

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Mears.Mary@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2002 7:05 AM
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Subject: NYC roof and facade cleanup - No good turn goes unpunished!

Below is a message from Bonnie Bellow, our Communications Director, about a conversation she had with Joel Kupferman on Monday. We have a number of requests to "go out" with us when either DEP cleans roofs and facades or EPA tests the cleaning methods in an unoccupied building. We are begining discussions about whether we can set up some sort of photo op with the unoccupied building, but we have not decided yet. We might want to touch on the request to do out with DEP in today's meeting..... ----- Forwarded by Mary Mears/R2/USEPA/US on 04/03/02 06:59 AM -----

Bonnie Bellow

04/01/02 06:14 PM To: Richard Caspe, Kathy
 Callahan/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Dore
 LaPosta/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, Mary Mears, Peter Brandt,
 Berry Shore/R2/USEPA/US@EPA, George
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cc:
Subject: NYC roof and facade cleanup - No good turn goes unpunished!

I got a call today from Joel Kupferman giving us a "heads up" about his anticipation that the city will not follow proper safety precautions in doing the building cleanups.

He gave two recent examples, not directly related to this cleanup: Joel was present recently when debris from a building across from City Hall hit a woman and sent her to the hospital. The scaffolding was improper, did not have a permit number and was not posted with the appropriate Buildings Department signs. Joel said that he got no response when he tried to contact the Building Dept.'s 800 number. He also got sprayed on Saturday during power washing of the building across the street from 290 Broadway. He believes the material contained asbestos.

I explained that neither of these situations had anything to do with the roof and facade cleanups, which have not begun. But, he says "they" will be monitoring the cleanups and will have media there to "catch" the city if it does not follow all safety regulations. He asked me to share this with

the Task Force. His position is that even though the city is doing the cleanups, EPA is ultimately responsible if it is not done properly.

He also mentioned that he is investigating the "fact" that DEP has only issued one asbestos violation in lower Manhattan since Sept. 11. Plans to compare that to a similar period. This will all be scrutinized, no doubt with an eye toward finding fault! Worth raising with the group.