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Dormitory Authority Selects Firm to Clean and Demolish Fiterman Hall, A CUNY Building Damaged on September 11th

ALBANY, N.Y. – PAL Environmental Safety Corp. of Long Island City has been selected to remediate hazardous materials and take down Fiterman Hall of the Borough of Manhattan Community College, Dormitory Authority officials announced today.

Dormitory Authority Executive Director Maryanne Gridley and Managing Director of Construction James M. Gray said today that the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) has signed the Letter of Intent. DASNY is supervising the decontamination and deconstruction of Fiterman Hall on behalf of the City University of New York (CUNY). The contract value is $16,313,000.

Fiterman Hall, at 30 West Broadway, was damaged in the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center when falling debris from the collapse of 7 World Trade Center ripped holes in the south façade. The building is contaminated with mold and WTC dust. The 15-story building had served as an extension of the 199 Chambers Street campus of the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) since 1993.

“PAL’s familiarity with the building and its low-bid price made it the best choice for this project,” said Dormitory Authority Executive Director Maryanne Gridley. “Now that PAL is on board, we are proceeding to the next step in this project – submitting a proposal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to erect scaffolding around the building.”

The project team of CUNY and DASNY is committed to a safe and efficient deconstruction and rebuilding of Fiterman Hall, working with regulatory agencies and the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC) and ensuring public notice and outreach on all significant activities.

DASNY will propose to EPA shortly a proposal to scaffold the building separate from the pending proposal to decontaminate and deconstruct the building. Mr. Gray said PAL is working now with environmental consultants and DASNY project management staff to complete the decontamination proposal as well.

Mr. Gray said he expects the decontamination of Fiterman Hall and its safe demolition to take eight months to one year, after EPA approval of the decontamination and deconstruction plan. Construction of the replacement Fiterman Hall is expected to be completed in late 2009, he added.

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DASNY Selects Firm to Clean and Demolish Fiterman Hall (continued)

“This is an aggressive construction schedule,” Mr. Gray said, “and we are committed to working with our environmental specialists, construction managers, architects and the regulatory agencies to provide CUNY with a new Fiterman Hall for BMCC students.”

The authorized budget for the entire project is $187.5 million, which includes the PAL contract. Funding for the decontamination, deconstruction, and rebuilding is coming from the New York State and City budgets, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, a portion of New York City’s allocation from the Federal Emergency Management Office (FEMA), the September 11th Fund, and a property insurance settlement.

The firm of Pei Cobb Fried and Partners of New York City has been developing the design of the new Fiterman Hall since early 2005, Mr. Gray said. “The good progress Pei Cobb has made on the design will allow the rebuilding phase to begin as soon as the last remnants of Fiterman Hall are disposed of in an environmentally safe manner,” he said. The construction manager to build the new Fiterman Hall is Hunter-Roberts Construction Group of New York City.

Fiterman Hall was built in 1959. Originally a 300,000-square-foot office building, it was donated to BMCC in 1993 by Miles and Shirley Fiterman – then the largest donation ever to a community college. At the time of the terrorist attacks, DASNY and CUNY had virtually completed a total rehabilitation of Fiterman Hall, including extensive asbestos abatement. After September 11th, DASNY, CUNY, the City of New York, and others took steps to clean out most of the debris, close breaches in the south façade, and stabilize the structure.

PAL Environmental Safety Corp. has been in business for 13 years and is headquartered at 11-02 Queens Plaza South, Long Island City. Its gross sales for 2005 were $29.97 million.

The Dormitory Authority will make a presentation on the project status at Community Board 1’s regular meeting on September 18th.

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Website: http://lowermanhattan.info/construction/project_updates/fiterman_hall_39764.aspx