

WEB UPDATE SILVER SPRING

Engineering Study, and Abatement Protocols

The Facilities Acquisition and Management Division met with Foulger Pratt (FP) on Friday, March 10, 2000 to discuss the continuing issue surrounding the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) within the SSMC Complex. Issues discussed concerned the Cleaning Remediation Protocol, Small-Scale Remediation Protocol, Large-Scale Remediation Protocol, and the engineering study of the building façade and HVAC system. FP informed NOAA that they anticipate awarding two engineering contracts with the following firms within the next 5-10 days:

1. *Facilities Engineering Associates* – Study the *Water Incurison* issues within SSMC II, III, & IV;
2. *Girard Engineering* - Study of the HVAC systems within SSMC II, III, & IV;

Facilities requested and received FP's scopes work for the above referenced work. We have retained, through the Public Health Service, the engineering firm Energy Applications, Inc. to review the scopes of work from the above firms;

We've scheduled a follow-up meeting with FP to provide comments and discuss the scopes of work for each engineering firm. Foulger Pratt's has indicated that the completion of the above engineering study is anticipated to be around May 30, 2000;

Indoor Air Sampling

In response to numerous complaints from employees in SSMC III and IV, the Facilities Office has tasked the Public Health Service (PHS) to conduct routine air samplings. PHS proposes to complete the surveys using the following approach:

1. Floors in each building will be divided into quadrants.
2. (2) Viable air samples will be taken per quadrant for fungal analysis.
3. (2) Sets of viable air samples from outside air will also be taken each survey day.
4. Relative humidity, temperature, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide concentrations in each quadrant will be analyzed.
5. Each building will be completed within three (3) consecutive days of sampling.

The results of these samples will provide the PHS and NOAA with a better understanding of the indoor air quality within the SSMC complex. The initial phase of this testing has been completed. PHS has indicated that air-sampling results should be available by April 30, 2000. *Public Health Service*

Town Hall Meeting

The Silver Spring Town Hall Meeting was conducted Tuesday, March 7, 2000. The emphasis of the meeting was on an action plan to address existing and potential Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) problems. This plan includes tasking the building owner to permanently repair areas of water incursion, examining the HVAC system to ensure proper airflow, and to follow proper maintaining procedures.

Occupant Survey

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 none 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 Locations were:

Headaches (29.52%)

Eye Irritation (24.69%)

Sinus Congestion (22.20%)

[*Questions Related to Indoor Air Quality*](#)

Links Related to Indoor Air Quality Issues:

<i>New York City Department of Health</i>
<i>Environmental Protection Agency</i>
<i>Occupational Safety & Health Administration</i>
<i>Centers for Disease Control And Prevention</i>