



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

cc Jacke Brown 2/20/03

Public Health Service

NIOSH

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health - ALOSH
1095 Willowdale Road
Morgantown, WV 26505-2888

February 11, 2003
HETA 2001-0445
Interim Letter II

Mike Winkler
President
Administrative and Residual Employees Union
705 North Mountain Road, Suite A211
Newington, Connecticut 06111

FEB 20 2003

Dear Mr. Winkler:

This interim letter and report are in regards to a health hazard evaluation request from the Administrative and Residual Employees Union Local 4200 representing office workers at 25 Sigourney Street in Hartford, Connecticut. The interim report contains some of the environmental data NIOSH has collected to date at the facility. The data are being provided at this time to aid in targeting remediation efforts. We suggest that Department of Public Works review the data to identify potential areas where further investigation might be warranted.

We are also providing this information to the other employee unions (AFSCME, CFEPE, CEUI, CSEA, NEHCEU and SEIU), the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Revenue Services and the Department of Social Services.

The interim report contains the following information:

Body of the Report

The body of the report describes the sampling methods. Briefly, NIOSH staff conducted an environmental sampling survey from December 17-20, 2001, on the 17th floor at 25 Sigourney Street. The 17th floor was slated for carpet replacement in late December 2001; samples were taken before carpet removal as an estimate for historical exposures. The rest of the building (Floors 5-20, including the 17th floor) was sampled April 2-11, 2002. We collected air, chair and floor dust samples. The laboratory has returned the results regarding culturable fungi load in the chair and floor dusts. This report summarizes the results from the culturable fungi analyses from chair and floor dusts. Also included are temperature, relative humidity, and particle counts in air and surface water activity in chair and floor.

Please note that the microbiological analyses of the dust are difficult to interpret because there are no standards against which to compare the results. No standards or guidelines have been set by NIOSH, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), or the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) for culturable fungi in dust. These samples were taken, not to determine whether there was fungal or bacterial growth, rather, to help us understand the microbial ecology in the building. In addition, the sample locations were not randomly distributed throughout the building. The sampling sites were selected based on employee responses (reported symptoms ranged from none to several) from the September 2001 questionnaire results. The

sampling strategy was designed to be linked with the health data, not necessarily as a stand-alone outcome. Our analysis of the environmental data in relationship to health outcome is in the preliminary stages because we have not received all of the other environmental results from the laboratories.

Appendix A: Summary of Results by Floor

Appendix A provides summary statistics for the environmental data categorized by agency and floor.

Appendix B: Sampling Location Maps

Appendix B contains the sampling location maps with arbitrarily assigned sampling numbers.

Appendix C: Summary of Data for Each Sampling Location

Appendix C contains the summarized data for each sampling location.

Appendix D: Raw Data for Each Sampling Location

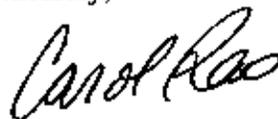
Appendix D contains the raw data for each sampling location.

Appendix E: Research Papers

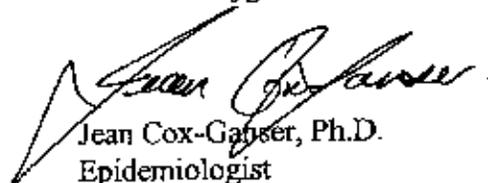
There are very few studies of chair and floor dusts in occupational settings. We have enclosed in Appendix E two research papers investigating floor and chair dusts in office and residential settings (Chew et al., 2001; Chao et al., 2001). These may help put some of the enclosed results into perspective.

If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this letter and interim report, please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-800-232-2114.

Sincerely,



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Industrial Hygienist



Jean Cox-Ganser, Ph.D.
Epidemiologist
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