NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Rudolph W. Giuliani
Mayor

Neal L. Cohen, M.D.
Commissioner

January XX , 2002

Name
Address
New York, NY

Dear Resident,

Environmental sampling was recently conducted both inside and outside of your building for materials associated with the World Trade Center collapse. The New York City Department of Health, with the assistance of the U.S. Public Health Service Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted this sampling. The specific focus of the sampling was to better characterize the contents and size ranges of settled and airborne dust in residential areas that could be of health concern. Samples were sent to an EPA-approved laboratory and analyzed for asbestos and other fibers, silica, irritants (such as mica and gypsum), and for the amount of particles in the air that could be inhaled into your nose and lungs. Your building was one of *30 tested* in the Lower Manhattan area, and *4 tested* above 59th Street (for background comparisons).

Up to four different areas of your building were sampled: a nearby area outdoors, a common area indoors such as a lobby or hallway; and the inside of two private residences. Unless otherwise noted, one settled dust sample and one air sample were collected at each of these areas. These samples were analyzed for asbestos, silica, and other materials. This letter conveys and explains the asbestos results. You will be receiving additional results in the near future.

The attached tables display the asbestos results for your building. No asbestos fibers were detected in any of the indoor vacuum samples or in the outdoor settled dust sample. All of the dust samples were analyzed by two laboratory methods to confirm no asbestos fibers were present (polarized light microscopy and transmission electron microscope).

Asbestos fibers above the U.S. and NYC re-occupancy standard for asbestos in community and residential buildings of 0.01 fibers/cubic centimeter (f/cc) in indoor air were not found of any if the air samples. The results of other types of fibers that could have also been detected in this analysis such as wool, fiberglass, synthetics, and cellulose are pending.

The asbestos results from your building are comparable to the sample results of buildings located above 59th Street. None of these comparison homes had asbestos in the dust; levels of fibers found in the air ranged from less than 0.001 f/cc to 0.003 f/cc. This indicates the asbestos sampling from your building is similar to that seen in areas not impacted by the dust from the collapse.

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Based on the enclosed results, asbestos hazards have not been found in or adjacent to your building.

Since work continues at the World trade Center site, and we are still awaiting other testing results for materials that can cause eye, nose, and throat irritation, we recommend that you still take care in avoiding carrying dust on your shoes, clothes, etc. into your building from outdoors. In addition, we recommend cleaning with wet or damp mopping of hard surfaces and using vacuum cleaners equipped with a HEPA filter. *Further information is enclosed.*

We have not yet received and completed review of all of the laboratory results of the other materials analyzed for in your building's dust and air. They will be interpreted and forwarded to you as they become available. We will also be issuing a report that summarizes data from all of the buildings that were sampled within the next several months.

If you have questions about the asbestos results from your building, please do not hesitate to contact Chris D'Andrea at 212-788-4288/4304.

Sincerely,

Jessica Leighton, PhD
Assistant Commissioner
Environmental Risk Assessment and Communication

enclosures
Results with explanation
Asbestos Fact Sheet

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