

New York City Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Environmental Compliance
Asbestos Control Program

Environmental Survey and Assessment of Buildings in the Vicinity of the WTC

This proposal for sampling and assessment of building interior spaces was developed using information provided by the Indoor Air Taskforce. The taskforce has representatives from various agencies including but not limited to the USEPA, ATSDR, NYSDOH, OSHA, NYCDOH, and the NYCDEP.

This evaluation and assessment is targeted to identify substances based on current knowledge of existing contaminants after building collapses and fires, and on the review of information from sampling data to date. The Indoor Air Taskforce has identified seven preliminary contaminants that may have impacted buildings in the vicinity of the World Trade Center disaster. These contaminants include asbestos, fibrous glass, refractory ceramic fibers, silica, dioxin, lead and PAHs.

The initial phase of this building interior space evaluation will be performed at 100 buildings within a four-block radius of the WTC site. The selection of buildings will be based on the location, lack of sampling information from the building owner, requests for sampling from building occupants, and input from various agencies and/or organizations. Four units in each building will be selected for sampling and evaluation. The assessments will include environmental sampling for each of the identified contaminants.

The methodology for evaluation and assessment will vary dependent on the contaminant.

Asbestos

Asbestos air samples will be collected and analyzed by TEM analysis. Five samples collected simultaneously at each location with a minimum volume of 1200 liters. The re-occupancy standard of 70 s/mm² will be used as the basis for evaluation of the data.

Recommendations from the task force will be used to evaluate and assess the following contaminants fibrous glass, refractory ceramic fibers, silica, dioxin, lead, and PAHs.

*Mon 3/11
2pm
Call Jerry?
Kish?*

Mark Maddaloni
03/05/02 02:44 PM

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Subject: Meeting Notes Indoor Air Taskforce - COCs/Benchmarks
Committee

Meeting Notes fro 3/4 conference call

- Reps from EPA (R II & HQ), ATSDR, NYSDOH and NYCDOH participated
- There was an initial discussion of the groups charge. No surprises here : we need to identify a select group of chemicals of concern (COCs) for the indoor environment and develop benchmarks for these chemicals to answer questions such as, "How clean is clean?" and "Is my apartment safe to live in?"
- Two points were brought out that the group agreed were important to consider in addressing the aforementioned charge: 1) There has already been a massive clean-up of the site/source material ; 2) Apartments need not be cleaned up beyond "background," which consequently needs to be characterized.
- The following list represents the universe of potential COCs. This list will likely be reduced based on factors such as: comparison with background, review of WTC ambient air sampling data and toxicity/concentration screening.
 - Asbestos
 - Fiberglass
 - Refractive ceramic fibers ?
 - Particulates (PM 2.5, PM 10, TSP and pH) *Jerry*
 - Dioxins
 - PCBs
 - PAHs
 - Lead
 - Chromium
- Two general approaches were discussed for developing benchmarks for the above list. One is the "tiered approach" that has previously been used for asbestos and is currently being developed for fiberglass (see attached file for example) in the indoor environment. The other is the "single value" screening method (i.e., benchmarks table) that was employed to interpret results from the ambient (outdoor) air monitoring sampling data. Consensus was formed for the use of the tiered approach, principally because it allows more flexibility for data interpretation and provides a better vehicle to incorporate "background information" and exposure parameters that reflect the clean-up that has already taken place. On the down side, the tiered approach is more labor intensive (and will likely need to be developed for both air and settled dust), but by working with a limited list of COCs it was deemed doable.
- The next conference call for the COC/Benchmarks Committee is scheduled for Monday 3/11 (how fitting - 6 months to the day from 9/11) from 2 - 3:30 pm. The call in number along with a strawman for the tiered approach will be provided in a follow-up message.