

Date: October 10, 2001

To: OEM / Health Liaison

From: NYCDOH **DRAFT as of 2:55pm 10/10/01**

Background:

Wastewater generated by firefighting and dust suppression activities has been collecting in the subbasement levels at the World Trade Center and in the cross-river PATH train tunnels. Preliminary sampling indicates low-levels of VOCs, SVOCs, heavy metals, and other pollutants. This wastewater may represent a public health and an environmental concern.

Description:

NYCDOH requests that the quantity and quality of wastewater generated from this disaster be fully characterized. A strategy of ongoing sampling, handling and disposal of the wastewater must be documented in a comprehensive program. Full implementation of ongoing sampling, handling and disposal is also required.

NYCDOH requests the following action:

That NYSDOH and NYSDEC convene a technical work group for the purpose of developing a protocol to sample, monitor and track wastewater discharges and leachate runoff from the WTC disaster site and PATH tunnels (on the New York and New Jersey sides of the Hudson River.)

That a senior environmental scientist/engineer with significant SPDES and waste water experience be assigned overall supervision of this task, including communicating progress with stakeholder agencies, communicating results, and developing and implementing necessary solutions.

That an environmental scientist/engineer with significant field and wastewater sampling experience be provided to implement ongoing sampling, data analysis and assessment, report writing, and communication.

That a technical person/persons be provided to implement full data handling and GIS technologies in support of this task. At a minimum, the data would be presented in a user friendly hard copy and electronic formats and sampling points would be mapped, as well as the location and extent of contaminated runoff and discharges to ground and surface water resources. .

Request includes supplies and equipment (including field trailer) necessary to carryout this mission.

Duration of Mission: One -year period

Estimated Cost: \$250,000