

After September 11th, the Environmental Protection Agency had a Health Warning for New Yorkers:



"The concern raised by these samples [of dust containing asbestos] would be for the workers at the cleanup site and for those workers who might be returning to their offices on or near Water Street on Monday, September 17, 2001."

(9/14/01 DRAFT EPA PRESS RELEASE SENT FOR WHITE HOUSE APPROVAL)

But the Bush White House Distorted the Truth:

"Our tests show that it is safe for New Yorkers to go back to work in New York's financial district."

(WHITE HOUSE EDITED 9/16/01 PRESS RELEASE)

The Bush White House's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) instructed the EPA to give the public misleading information about the air quality in lower Manhattan, according to a report from EPA's Inspector General. As a result of the White House CEQ's influence, guidance for cleaning indoor spaces and information about the potential health affects from World Trade Center debris were not included in EPA's press releases. The White House told September 11th survivors and rescue workers it was safe to go back to work, deliberately misrepresented the truth about environmental threats to New Yorkers' health and safety and put them in peril. According to Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, 78% of the Ground Zero workers they examined suffered from lung ailments.

There is a better way to protect our families and communities from pollution and contamination, Mr. President. Be honest with us. What we don't know can hurt us.



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