

EPA Speech

Hello. My name is Gosia Staffile. I am a downtown resident and a victim of September 11. I live in Independence Plaza, which is located 3 blocks from the disaster area. After the attack of September 11, I came down with a serious sinus disease. Not only could I not breathe, I have extreme headaches, I have extreme pain, and suffer from a sinus infection, that have spread to my head. My life has completely changed since Sept 11. I can not continue with my life that I had since the disaster. I went through very dangerous surgery that effected my optic nerve.

It has been proved by my doctors that my illness is due to the poor air quality .The EPA did not hire professional chemical removal experts to clean my apartment. They sent two girls that had no knowledge of professional clean-up. They were't ever prepared with protection. Those girls did not even speak English. I know that because one of them only spoke polish, and polish is my native language. I allowed them in my house, trusted them. The EPA made me throw out all my furniture covered with fabric, my chairs, my sofa, my linen, etc. Once the furniture was out of the house, the cleaning ladies began to dust. DUST! After one hour in my house during the clean-up, one of the cleaning ladies stood on my beautiful marble table and brook it in half. As soon as that happened, the two girls got very scared, and quickly left my apartment, leaving me with more of a mess then before.

I made several phone calls to the EPA, asking them to finish my clean-up, but got no response back. I was told and re-insured by the EPA and others that the air quality was very SAFE! I trusted my government, I trusted the management of my building, and even the EPA that everything was under control and the EPA did a good job and I should be happy. Well I am not happy, because they put my health in danger. I have no insurance. Ttherefore I had to find a doctor that was willing to except payment from CVB. I have been on antibiotics for almost 3 years, and very strong pain medication. After receiving the results, from the clean up, I realized, that the dates were completely wrong. The date on my testing result was from March 20th 2003, while my apartment was cleaned April 12th of 2003.

How could that happen? I need some answers!

I am very angry and disappointed in the EPA and others, like, TRIO, and ATC. Not only did I lose my health, I lost my job, and because of that I am now faced with losing my apartment. My building was bought out by the Mitchell Lama program, and was divided to sticky voucher, and stabilization. Because I can't work, due to my illness for trusting the EPA, and others, I need to go on sticky vouchers and risk the chance of being evicted out of my apartment that I have lived in for over 25 years.

I feel I have been neglected, and not taken seriously by the EPA, and by all the other people that assured me on how safe it was for me to continue living in my apartment. I just want my health back, my life back, and have the proper heath care that I deserve as a innocent victim of crime. My life has been a series of MRIs,Cat-Scans, holes drilled through my forehead, culture-taking, antibiotics, steroids, strong pain medication. I strongly support the September 11 Heath Act, and every one that is a part of it.

There is definitely proof of negligence that the EPA was unprepared and inexperienced taking our health in their hands. I want Justice, and that is why I am here today, directly from the Eye, Ear and Nose Hospital, still very sick.

For me sept.11 never ended.

Thank you for letting me have the opportunity to express my feelings.

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