

From: Brown Pete F NSSC  
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2002 11:12 AM  
To: #NSSC ALL HANDS ONSITE  
Subject: All Hands #431: Update on Mold Remediation in NAVSEA Navy Yard Buildings

Folks

This is to update you on the status of our efforts to resolve the issues related to mold in our buildings.

As you know we have observed mold in localized areas in several of our buildings. We have been working with NAVFAC and Naval District Washington to address these problems, but the response to this point has not been as timely as we had hoped. Part of the problem has been the lack of clearly established industry standards or Navy guidelines. Since this is a developing and complex area of science and regulation, I have tasked our Command Environment and Safety Office (SEA 00T) to take a leading role in resolution of our issues. SEA 00T is coordinating with our Command Support Office, SEA 09A to expedite the remediation and ensure that mold problems are properly remediated and employee concerns are addressed and documented.

We are following EPA and other authoritative source recommendations to address the problem. Specifically, we are ensuring that the source of moisture has been corrected, are using certified mold remediators to conduct the remediation and once we have signed off on the work, completing the reconstruction and removing the containments.

We have reviewed with NAVFAC what they have done to correct the sources of the moisture and are getting from NAVFAC written reports that explain what the source of the moisture was and how the moisture and its source was eliminated.

We have also reached an agreement with the contractors and NAVFAC regarding use of certified mold remediators and work in under way in each affected building to complete the remediation. After the work is completed, both NAVSEA and NAVFAC inspect the space and the certified mold remediator issues a written report of the work that was done. Once the work is accepted, then reconstruction begins. The containments will remain in place until after the reconstruction is done in order to keep dust and other construction debris from our work areas.

We will also be providing information on the NAVSEA intranet about the remediation work, how to document any illnesses or injuries that you believe are related to the mold, and links to current information on mold from authoritative sources. While we are assembling the information for the intranet, SEA 00T personnel are available to answer questions individually or at all hands or staff meetings. The POC in 00T is LCDR Al Wong. We can also arrange for individuals to speak with an occupational health doctor regarding the risks from mold exposure and specific symptoms.

It is very important that you report any situations you encounter in our buildings where there is moisture or water damage, so we can prevent future mold growth. Please continue to use the 781-HELP number or email HELP DESK (Facilities) NAVSEA NSSC to report any problems.

This has been a frustrating experience for all of us, but we believe that we may have turned the corner on getting it addressed and have the

remediations and reconstructions completed within the next 30 days. Your patience has been and is greatly appreciated.

Pete Brown  
Executive Director