

1/8

100 John Street: Bldg 27

Dear Resident,  
address

This letter is to inform you of the results of asbestos sampling that was recently conducted in and around your building. The New York City Department of Health (DOH), with the assistance of the U.S. Public Health Service Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted environmental sampling to assess potential health risks to lower Manhattan residents who may be exposed to dust and debris associated with the World Trade Center collapse. The sampling will provide information on the effectiveness of various clean-up strategies and a representative picture of residential environments to be used to guide public health actions, if warranted. Your building was one of 30 tested in the Lower Manhattan area, and 4 tested above 59<sup>th</sup> Street for comparison purposes.

Four different areas of your building were sampled: first floor common areas, an outdoor balcony and the inside of two private residences. The indoor areas had reportedly been cleaned since the World Trade Center collapse by the buildings maintenance personnel. Settled dust and air samples were collected from each area. Air samples were collected using vacuum pumps to draw air past a filter that was suspended at the height of a person's breathing zone. Dust sampling was performed by collecting visible material and placing it in a container or collecting surface material on a filter by vacuuming. The collected material was weighed, viewed under a microscope, and/or chemically processed to determine the types and quantities of substances present. The materials were analyzed for fibers such as asbestos, fiberglass, synthetics, and cellulose, and for silica, calcite and other small particles. This letter conveys and explains the results of the asbestos sampling. You will be receiving the results of the other substances tested in the near future.

The attached table displays the settled dust asbestos results for your building. Each sample was examined by two different laboratory methods for asbestos fibers. Low levels of asbestos (less than one percent) were found in the dust from the first floor lounge, one of the residence and its outdoor balcony. No asbestos was detected in the settled dust sample from the second residence. For comparison, the settled dust samples collected at homes above 59<sup>th</sup> Street did not detect any asbestos by either laboratory method. The asbestos fibers in settled dust may become airborne if disturbed by activities such as sweeping and vacuuming.

Since asbestos poses a potential health concern if it is in the air, air samples were taken at four sampling locations in your building. All samples were taken during normal daily activity. All air samples were examined in the laboratory for fibers of a certain size and shape. In addition to asbestos, other types of fibers that could have been detected in this analysis include wool, fiberglass, synthetics, and cellulose. Our analysis below assumes all fibers present were asbestos, in order to be most protective of your health.

No fibers were detected in any of the air samples, finding less than 0.001 fibers/cubic centimeter (f/cc). When compared against the NYC re-occupancy standard for asbestos in community and residential buildings, all four samples were below the standard of 0.01 fibers/cubic centimeter

(f/cc) of indoor air. These results are similar to the sample results of buildings located above 59<sup>th</sup> Street, which are not expected to be impacted by WTC materials. In these comparison homes, levels of fibers found in the air, ranged from less than 0.001 f/cc to 0.003 f/cc.

Although asbestos was found in low levels in the settled dust of your building, air sampling indicates very few airborne fibers. Therefore, living in the building for the short-term will not pose a health risk. However, since asbestos is present in the dust, we recommend that further cleaning using appropriate methods be conducted. Appropriate cleaning includes damp or wet mopping of hard surfaces and using vacuum cleaners equipped with a HEPA filter. *Further information is enclosed.* In addition, since work continues at the World Trade Center site, and we are still awaiting other testing results, we recommend that you still take care in avoiding carrying dust on your shoes, clothes, etc. into your building from outdoors.

We have not yet received all of the laboratory results of the other materials analyzed for in your building's dust and air. They will be interpreted and forwarded to you as they become available. We will also be issuing a report that summarizes data from all of the buildings that were sampled within the next several months.

If you have questions about the asbestos results from your building, please do not hesitate to contact us at *phone #, name(s), days and times (e.g., M-F 9-5 ?)*.

Sincerely,

enclosures

Results with explanation  
Asbestos Fact Sheet

L:\WTC Response\Residential Reports\Bldg27.wpd

**Summary of Asbestos Sampling Results****Page 1 of 2**

Address: 100 John Street  
Date sampled: Dec 3, 2001

**Dust samples**

**Fibrous materials in dust found by Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM) Analysis:** Polarized Light Microscopy identifies asbestos fibers by shape and optical characteristics. Other fibers such as fabric (synthetics), paper (cellulose) and fiberglass may be identified in the analysis. The laboratory analyst will count the fibers present to give an estimate of fiber content as a percent.

| Area Sampled                                     | Outside | Common  | Residence 1 | Residence 2 |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Sample Numbers                                   | SA-O-27 | VA-C-27 | VA-R1-27    | VA-R2-27    |
| Asbestos present in dust:<br>Chrysotile asbestos | None    | None    | None        | None        |

**Asbestos in dust as determined by Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) Analysis:**

TEM analysis was conducted on all dust samples which showed asbestos content by PLM as less than 1%. TEM analysis is very specific, can detect smaller fibers of asbestos and is sensitive to fewer interferences. This analysis was done to confirm the PLM findings of no asbestos shown above.

| Area Sampled                           | Outside | Common  | Residence 1 | Residence 2 |
|----------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Sample Numbers                         | SA-O-27 | VA-C-27 | VA-R1-27    | VA-R2-27    |
| Asbestos present in dust<br>Chrysotile | < 1%    | < 1%    | < 1%        | None        |

**Summary of Asbestos Sampling Results**

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Address: 100 John Street

Date sampled: Dec 3, 2001

**Air samples**

**Airborne fibers as determined by Phased Contrast Microscopy (PCM):** An air sample is collected by pulling air through a filter. The filter catches fibers and is sent to a laboratory to determine what types of fibers were in the air. Phase contrast microscopy identifies fibers based on size and shape, but not mineral composition. Therefore, the fibers seen by PCM include asbestos fibers as well as other fibers, such as textiles, fiberglass, cellulose, which might be present in your home. By counting all fibers, we are being more protective of your health when we compare this to our screening value for asbestos fibers.

| Area Sampled                                           | Outside       | Common        | Residence 1   | Residence 2   |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Sample Numbers                                         | A-O-27        | A-C-27        | A-R1-27       | A-R2-27       |
| Concentration of Fibers in Air at this location        | <.001         | <.001         | <.001         | <.001         |
| Concentration of Fibers in Air at background locations | <.001 to .001 | <.001 to .002 | <.001 to .002 | <.001 to .002 |
| Screening Value                                        | .01 f/cc      | .01 f/cc      | .01 f/cc      | .01 f/cc      |