



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP 23 2011

Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Nadler:

Thank you for your letter dated August 23, 2011 regarding the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at P.S. 199, located at 270 West 70th Street in Manhattan. Your letter requested a meeting to discuss the results of recent PCB testing at the school. The results of the testing showed that in some areas PCBs in the indoor air are above EPA's benchmark levels. EPA shares your concern about the elevated levels and we continue to work very closely with the New York City School Construction Authority to ensure that the problem is remedied.

On August 26, 2011, EPA participated in a meeting with members of the P.S. 199 school community, the New York City School Construction Authority, the United Federation of Teachers, representatives for Senator Duane, Assemblymember Rosenthal and your staff. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the status of air sampling and PCB remediation efforts being taken by the School Construction Authority at P.S. 199.

At the August 26, 2011 meeting, School Construction Authority representatives stated that they will install 66 activated carbon air filters throughout the school, since testing of these filters in several classrooms at P.S. 199 demonstrated that they could be effective in reducing the airborne PCBs within the classrooms. The School Construction Authority also suggested that it could apply a sealant to doors known to be coated with PCB paint, since this might prevent additional PCBs from becoming airborne. In addition, the School Construction Authority is developing a plan to identify the cause for PCBs levels remaining above EPA benchmark levels at P.S. 199.

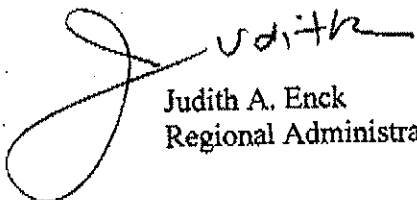
On September 13, 2011, the School Construction Authority held a meeting at P.S. 199 and made this information available to the entire school community. School Construction Authority representatives stated at the meeting that they completed the installation of the activated carbon air filters in each of the classroom spaces as well as additional spaces throughout the building including the auditorium. They also stated they will be applying a sealant to the doors coated with PCB paint that are in the vicinity of the classrooms where air samples were above EPA benchmark levels. They plan to undertake this work when children are not present in order to avoid any safety issues for them or school staff.

EPA continues to have ongoing discussions with the School Construction Authority about the issues at P.S. 199 as well as the other schools involved in the Pilot Program required under the Consent Order and Final Agreement. We will continue to monitor School Construction Authority efforts to address leaking ballasts and the overall upgrading and replacement of lighting fixtures throughout the NYC Public School System and will continue to be available to assist you as well as attend public meetings dealing

with P.S. 199 or other schools on the PCB issue. Protecting the health of the children, teachers, and staff remains our foremost priority, and I appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this issue.

If you have further questions, please contact me directly at 212-637-5000 or have your staff contact Mary Mears, Deputy Director for Public Affairs at 212-637-3673.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith", with a large, stylized loop on the left side.

Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator

cc: Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives

Linda Rosenthal
New York State Assembly

Scott Stringer
Manhattan Borough President