the background study are being paid by the federal government.

EPA will analyze each of the samples collected for asbestos and lead. Wipe samples will also be analyzed for dioxins, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), silica, calcite, gypsum, man-made fibers (such as fibrous glass), and total dust. Indoor air samples will also be analyzed for silica, calcite, gypsum, and man-made fibers (such as fibrous glass). Analysis of the samples is expected to take eight to twelve weeks to complete. Once the study is complete, EPA will distribute written sampling results to the participants. The sampling results will be provided to the participants prior to publication as part of a general data base. The names of the participants will be kept confidential.

To volunteer to participate in the background study, please contact Carol Lynes at (212) 637-3585. For

more information, contact Ben Barry at (212) 637-3651.

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