



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1606

RAEANNE V. CURTIS
Commissioner

November 30, 2009

Ju-Hyeong Park, Sc. D., C.I.H.
Jean Cox-Ganser, Ph.D.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
1095 Willowdale Road
Morgantown, WV 26505-2888

Dear Dr. Park and Dr. Cox-Ganser:

We are in receipt of your Interim Report X. We thank you for your continued assistance in helping us to provide a healthy work environment at the 25 Sigourney Street Facility.

Your recommendations are helpful and we would like to respond to each individually.

1. The last of Turner Building Science's recommended short term corrections was successfully completed more than a year ago. Future planning and improvements to the building reflect the Turner report long range recommendations.
2. Inspections of perimeter areas continue to be performed after every rain event. There are no areas of water infiltration except for two areas that have relatively minor leakage from the top of the window. We are diligently monitoring and trying to correct these two leaks and will continue until they are fully resolved. The good news is that the leaks neither wet the carpet or any wallboard. You may be interested to know that in addition to performing inspections, we have been taking water activity measurements in locations corresponding to the locations where NIOSH found higher fungal concentrations in carpet dust. Since September 2008, we have taken over 100 measurements and the vast majority of measurements are less than 0.50. The highest measurement found in any location was 0.611 which was taken during very humid weather this last August. Therefore, at this point, we can definitively say that we have found no water activity levels in any location that are considered high. Basically, the carpet is very dry and water activity levels low.
3. We continue to address any occupant complaints although complaints have lessened considerably. If you recall, occupant complaints are communicated to our property management through agency liaisons. Then complaints are either

addressed by property management staff or forwarded to DPW when additional assistance is needed. Findings and actions taken, if any are needed, are then reported back to agency liaisons who then transmit this information to the occupant.

4. There is an understanding that agency human resources staff will keep DPW generally informed of physician diagnosed health issues reported to be possibly related to the work place. Agency human resources will make arrangements to relocate an employee should this be recommended by their physician however this is a very infrequent occurrence.
5. We are happy to report that our housekeeping practices at 25 Sigourney continue to be thorough and routine. Maintaining good housekeeping practices goes hand in hand with maintaining a healthy indoor environment.

We are not in agreement with your interpretation of the health survey information. We do not believe any of the health surveys are free from participation bias. We further believe the health survey results actually indicate physician diagnosed asthma among building occupants is generally no higher than asthma among the CT adult population. When the building population is used rather than number of survey participants, as shown in the table below, the percentage of occupants with physician diagnosed lifetime or current asthma is very similar to annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BFRSS) survey results for CT adults.

Date of Survey	approx # of building occupants	# of survey participants	lifetime asthma	current asthma	% 25 Sig Occupants lifetime asthma	% 25 Sig Occupants current asthma	BFRSS % CT Adults lifetime asthma	BFRSS % CT Adults current asthma
2001	1327	886	149	110	11.2	8.3	12.3	7.9
2004	1155	769	153	109	13.2	9.4	15.3	9.7
2005	1198	763	157	118	13.1	9.8	12.4	8
2007	1278	745	182	119	14.2	9.3	14.1	9.3

In addition, we have convincing evidence that the carpet at 25 Sigourney has neither high water activity levels or fungal concentrations higher than other typical office buildings. Our evidence includes other published data on fungal concentrations in office carpet dust, our first hand knowledge of conditions in the building, and ongoing measurements and inspections.

Ju-Hyeong Park, Sc. D., C.I.H.
Jean Cox-Ganser, Ph.D.
November 30, 2009
Page 3

In summation, while we may not concur with all of NIOSH interpretation of presented data, we do agree with and fully support all recommendations presented and will continue to make improvements and maintain a high quality and health work environment.

Sincerely,



Raeanne V. Curtis
Commissioner

cc: Commissioner Richard D. Nicholson,
Department of Revenue Services
Commissioner Michael Starkowski,
Department of Social Services
Commissioner Peter Boynton,
Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security
Commissioner Robert Galvin,
Department of Public Health