

Excerpts
*from the report of the EPA Office of the Inspector General:
EPA's Response to the World Trade Center Collapse,
released August 21, 2003*

“EPA’s communications during the WTC crisis—that the general public did not need to be concerned about short-term exposure to WTC asbestos—were inconsistent with the Agency’s prior position that all asbestos exposure is hazardous to human health.” (p. 65)

“Indoor Cleanup Level Does Not Meet Minimum Superfund Levels” (p. 50) “In our opinion, this cleanup should meet the minimum criteria for protecting human health that EPA has established for Superfund cleanups.” (p. 53)

“Any indoor spaces contaminated with WTC dust that have not been cleaned using proper techniques will likely remain contaminated.” (p. 136)

“Non-Aggressive Sampling Does Not Provide Assurance Residents Will Not be Exposed to Potentially Harmful Levels of Asbestos” (p. 52)

“Although the assumption is that the cleaning methods prescribed for asbestos will clean the other [potential contaminants] as well, the post-cleaning testing [for asbestos only] does not provide assurance that these other pollutants were removed.” (51)

“Need to Treat Impacted Buildings as a System” (p. 51) “Tests of indoor asbestos contamination have shown that the distribution of asbestos within indoor spaces is not consistent. Selective cleaning of apartments does not ensure that uncleaned residences or uncleaned objects in apartments are free of asbestos contamination. In the case of centralized HVAC systems, selective cleaning does not ensure that cleaned residences will not be re-contaminated by uncleaned apartments through the HVAC system.” (P. 51)

“We recommend that the EPA Administrator ensure that EPA Region 2... implement a post-cleaning testing program to ensure that, in addition to asbestos, the indoor cleanup program has reduced residents’ risk of exposure from all of the identified COPCs (contaminants of potential concern) to acceptable limits.”(53)

“...the indoor cleaning and testing program should employ aggressive testing in all residences and treat buildings as a system.” (p. 53)

To read the entire EPA Inspector General’s report, visit www.911ea.org