



JUN 29 1988

Local 2050

MEMORANDUM

Subject: 5 U.S.C. 7114(b)(4) Information Request

From: J. William *Bill* *Hirzo*, President  
National Federation of Federal Employees Local 2050

To: James Jackson, Management Representative  
Labor-Management Committee

This is another request for information related to the carpet problem now plaguing EPA Headquarters. The original request for this information was filed with you on May 31, 1988. Since negotiations on a number of aspects of this situation are hanging fire, and since the health of our bargaining unit is in deeper jeopardy now than when the original request was filed with you, I expect a written response to the substance of this request within five working days.

Please provide the following information:

1. The number of rolls (or other quantity basis) of carpet purchased for Headquarters use and received after about August, 1987.
2. The name and address of the carpet manufacturer of this purchase lot.
3. The amount, if any, of this purchase lot remaining in storage and intended for installation at EPA Headquarters.
4. The amount of this carpet laid at Headquarters: the locations (ie. room numbers, etc.), amounts and dates of each installation of this carpet.
5. The amount of this carpet laid using adhesive and the location and installation dates for that adhesive-laid carpet along with the identity of the adhesive and the identity of the adhesive manufacturer.
6. Copies of all reports of health effects related to this carpet and any analysis of those reports in the Agency's possession.
7. Copies of all complaints related to "carpet odor" in the Agency's possession, regardless of source or date of complaint. In particular, please provide copies of files related to such complaints at Headquarters during 1981, 1982 and 1983.

8. Copies of any estimate made by the Agency or an Agency contractor of the cost of removal, replacement, etc. of that carpet.

9. Copies of any estimates of cost of health-related claims made as a result of employee exposures to this carpet.

10. Copies of all correspondence between the Agency and the carpet manufacturer or sales agent related in any way to complaints about this carpet.

11. Copies of all correspondence between the Agency and the Department of Labor related to complaints from bargaining unit people about this carpet.

This information is required for the purpose of negotiations, pursuant to the cited section of the U.S. Code.

cc: David Weitzman  
William Finister  
Charles Grizzle  
Lee Thomas

Recd 8/17/88  
Lmc mty NE 302  
Unit office  
ATTACHMENT

### CARPET INFORMATION

1. Since August 1987, we have purchased approximately 32,000 sq. yds. of Grand Entrance II (office carpet) and 12,000 sq. yds. of Tuff One III (corridor carpet) for use in the Washington area.
2. The vendor for all of this carpet is EBSCO Interiors, 920 41st Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062.
3. There is approximately 20,000 sq. yds. of carpet in the warehouse now. This is made up of about 14,000 sq. yds. of Grand Entrance II (office carpet) and 6,000 sq. yds. of Tuff One III (corridor carpet).

You will note that the 44,000 sq. yds. purchased (item 1) less the 27,000 sq. yds. installed (item 4) does not equal the 20,000 sq. yds. remaining discussed here. This is because the carpet installed numbers include some carpet that was in our inventory in August. We were unable to distinguish between the new carpet and the on hand carpet in our installation figures so to help assure that we identified where all of the new carpet had been installed, we listed all carpet installations.

4. The location, amount, and method of installation (glued down or tacking strips) of carpet installations subsequent to August 1987 are listed below by building. The notations GD and TS, stand for glued down and tacking strips respectively.

### FAIRCHILD BUILDING

GD	Corridors - 2,3,6,7, and 8	Jan - Feb '88	2,020 sq yds
GD	Remaining areas - 6 and 7	Jan - Feb '88	5,322

### NE MALL

TS	Ground Floor and Basement	Oct '87	1,873
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### EAST AND WEST TOWERS

GD	Corridors	Dec '87. - Jan '88	4,580
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### WEST TOWER

TS	1107 - 1109	Dec '87	- 200
TS	11th floor corridor	Nov '87	300
TS	909, 911, 913, 917	Jan '88	506

TS 737, 739, 741  
 TS 425  
 TS 227

Oct '87 344  
 Mar '88 75  
 Nov '87 335

MALL

TS 3241  
 TS 3305  
 GD 3317  
 TS 3103  
 GD 3603  
 GD 3609  
 GD 3617  
 TS 2806 & 2812  
 TS 2616 & 2615  
 GD 2632 & 2836  
 GD 2631  
 GD 2627  
 TS 2827  
 TS 2823  
 TS 2817  
 TS 3424  
 TS 2811  
 TS 2708

Apr '88 177  
 Mar '88 75  
 Feb '88 456  
 Feb '88 100  
 Dec '87 240  
 Dec '87 106  
 Jan '88 67  
 Oct '87 1,328  
 Oct '87 280  
 Feb '88 290  
 Dec '87 172  
 Dec '87 45  
 Mar '88 265  
 Mar '88 120  
 Mar '88 220  
 Apr '88 31  
 Apr '88 250  
 Apr '88 100

MALL Cont'd

GD S.E. 301  
 GD S.E. 300  
 GD S.E. 302  
 GD S.E. 312  
 GD S.E. 315  
 GD S.E. 323  
 GD S.E. 243  
 GD S.E. 240  
 GD S.E. 240  
 GD 2434  
 GD S.E. 205  
 GD S.E. 278  
 GD S.E. 264  
 GD S.E. 256  
 GD S.E. 242 - 248  
 TS S.E. 273 - 226

Oct '87 54  
 Nov '87 27  
 Nov '87 27  
 Dec '87 408  
 Dec '87 150  
 Dec '87 94  
 Nov '87 114  
 Jan '88 52  
 Dec '87 30  
 Nov '87 166  
 Feb '88 160  
 Feb '88 137  
 Feb '88 555  
 Feb '88 630  
 Feb '88 633  
 Apr '88 698

EAST TOWER

TS 1216  
 TS 1207  
 TS 1209  
 TS 1121, 1123  
 GD 1011, 1013  
 TS 1039  
 TS 1033  
 TS 1029

Jan '88 23  
 Jan '88 28  
 Jan '88 316  
 Mar '88 160  
 Apr '88 124  
 Feb '88 64  
 Feb '88 64  
 Feb '88 27

TS	1025	Feb '88	27
TS	642	Jan '88	67
TS	513	Nov '87	181
TS	500 area	Apr '88	134
TS	315	Mar '88	152
GD	Basement	Jan '88	575
TS	Corridor 7,9,10 & 11	Apr '88	<u>1,500</u>
TOTAL			27,254 (sq. yds.)

5. The adhesive used was #H-517 Latex Multi-Purpose Adhesive. The Manufacturer is Chicago Adhesive Products Company, 4658 West 6th Street, Chicago, Illinois. The locations where the adhesive has been used are identified in the list provided for item 4 and are identified by "GD" (glued down)
6. We do not have any reports of health effects per se in our possession. However, we have attempted to interview every employee that we have identified as having complained about the air or odor in Waterside Mall. Our Occupational Health and Safety Staff identified employees to be interviewed through calls to OHSS, sign-up sheets at Facilities meetings, and referrals by co-workers.

The interview document is a mixture of closed and open-ended questions, utilizing a NIOSH air quality survey format. Information was collected from February 12, 1988 to May 26, 1988, and includes winter, spring and early summer conditions.

The statistical data collected is as follows:

- ° 76 employees have been interviewed. Of this number, 28 (37%) have been males, and 48 (63%) have been females.
- ° Environmental complaints have included the following:

a. renovation problems	75%
b. too stuffy	72%
c. too hot	57%
d. dusty/dirty	49%
e. odors (primarily carpet odors)	45%
f. too cold	34%
g. too crowded	8%
h. smoky bathrooms	8%
i. noise	7%
- ° The environmental complaints were registered on a daily basis, with the worst times noted as occurring on Mondays during the late mornings and late afternoons.

° Health problems and/or symptoms included the following:

- a. headaches 61%
- b. fatigue 46%
- c. sinus congestion 42%
- d. burning eyes 37%
- e. sore throat 36%
- f. increased illness 30%
- g. skin problems 24%
- h. lung congestion/breathing problems 24%
- i. confusion/disorientation 22%
- j. nausea 21%
- k. contact lens problems 21%

° In some cases, employees complaining of symptoms that developed at work indicated that the symptoms did not decrease until 24 to 48 hours away from the office environment.

° Forty three percent of those interviewed had a history of allergies or pre-existing medical conditions.

7. Again, we have no written complaints in our possession. However, as stated in our response to item 6, 45% of the interviewees complained of carpet odor. None of the complaints that we have recorded based on the interviews were from the 1981 to 1983 time frame. In fact, there were no complaints that we are aware of about carpet odors until after August 1987.

8. Our estimates for removal and replacement of the 27,254 sq. yds. of carpet installed subsequent to August 1987 consist of three components. The removal of carpet, the purchase and installation of alternative floor coverings, and the labor cost to move people out while the replacement occurs. These costs are shown below:

Cost of Carpet Removal

	Glued Down	Not Glued Down
Estimated cost/sq. yd.	= \$2.75	\$1.50
Sq. yds. installed	= x 17,234	x 10,020
Estimated costs	\$ 47,394	\$ 15,030

Total Removal Cost \$62,424

The cost of replacement depends on the alternative floor covering selected. Shown below are four possible options and the cost of each.

Replacement Options

Option 1. Woven Carpet

Material "M" (\$/sq. yd.)	=	25-35
Installation "I" (\$/sq. yd.)		6

Option 2. Reinforced vinyl composite

Material	=	22-28
Installation	=	6

Option 3. \*Asphalt tiles

Material	=	5-6
Installation	=	5

Option 4. †Broad loom (another brand)

Material	=	10-12
Installation	=	6

\* Asphalt tiling is the basic floor treatment to be provided by Town Center Management Corp. under the terms of EPA's lease. The cost here represents replacement since carpeting and carpet adhesives have been used on the tiles. NOTE, this cost does not include removing damaged "original tiles".

† Over 90% of broad loom carpeting uses styrene/butadiene latex adhesives. Remainder is made up in options listed.

Replacement Costs for Options

		[( "M" + "I" ) x (sq. yds. installed)] = Replacement Cost
Option 1.	\$31 x 27,254	= \$ 844,874
Option 2.	\$28 x 27,254	= \$ 763,112
Option 3.	\$10 x 27,254	= \$ 272,540
Option 4.	\$16 x 27,254	= \$ 436,064

The final component is the cost of clearing offices out so that carpet can be removed and replaced. This involves moving employee's boxes out of the space, disconnecting power to and dismantling Harter walls and furniture, returning and reassembling Harter walls and furniture, and moving employee's boxes back into the office space. We estimate that this will cost approximately \$750,000 for the 2,000 employees involved. This estimate does not count the cost of the employees' lost time while they are packing, waiting for carpet to be replaced, and unpacking.

- no response  
# 9, 10, 11

- vendor given  
not manufacturer

- report summaries  
given, not reports  
(w/ room numbers)