NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

Firms vie to 'clean up' at WTC

Fight brews over who'll finish job

By DAVID SEIFMAN and LOIS WEISS

Two months after the Sept. 11 attacks, city officials said they've removed more than a third of the debris at the World Trade Center — but think it will still take nearly a year to finish the job.

Mayor Giuliani discussed the awesome task yesterday as he toured the site with Pentagon chief Donald Rumsfeld — and while a debate raged within his administration over which private companies will be involved in finishing the work.

As of yesterday, officials said 459,146 tons of the estimated 1.2 million tons of debris have been removed.

Only 632 bodies have been found, leaving 3,633 people missing.

Asked about the cleanup timetable, spokesman Frank McCarton of the mayor's Office of Emergency Management said, "We're looking at one year." But he conceded complications could delay the job.

City officials have concluded that a private company should take overall responsibility from the Department of Design and Construction.

But sources say there's an internal dispute over which company to select, with the finalists being Bechtel and Bovis Lend Lease.

A source said the department favors Bovis, but many others in the Giuliani administration want Bechtel.

Bovis is one of the five contractors on site.

Local firms and unions have implored the city to rethink any hiring of Bechtel.

"The main concern is that the companies that responded so heroically and put their own businesses at risk are not tossed aside," said Louis Coletti, chair and CEO of the Building Trades Employers Association.

Unlike Bechtel, the five companies now clearing debris have collective bargaining agreements with local building unions.

Labor leaders fear Bechtel would hire non-union workers or workers represented by what they consider renegade locals.

But inside the Giuliani administration "the majority of people want Bechtel [even though] the [Department of Design and Construction] folks don't want to work with Bechtel. They're throwing fits," a source said.

Giuliani said no decision is imminent.



Reuters

Queen gets Finest gift: dead officer's shield

Queen Elizabeth (above) received a gift fit for a royal yesterday — the badge of a New York cop killed at the World Trade Center along with his firefighter brother.

Detective Joseph Vigiano's shield was presented to the Queen by Lt. Frank Dwyer at Goodenough College in London as thanks for the British people's support.

Vigiano, 34, had survived being shot on the job an amazing five times before perishing Sept. 11 in the Twin Towers tragedy that also killed his brother, John Vigiano of the FDNY.

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