From: DOH
Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2001 5:13 PM
To: Leighton, Jessica; Cohen, Neal; Mullin, Sandra; Benson, Sam
Cc: Carlino, Kenneth; D'andrea, Chris; Mascuch, Laura; Goldberg, Allan; Rabin, Rebecca
Subject: Environmental Sampling

Many agencies (and private groups) are conducting air (and other environmental) sampling in, and around, the red zone. A groups of agencies, led by Jessica Leighton and called the Environmental Sampling and Assessment Workgroup (ESAW) is charged with disseminating all data and coordinating the environmental assessment effort. Since the first week of the crisis, EPA has been leading the air quality sampling effort. It is collecting data at 16 stationary stations throughout lower Manhattan. In addition, it is gathering and interpreting data collected from all agencies in the ESAW and communicating results to the public. Recently, an occupational exposure specialist from US PHS in Denver CO expressed in our 6pm EHS Meeting at Pier 92 that the EPA air quality assessment was "inadequate." He indicated that the number of samples collected, the types of analysis performed, and the quality control procedures followed were resulting in an insufficient characterization of the air quality impacts arising from this disaster. Recent media reports address this issue. They indicate that very small fibers (those less than .5 microns in length) are not found in the existing (EPA, DEP, etc) analyses and that the levels of asbestos in the outdoor and indoor air are higher than previously reported. In addition, a recent USGS study indicates elevated levels of metalloids (bioavailable heavy metals) and a high dust pH. The PHS representative has transmitted sampling SOPs (to arrive tomorrow morning) which I will review and transmit to Jessica for review. Following that, I recommend transmittal to EPA and DEP for implementation. Attached are relevant documents received to date from PHS.

Please contact me with questions.

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