

9/11 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DECLARATION OF MARCH 2005

When the World Trade Center (WTC) collapsed, and while fires burned under ground zero and debris was being carted away, concrete dust and very fine particles of asbestos and other toxic contaminants were released into the air. These contaminants settled on roofs, windowsills and facades and inside residential, commercial and public buildings around the WTC site and well beyond. Three years later we know that the cleanup initiated and undertaken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2002 failed both in geographical scope and scientific credibility. Now demolition of buildings too contaminated to clean has begun without proper government oversight.

The EPA is authorized by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to respond to the release of hazardous substances that pose a public health threat. The EPA is the federal agency charged with implementation of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) when such disasters as 9/11 occur. Furthermore, Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) 62 names the EPA as the lead agency for responding to the release of hazardous materials resulting from a terrorist attack, and clearly states that the EPA has the specific responsibility to remediate inside buildings. Furthermore, in declaring falsely that there were no hazardous releases, the EPA undermined the ability of state and local agencies to protect workers from hazardous working conditions. The EPA has ignored all of these obligations. Consistent with the following principles, the EPA must implement the NCP now.

Specifically, **9/11 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION** demands:

- The comprehensive cleanup, federally funded and supervised by the EPA, of all places contaminated by the destruction of the World Trade Center as essential for public health everywhere and the economic recovery of Lower Manhattan.
- The Federal Administration issue a retraction of assurances that the environmental conditions resulting from the fall of the Towers were safe.
- Principles of environmental justice be adhered to, so that no community is overlooked.
- The EPA implement a transparent, public review and comment process pertaining to all aspects of clean-up.
- Strict adherence to environmental regulations and occupational safety and health laws to govern clean-up, demolition and rebuilding.
- The Precautionary Principle, of which the United States, as a signatory to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, is an endorser, guide ongoing determination of standards where no standards for toxic levels have been established.
- Federal funding to provide for public health education, outreach, and long-term medical monitoring and follow-up for affected communities as well as full medical coverage for any ensuing health problems resulting from the disaster, as behooves a government that has signed onto the Constitution of the World Health Organization.
- The collection and publication of scientific data and research related to the destruction of the World Trade Center be openly and centrally organized and federally funded.
- The reinstatement of an independent EPA Ombudsman's Office to review and enforce federal environmental law as critical to the clean-up of all contamination.

_____ I am signing below to endorse these goals.

_____ I am interested in working with 9/11 Environmental Action to achieve these goals.

OR

Organization: (date)
Representative:
E-mail:
Address:
Phone/Fax:

Name: (date)
Affiliation (if any):
E-mail:
Address:
Phone/Fax:

Return form to: info@911EA OR **9/11 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION**, P.O. Box 250192, New York, NY 10025