NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Response to September 11

Daily Environmental Monitoring Summary

Thursday and Friday, November 29 & 30, 2001

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal, state and local agencies have collected extensive environmental monitoring data from the World Trade Center site and nearby areas in Manhattan, Brooklyn and New Jersey. Since September 11, EPA has taken samples of the air, dust, water, river sediments and drinking water and analyzed them for the presence of pollutants that might pose a health risk to response workers at the World Trade Center site and the public. The samples are evaluated against a variety of benchmarks, standards and guidelines established to protect public health under various conditions. EPA is collecting data from more than 20 fixed air monitors in and around ground zero and additional monitors in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. The Agency is also using portable sampling equipment to collect data from a range of locations.

Results as of 5:30 p.m. on 11/30

Air: Fixed Monitors in New York:
Asbestos - EPA analyzed 110 samples taken in and around ground zero from November 25 through November 26. In addition, EPA sampled for asbestos at three additional lower Manhattan locations on November 20-22 for a total of 89 samples. All samples showed results less than 70 structures per square millimeter, which is the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) standard for allowing children to re-enter school buildings after asbestos removal activities. This brings the total number of air samples collected and analyzed for lower Manhattan to 2,711, with 28 samples above the standard (27 were collected prior to September 30 and one was collected on October 9).

Air: Fixed Monitors outside lower Manhattan:
Asbestos - Additional asbestos monitors have been placed at Public School 154 (33 East 135th St., Bronx), Intermediate School 143 (511 W. 182nd St., Manhattan), P.S. 274 (800 Bushwick Ave, Brooklyn), P.S. 44 (80 Maple Parkway, Staten Island) and P.S. 199 (3290 48th St., Queens). Asbestos samples collected from November 20 -21 from these locations showed no exceedances of the AHERA re-entry standard.

Staten Island Landfill:
Air (Asbestos) - Fifty-four samples were collected on November 26 - 28. All of these samples were below the school re-entry standard.

Air (Particulates) - EPA used portable monitors to collect samples of particulates on November 27 at the Staten Island Landfill. Nothing of significant readings reported.

Particulate Monitoring - EPA used portable monitors to collect samples on November 28 at the following locations: L (north east side of Stuyvesant High School); N (south side of Pier 25); and R (north west side of Stuyvesant High School). Particulate levels at all locations were below the OSHA time-weighted permissible

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