



TO: Berg / Bailey Residents
FROM: Douglas R. Wermedal, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
RE: Air Quality Update
DATE: 4-30-02

I am writing today to give you the final results of the testing and analysis we have done in Berg and Bailey. We are pleased to report that the scientific evidence demonstrates that at no time were any mold species that are considered dangerous found in the living spaces of Berg or Bailey. The living spaces include apartments, corridors, multipurpose rooms and other public areas.

An independent industrial hygienist firm performed surface swipe tests in each apartment, and the corridors and public areas on October 30, 2001 and again in each apartment on November 15, 2001 to detect the presence of mold. These swipe samples were sent to a separate independent lab for analysis. Results of the lab analysis were sent to Dr. John Schumpert, an Occupational Health Physician, for review. The outcome of that external review process is that NO surface swipe sample contained mold species that are toxigenic, such as the molds commonly referred to as black mold.

There were molds found on the cold water pipe insulation above the ceilings. That insulation was removed by a contractor and SDSU staff during Winter Break. However, none of this mold appeared to be loose or "dusty", which would allow the transmission of the mold to room/building occupants. The mold on the pipe insulation was not connected to the ventilation system in any way and was not transmitted to the living areas. Containment structures were also in place to prevent a release of mold during removal. Please note that swipe tests show not only the current environment at the time of testing, but also detect if any molds have been present over the last several months.

When doing indoor air quality investigations, one also looks for patterns of mold concentrations that might be caused by a "source". No patterns of this type were found. During all the investigations of Berg and Bailey, there was never an "indicator species" multiplication. Copies of any of the reports are available to students, parents, or the public by contacting the Environmental Health and Safety Office in Shepard Hall 153 C (phone 688-4264 or email gary_yarrow@sdstate.edu).

On behalf of the University and the Department of Residential Life I would like to thank you for your continued patience and understanding as air quality and mechanical concerns were addressed in your building. We have acted as quickly as possible while trying to reduce the inconvenience to students by completing the bulk of the work in the apartments during breaks in the academic year. Again, thank you for your patience and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.