



HOME

NEWS & VIEWS

City Beat

Headlines Index

Last 6 Days

Search/Archives

Coupons

Games

Shopping

 **City Beat**

EPA Hit on Risks to Health


By **KATIE CAPERTON**
Daily News Writer

People who live in lower Manhattan complained to a federal investigator yesterday that their concerns about clean air and water near Ground Zero aren't being addressed.

They said nosebleeds and asthmalike symptoms have persisted, even though the World Trade Center fires are out and much of the dust has been cleared.

"This is chemical warfare against children," said Jenna Orkin, parent of a student at Stuyvesant High School, which is blocks from the Trade Center site.

Despite continuing complaints from neighbors, the Environmental Protection Agency has said repeatedly that tests show the fires and dust pose no long-term health risks.

But the agency's ombudsman, Robert Martin, has questioned those assurances. Martin and his staffers met with neighbors at a lawyer's office on Broadway as a first step in an investigation into whether the EPA responded adequately to the disaster. 

"I cannot promise that [we] will bring you justice, but we will go the extra mile," said Hugh Kaufman, the ombudsman's chief investigator.

Maureen Silverman, who lives in Independence Plaza about four blocks from Ground Zero, told the ombudsman that around-the-clock rumbling from trucks clearing the twin towers site and dust from a debris barge in the Hudson River make life miserable.

"People can't sleep," she said.

Marjorie Clarke, an adjunct professor of environmental sciences at Hunter College, said she was shocked that people had been allowed to return to the area while the fires burned.

"They let people back in too soon," she said. "This is purely about the economic health of downtown."

PoconoSki.com

Win a Ski & Stay Package!

Click Here to get started!



PENNSYLVANIA
memories last a lifetime

Original Publication Date: 2/2/02

Related Stories

- [Judge Nixes Church Bid to Evict Printer](#) (2/2/02)

What do you think? Post your comments on our [Forums](#).

Daily News Services

Click on any service and enjoy shopping online!



[Back to Top](#)

