

Comments of Indira Singh

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EPA Panel Hearing
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“My name is Indira Singh. I am a resident of 66 Pearl Street, which is located approximately 700 yards SSE in a direct line of the plumes from the collapsed towers.

I presented testimony to this panel through a colleague of mine at the first hearing on March 31st, 2004.

I stated then it was not helpful for the EPA to deny our toxic conditions; that lying about the true situation encourages others with financial incentives - such as landlords and insurance companies - to also lie about the toxic conditions of their property to existing and prospective residents.

For the record, the property manager of 66 Pearl Street began denying the reality of the toxic conditions in the building immediately after 9/11. In November of 2001 the managing agent stated to me that she had “never heard of a dust condition” in Lower Manhattan. She referred to the EPA’s September and October and November 2001 statements claiming air quality was fine. As a result, in November 2001, I added my voice to community action to implore the EPA to stop this nonsense.

In May 2002, nine months of blistering community and local political action finally forced a EPA into a grudging reversal of their 9/11 position, and admitted the air quality was bad and they agreed to a limited cleaning of our apartments.

A one-time cleaning was performed on the ducts and vents to my building and my apartment. Note, this was a one time cleaning, and only to the ducts; the actual apartments within my building were never professionally cleaned. This was because the EPA did not mandate cleaning of the actual insides of the apartments.

As I testified in March 31, 2004, after detoxification programs and medical interventions, my doctors stated it was their opinion my apartment continued to make me sick. This is because when I return to my apartment my WTC symptoms worsen, and when I remove myself from the environment my symptoms subside to a baseline level. They advised me to leave immediately.

Based on these medical statements in June and July of 2004 my lawyers engaged the services of an environmental scientist in Lower Manhattan to test my apartment.

After 20 minutes in my apartment, this expert stated to me: You know Indira, I have tested many apartments in Lower Manhattan since 9/11. But what’s

interesting about yours is that some two and a half years later, you still have the original 9/11 dust here.

That statement validates what the doctors have been telling me all along.

That statement – my apartment still has the original 9/11 dust - along with what my doctors have been stating – shows that the EPA was lying and is still lying about 9/11 toxins and contamination in Lower Manhattan. Those EPA lies and the EPA cover-up demonstrate the EPA's complete and total contempt of the health of the residents, and specifically my health.

Why my apartment still has the original dust, where that dust is, what it is composed of and which entities I intend to hold financially and hopefully criminally responsible are matters that are in the hands of at least three lawyers at this point.

What I will offer the EPA, if they want to sample the dust in my apartment for their purposes, they can buy it from me on e-Bay.

The Director of Pulmonology of Bellevue has stated one characteristic of the poor air quality in Lower Manhattan is the Ph. The Ph of the air due to contaminants was an unbelievable level of 13. She said this was the equivalent of breathing lye, or Drano. She said this would burn or scar lung tissue as mine have been. Those who do not have asthma have RADS, reactive airway disease syndrome, a disease of the small airway structures. Being exposed to poor air quality for 1,000 days pretty much means I'll never get my lungs back.

Members of the panel please listen to the following:

- The patterns of EPA lies and cover-up for the past 1,000 days have been proactively coordinated and politically defended by this administration.
- The financial incentives of a few powerful stakeholders play a definitive role in the pattern of EPA lies and cover-up. It is therefore time to investigate whether the EPA's actions fall within the definition of some form of racketeering, civil or criminal.

Today almost 1,000 days after 9/11, I have no reason to change my early characterization of the EPA as having the moral ethics of terrorists.

Here are two more reasons why:

I have tried to discuss my situation with representatives of the EPA. Instead of engaging in helpful dialogue they parrot EPA public relations oriented denials. When pressed for more informative answers to hard questions, they resort to a

bizarre and defensive repetition of the statement: "I am proud to work for the EPA".

The EPA's position on air quality – other than being an obscene gesture to residents – is one landlords waste no time in copying. Just last week my landlord's agents came poking around my door so I invited her to enter and view the contamination first hand. She told me "You have lost your mind."

Community action, political action, individual and broad-based lawsuits – nothing has changed the EPA's fundamental attitude toward the devastated area of Lower Manhattan. Specific lawsuits such as mine may change my situation, but the loss of Lower Manhattan – and by that I mean the conversion of Lower Manhattan into a toxic residential ghetto – is well underway.

Metaphorically speaking, nothing short of ripping this administration's collective lungs out will change this from happening, but that will only happen when people wake up. I pray that event is fast approaching. When it does, I also pray none of those responsible in the EPA, or their corporate and political masters escape our justice.

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