

12/3/01

Summary of air quality testing results near the WTC disaster site

1. **PM 2.5 (fine particulate matter):** Three sites are currently being tested around the WTC area. Based on the EPA's air quality index, the level of concern for sensitive persons (including children, elderly, and those with heart or lung disease) is 40 ug/m^3 . On Nov. 23, 2001, air quality exceeded the level of concern for sensitive persons at Albany & West Streets. On 11/29 and 11/28, hourly monitoring results exceeded 40 ug/m^3 at Albany Street and West Street.
2. **PCB:** A total of 13 sites are tested for PCBs around the WTC area. At the W. Broadway and Barclay testing site, PCBs readings vary from nondetect to 77.2 ng/m^3 . At the Albany Street and Greenwich Street testing site, PCBs have been detected at 9.23 ng/m^3 . These measurements are below the EPA screening level 730 nanograms per cubic meter (ng/m^3). **Please note that the most recent day data is available is 10/26/2001.**
3. **Dioxin:** At the W. Broadway and Barclay testing site, two testing days (September 27, 2001 and October 4, 2001), exceeded the screening level (0.167 ng/m^3 and 0.18 ng/m^3 , respectively). At the Church and Dey site, the limit for dioxin has been exceeded for three days (September 23, October 2, and October 4, 2001). **The most recent results are for 11/6/2001.**
4. **Asbestos:** At the Warren and West test site, detected level of asbestos were found on November 12, 2001 ($8 \text{ structures/mm}^2$). At the West and Barclay test site, the last detectable level was found on November 19, 2001 ($9 \text{ structures/mm}^2$). At the W. Broadway and Barclay site, detectable levels were found on November 4, 2001 ($8.6 \text{ structures/mm}^2$). At the Albany and West site, detectable level of asbestos were found on November 16, 2001 ($8.9 \text{ structures/mm}^2$). In addition, levels were found at Church and Dey Streets on November 24, 2001 ($9 \text{ structures/mm}^2$). **The most recent results are for 11/24/2001.**
5. **Benzene (both full and grab samples included):** Within the secure area, benzene levels have been found to be up to 4000 times the 20 ppb limit (please note: these are grab samples, not 24-hour average.) "Grab" measurements outside of the restricted zone have found levels of benzene up to or equal to the recommended screening levels. **The most recent results are for 9/28/2001.**