

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT GULACK, UNION STEWARD,
U.S. SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION,
BEFORE THE EPA TECHNICAL PANEL**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2004

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Robert Gulack, (201) 794-9322

As this panel may recall, my name is Robert Gulack and I am a senior attorney at the United States Securities & Exchange Commission. I am here today as a union steward representing the bargaining unit at the SEC, which has suffered from more than two years of illness because of the EPA's continuing refusal to fulfill its legal responsibilities and test and decontaminate the office buildings of New York City. I have personally suffered along with my colleagues, enduring bronchitis, pneumonia, and permanent lung damage, as has been verified by the U.S. Department of Labor's federal workers' compensation program.

Never before in the bitter history of human folly has a United States federal agency so deliberately, so consistently, and so continuously aided and abetted the murderous enemies of the United States of America. Never before have so few federal bureaucrats done so much harm to so many innocent Americans. If Dr. Gilman and the EPA had been in charge of our national response to Pearl Harbor, it would now be June 1944, and Dr. Gilman would be telling you that, no, he never bothered to count the number of ships sunk by the Japanese attack, but that there was no point in going to Oahu and counting the wreckage on the bottom, because, instead, he had gone to North Carolina, built a scale model of Hawaii, and blown it up.

If the EPA would only agree to do the testing, they would find, as the testing paid for by my union has found, that the office buildings and residences of New York City are still choking with lethal debris created by Osama bin Laden and left in place by bin Laden's accomplices in our federal, state, and city governments. If the EPA would only agree to do the testing, they would determine that a chemical attack is still in progress against hundreds of thousands of innocent New Yorkers. The EPA continues to refuse to do this testing, in spite of the report of their own Inspector General, because their first commitment is not to securing the public safety, but to covering up their past misconduct, at least until Election Day. The EPA seeks closure on testing issues before this panel is fully briefed on the health emergencies currently surfacing in New York City.

During the last meeting of this panel, Dr. Gilman here told the press that he was very interested in collating all environmental data so far collected by landlords. Why has it taken Dr. Gilman two and a half years to get around to expressing a vague interest in this data? Why wasn't it collated two years ago? Why doesn't this panel immediately call on the EPA to collect this data, and, when it is found to be fragmentary and inadequate, as it will be, why doesn't this panel then call on the EPA to test the office buildings, HVAC systems, and residences of New York, as it should have tested them two years ago?

In the last meeting of this panel, it was admitted that there has never been any comprehensive and authoritative oversight of the clean-up efforts by New York City's commercial landlords. Why doesn't this panel immediately call on the EPA to provide that oversight – to require all commercial landlords to perform comprehensive testing of their buildings, using electron microscopes?

The people of New York City cannot be asked to accept an increased cancer rate of 1 in 10,000 – per contaminant. In a city of this size, that amounts to handing Osama bin Laden at least another thousand victims. People can move away from Love Canal, if they wish, but Manhattan is going to remain a population center. For that reason, we must make it a safe area for large numbers of people to live in.

The people of New York City cannot be asked to accept that the average surface concentration of asbestos in southern Manhattan has now been increased from 2,000 structures of asbestos per square centimeter to 200,000 or two million. I will not accept that al-Qa'ida will remain in control of the amount of asbestos we are exposed to. It may be difficult to prove, at this point, how dangerous it is to increase the surface levels of asbestos from 2,000 to 10,000 or 20,000, but, for that very reason, we should err on the side of safety, returning asbestos contamination back to the level it was at before the planes hit.

In my own building, air tests would often appear safe while surface tests were mounting back up to astronomical numbers. Then asbestos would, once more, appear in the air. If this panel allows high amounts of asbestos to remain on the surfaces of Manhattan, that asbestos will one day be kicked back into the air and inhaled by our innocent citizens.

The people of New York will not be brushed off with the excuse that the EPA cannot afford to test New York. We were promised a complete clean-up. We have not even gotten testing. The people of New York will not be brushed off with the phony line that Senator Clinton wants this panel to focus on re-testing apartments. Senator Clinton – as a representative of this state – has repeatedly stated she wants the EPA Inspector General's recommendations implemented. At the press conference where this panel was announced, Clinton urged this panel to call for testing of workplaces. We were promised testing. Our representatives have called for testing. The EPA Inspector General called for testing. Why can't we have testing? What gives the EPA the right to stand between the people of New York and the testing they so desperately need?

Dr. Gilman, do we have to parade the innocent tortured children of Chinatown in here, with their pitiful blistered lungs, before you will acquire a conscience, and seek to begin to remedy the enormous harm you have done? Dr. Gilman, do we have to parade the innocent tortured students of Stuyvesant High School in here, gasping and wheezing, before you will acquire a conscience, and start to remedy the harm you have done?

In the words of Jefferson, you have abdicated government here, declaring us out of your protection, and allowing foreign mercenaries to continue burning our towns. In the bare caverns of Afghanistan, our enemies are rejoicing today that the EPA cover-up is proceeding, and that New York City is continuing to suffer more and more harm from the attacks of September 11th. In the caverns of Afghanistan, our enemies are telling each other that as long as the Bush Administration is our ally, all we have to do is sit back and allow the federal government of the United States to continue to assassinate the innocent children of that country.

I am here today to plead for the public safety. I am here to plead for responsible government under law. The White House and the EPA stand for the continuing reckless endangerment of innocent children, residents, and workers. The White House and the EPA stand for a state of anarchy, in which faceless federal bureaucrats take it upon themselves to decide what laws they will choose to obey and what laws they will choose to disregard. All we are asking is that the EPA immediately test the offices, HVAC systems, residences, schools, and firehouses of New York in the same thorough and responsible manner that the EPA tested their own offices. I ask this panel to call on the EPA to begin this testing on an immediate basis.