

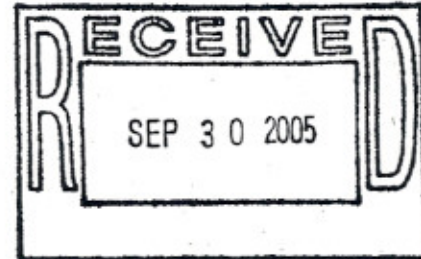


GSA National Capital Region

September 30, 2005

[REDACTED]
U. S. Department of the Interior

[REDACTED]
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240



REF: Modernization of the Department of the Interior
GSA Contract No. GS11P01MAC0540

SUBJECT: EPA Observations

Dear [REDACTED]

GSA is in receipt of both your letter dated, July 13, 2005 and the EPA letter dated, May 18, 2005, regarding the EPA walk through of the Modernization project.

The following comments correspond to the previously numbered items in both your letter and the EPA observations.

1. **Inoperative relief and exhaust air fans:** The Department is correct in stating that the relief air fan and the office outdoor air handler should be operated at the same time. Additionally, the general exhaust fan should be operated when the relief air fan is operated as well. Several RFI's from the Contractor have been issued on this specific issue and the proper sequence is in the hands of the contractor. The initial problem was one of a typo in the contract documents that indicated some items being controlled in conjunction with the wrong air handlers, once discovered the correction was sent to the Controls Contractor and has since been corrected. The proper sequencing has also been reiterated for both the Wing currently underway and all future Wings as well.
2. **Negatively Pressurized Construction Zone:** As you know, negative pressure continues to be a goal for the project and at the time of the EPA visit was underway in all areas of Hazardous Material removals as required by the contract. Achieving Negative pressure during some time frames in the project is not possible due to the removal of the windows for follow on work. We have asked the Contractor to consider other methods of providing temporary heating and cooling to the space for his purposes during construction to avoid the need to transfer air from the occupied side to the construction side of the separation barricade. We will be glad to discuss any suggestions you may have regarding this issue with you and your team as the need arises.

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3. **Short Circuiting of the M-floor Outdoor Air Intake and Relief Exhaust Air:**

I have asked the design Engineer of record to provide the project background and design parameters that have apparently resulted in this concern.

“In order to evaluate the spacing of the outside air intake and the exhaust air plenums it important to understand the construction of the actual plenums. The outside air plenum has louvered sections that serve more than just the out door air unit. The section closest to the exhaust fan is the section that makes air available to the SPP Room condensing units. Those units will only operate if the building chilled water system is not operating. By extension then, if the building system chilled water system is not operating the out door air handling unit is inoperative. In turn, if that unit is not running then the relief air system will not be functioning. As long at the mechanical space is not in an excessive temperature situation the exhaust fan will not be operating either. The louver sections that actually draw the out door air in to the building are more than 3048 mm (10'-0") from the exhaust plenum.”

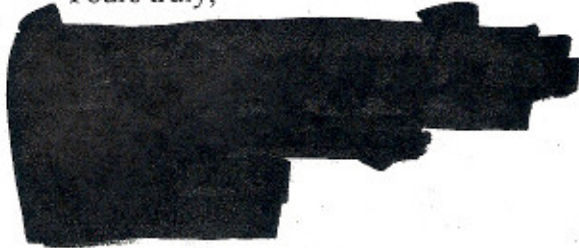
Also, as you have previously mentioned, historic considerations have played a role in the design, as well as, the air being exhausted at the M-level is that which has been breathed and exhaled within the normal office environment and is not from any toilet rooms, laboratories or other spaces having objectionable odors or chemicals.

4. **Poorly Sealed Blank off Plate:** Shortly after notification, GSA/CQM personnel reviewed the situation with the Mechanical contractor. Only one example of this incident was found and it was immediately sealed with a proper ductwork sealant on the entire perimeter in question.
5. **Limiting Storage of Materials on M floor:** As you have observed, storage space is always at a premium in a building such as the DOI Main Building. The contractor has been asked to limit their storage of materials to a more confined area while the Modernization is underway. Also, they have recently completed an overall clean up of the Wing 6 area of M floor, in order to completely turn it over to the DOI. We will continue to monitor this situation and encourage DOI to bring to our attention any areas that seem to be getting out of hand.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding these issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. As you are aware, the course of construction is a fluid one and will require due diligence from all parties to continue to provide a safe working environment for the occupants during the continuation of this very important and complex project.

Thank you for your observations and suggestions, GSA looks forward to a continuing improvement process through out the life of the project.

Yours truly,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and name of the sender.

Cc:  GSA
 - Jacobs
Project Office Files