

August 13, 2014

In an effort to provide you a candid and accountable reporting on the matter of a condition recently discovered within the Library building please be advised that in conjunction with an architect's inspection of the *plenum* area above the Library's "Adult Section" sediment/debris containing non-friable organically bound asbestos was discovered to be lying upon ceiling tiles. The nature of the debris makes airborne release unlikely.

It is speculated that following a roofing/ asbestos abatement project conducted in 2008 a "settling" of materials emanating from the asbestos-containing roofing material that was installed in 1980 (back then asbestos-containing roofing material was commonly utilized) lead to the existent debris. At the conclusion of the 2008 project all reporting lead to the conclusion that the *plenum* area was free of such debris. The consultants advised that it is not uncommon for a seamed or a flexible roof to shed, over years, materials such as were recently discovered.

The Library retained the environmental consulting firm, Envirosience Consultants, Inc. which on Sunday, August 2, 2014 conducted an air quality analysis in some 16 areas within the Library including the subject ceiling space.

In the Envirosience Consulting Inc. report dated August 5, 2014 "...no asbestos structures were detected on any of the eighteen (18) samples analyzed." Further, it was found that the "...debris material is a non-friable, organically bound material wherein the asbestos is tightly bound into the tar matrix..".

Based upon the recommendation of the Consultant the Library, will however, restrict access to the *plenum* area wherein the debris was discovered. Further the Library will prioritize the abatement of the material recently discovered within the scope of the anticipated capital improvement/renovation project. Although the Library's consultants have advised that there is no concern whatsoever regarding the utilization of the Library by staff and patrons relating to the subject material's existence, it is most appropriate to remedy the condition as soon as it is practicable.

Again, there is no basis to conclude that any of the non-friable asbestos bound within the "tar-like" debris escaped the material within which it was ensconced. The subject asbestos is not of the friable kind that required abatement several decades ago when the federal government dictated that friable asbestos be removed from buildings serving the public.

The Library will be reporting the subject condition to the NYS Dept of Labor's PESH unit which deals with the safety and protection of employees within their workplaces; the Library will also be alerting the State Education Dept.'s Facilities & Planning Division in order to assure that any input from it can be acted upon by the Library.

The Library will continue to update the staff and public regarding developments relating to the matter of remediating the condition recently discovered. Questions or concerns can be directed to:

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