

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), has been working with the involved City agencies, including the Board of Education, to provide air monitoring in and around the schools in the area surrounding what has come to be known as "ground zero". DEP is collecting 8 hour ambient air samples that are analyzed for asbestos at four locations that are outside of the main entrances of Stuyvesant HS, IS/PS 89, PS 234 and the High School of Economics and Finance. DEP began sampling on October 4, 2001. From 10/4 to 10/18, DEP only did a TEM analysis if the PCM concentration was above .01 fibers per cubic centimeter (f/cc). During this period of time, there was only one reading above .01 f/cc. The TEM result was below the AHERA standard of 70 structures per square millimeter (s/sqmm). As of 10/19, DEP decided to do a TEM analysis on all samples to provide a direct comparison to the AHERA standard. Of the 356 samples that have been collected between 10/19/01 and 1/15/02, all have been well below the AHERA standard of 70 s/sqmm. Since that period, the results continue to be well below the AHERA standard.