

WEB UPDATE SILVER SPRING DECEMBER 27, 1999

- The small-scale abatement on the 15th floor was conducted on December 9th and 12th. Pre-Sampling was performed on Thursday December 9, 1999 by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) of the Public Health Service (PHS), Air samples, vacuum dust samples, wipe samples and contact plate samples were taken from Room 15327 and also from the control room 15212. Outside air samples were also taken as a control.

The following day, Friday December 10, 1999, the abatement was performed. A microbiologist from PHS supervised the abatement and performed additional sampling. PHS utilized a drywall knife and HEPA vacuum to remove a 16" x 18" piece of drywall from the perimeter wall. Fungus 6 inches in diameter was found on the interior of the drywall. The microbiologist took bulk samples of the drywall and contact wipe samples from the pre-cast concrete. PHS also utilized a moisture meter to check moisture levels and performed a visual inspection of the interior perimeter of the wall. The perimeter wall was then sealed.

On Saturday December 11th and Sunday December 12, 1999, clean up was performed by Foulger Pratt. Clean up consisted of vacuuming the suspended ceiling and, cleaning the air supply and return air diffusers with 10% bleach and water solution.

Post abatement sampling was performed on Monday, December 13, 1999, utilizing the pre-sampling protocol. [Link to pre-sampling protocol](#)

The sampling results will be available January 17, 2000.

- NOAA has recently retained the services of Dr. Hung Tzi An from Johns Hopkins University as a consultant in Occupational Medicine. Dr. An is a graduate of the National Taiwan University with a specialization in Internal and Pulmonary Medicine. Dr. An's other credentials include a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, board certification in the United States in Internal Medicine, and the recent completion of an Occupational and Environmental Medicine Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. An's duties will be to assist Dr. Zimmerman in evaluating NOAA employees who believe they have medical symptoms that may be related to the air quality issues within the Silver Spring Metro Center Buildings II, III, and IV.

[Link to Johns Hopkins web site](#)

- An occupant survey was distributed to employees in Silver Spring Metro Center (SSMC) III to solicit information regarding symptoms experienced by building occupants. While surveys of this type may be useful in indoor air quality investigations, they also have their limitations. Survey information can be subjective, and in general, only those employees experiencing some type of symptom completed the survey – for those not completing the survey, we do not know if they have any of the listed symptoms, or just didn't take the time to complete the survey.

Of the 482 surveys completed, the number of responses per floor is as follows:

Number of Responses	35	18	47	24	58	30	53	40	24	50	17	33	34	9
Floor	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2

The most frequently reported symptoms experienced by all responders regardless of location were:

- Headaches (29.52%)
- Eye Irritation (24.69%)
- Sinus Congestion (22.20%)

[Link to Public Health Services site](#)

- The Facilities Acquisition and Management Division has established an **Information Booth (IB)** in the cafeteria of SSMC III to discuss, address and answer questions concerning the health issues within the Silver Spring Campus. The objective of the **IB** is to attempt to answer any questions that employees may have regarding their work environment, and to explain the steps that the Facilities Acquisition and Management Division is undertaking to address any potential health issues within the building.

Representative from Facilities Management, and Dr. Hung Tzi An from Johns Hopkins University will be staffing the Booth on Tuesdays, between the hours of 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Employees unable to attend the IB can submit their questions to: [Link to questions form](#)