Good morning and thank you all for attending this ninth meeting of the Fiterman Hall Community Advisory Committee. Let me start things off by updating the committee on some recent developments.

On March 7, the regulators, including USEPA, New York State Department of Labor and New York City Department of Environmental Protection, approved our plans for the remediation of Fiterman Hall. Our initial regulatory submittal for the next phase of the work, the deconstruction of Fiterman Hall, was made on April 25. The remediation approval letters, the approved remediation documents and the deconstruction plan submission are all posted on the BMCC website. A link to the website can be found on the one-page Agenda for today’s meeting.

Since receiving regulatory approval, we have built up our work force on the jobsite and are now working two full shifts per day, beginning at 7AM and continuing to 12:30 at night, with approximately 50 tractor trailer loads of debris having been removed from the building so far. We have also completed the setup and configuration of the decontamination and waste storage facilities, the installation of additional negative pressure ventilation equipment, completed the negative air shutoffs, and the cleaning of Fire Stair C. The completion of this preparatory work has enabled us to begin the gross removals in the building, beginning with the 13th, 14th and 15th Floors. We are continually conducting air sampling compliance monitoring both inside and outside the building, the results of which continue to be made available on BMCC’s website. EPA has inspected the site and passed us on our first work area clearance visual inspection for Stairwell C. EPA inspectors have been inspecting the site every week and to date there have been no negative reports.
FDNY continues to participate actively in our project. In addition to their periodic inspections of every 15 days, we meet every two weeks with FDNY representatives as well as EPA, DEP, NYS Department of Labor and New York City Department of Buildings representatives, all of whom have offered numerous, excellent recommendations on how to maintain the highest levels of safety throughout our project.

We have also met with The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, OCME, in an effort to coordinate their search for potential human remains on the roof with our remediation work. At this point in time we anticipate OCME beginning their investigations on the roof of Fiterman Hall in late June or July.

As most of you must know by now, our plans to take down the existing building call for the remediation to be fully complete before the deconstruction commences. Our schedule shows completion of the remediation by the end of the summer and completion of the deconstruction by the first quarter of 2009. At that time we anticipate moving directly into the construction of the new Fiterman Hall.

While this is the plan we have been working to accomplish, our ability to proceed with this schedule for the deconstruction of the existing structure and construction of the new Fiterman Hall is completely contingent upon funding for the new Fiterman Hall being provided in matching amounts by the City and the State. Simply put, to make all of this happen on schedule we need an additional $78.7 million from the City. We currently have available $142.7 million, which includes $62.7 million of insurance funds, $20 million of grant money, and $60 million of FEMA funding. I am very pleased to report
that the State has appropriated their full share of the amount needed for this project - $98.67 million, and the City has put another $20.8 million in FY’10. We need the City to move the $20.8 million to FY’09 and appropriate the final $78.7 million, so that we can build the new Fiterman Hall in an efficient and timely manner. Without having sufficient matching State and City funding for the construction of the new building, DASNY is unable to award construction contracts for the replacement building, and the schedule that we have been working hard to adhere to will be lengthened considerably. We have advocated that the City include the needed funding in the Executive Budget scheduled to be adopted in June, in order to match the State funding for the construction of Fiterman Hall.

Benn Lewis of Airtek Environmental, our environmental consultants, and Andy Bachman of Tishman/LiRo, our construction managers, will now provide you with a more detailed update of recent developments both on and off the site

Benn.....