

Comments to LMDC on CDBG Fund Allocation April, 2005

The comments were verbal but I'll try to reconstruct them.

1: Some of the CDBG money should go to health care for all those who are now or will become affected by WTC related illnesses; not only respiratory but also neurological and endocrinological etc. The toxic brew following 9/11 will affect every bodily system and we have nothing in place to deal with the consequences.

2. Far be it from me to criticize a park but I would ask that the construction of such a benign environment not occur at the expense of another environment, namely, the aquatic. Building into the Hudson River will destroy critical, irreplaceable habitats. By all means build parks, but do so on dry land.

3. This comment is going to seem to come out of left field since I'm going to talk about a subject which isn't on most people's radar screens. This Rebuilding process that you're engaged in is a beacon to the world and as such, it is imperative that you take into consideration the phenomenon known as Peak Oil.

Most people think Peak Oil means that we have about forty years worth of oil left so we'd better get to work finding alternatives for the day that we run out of oil.

That's not what Peak Oil means. The experts believe that Peak Oil, which is simply the beginning of the downward slope on the oil extraction curve, will arrive within 5 - 10 years and many believe that it is beginning this year. China is stockpiling cement and other resources because they anticipate a time when there won't be enough oil to transport it.

Congressman Roscoe Bartlett recently held two hearings on this subject and I recommend you read the transcripts. If your idea is to construct lots of skyscrapers dependent on elevators going to the top, you might want, instead to rebuild with Peak Oil in mind.

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