NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

Summary of Asbestos Sampling Results
36 N. Moore Street, New York, N.Y. 10013

Date sampled: November 27, 2001

Four locations were sampled at your building: inside two private residences, an indoor common area (e.g., a lobby or hallway), and a nearby outdoor area (see tables below for sampling results). One air sample was collected in each of the four locations and one settled dust sample was collected at each of the indoor locations.

Air samples were collected using vacuum pumps to draw air past a filter that was suspended at the height of a person's breathing level. Outdoor dust and debris samples were collected by placing visible material in a container. Indoor dust and debris samples were collected on a filter by vacuuming surfaces. The collected material was weighed, viewed under a microscope, and/or chemically processed to determine the types and quantities of substances present. The materials are being analyzed for fibers such as asbestos, fiberglass, synthetics (e.g. man-made materials such as nylon and polyester), cellulose (e.g. cotton, paper), silica, and for other minerals and small particles.

ASBESTOS AIR TEST RESULTS

The air samples tested from directly outside, in the lobby of your building, and in the apartments were taken during normal daily activity. All air samples were examined in a laboratory for fibers using the Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM) method.

No fibers were detected in three of the four air samples taken. However, the air sample from the first floor lobby could not be analyzed for fibers by PCM, and was reported as "overloaded" with dust. This sample was located across the hall from an elevator that was undergoing renovations. The dust generated during renovations may partially explain why the sample was overloaded. When examined by Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), asbestos fibers were not identified and the resulting air concentration was reported as < 0.006 f/cc[1]. In the homes above 59th Street, levels of fibers found in the air ranged from less than 0.001 f/cc to 0.003 f/cc. All of the remaining air samples in this building fall within this range.

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1 There was too much material on the filter to properly count fibers using PCM and the result was reported as "overloaded" with dust. When a filter is overloaded, an indirect method of analysis is used to estimate the number of fibers. This involves removing a portion of the filter, transferring it to another filter, and counting fibers using Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM). The results of the indirect method did not detect asbestos fibers. Because the original material in the sample is handled and transferred in the lab, some of the ability to calculate very low levels of asbestos is lost. This is why the detection limit (<0.006) is greater for this sample than the others collected in your building.

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