Overview of Records

Repository:
New York State Archives

Summary:
This series documents the effectiveness of decontamination cleanup efforts related to the complex and extensive accidental PCB contamination of the Binghamton State Office Building, which occurred as the result of an intense fire on February 5, 1981. Records chiefly consist of technical information and scientific analysis information, press releases, and correspondence documenting the cleanup, decontamination, and reoccupancy of the building.

Creator:
New York (State). Center for Environmental Health.

Title:
Binghamton State Office Building cleanup files

Inclusive Dates:
1987-1995

Quantity:
0.5 cubic feet

Series Number:
22426
Administrative History:
On February 5, 1981, an intense fire near a transformer in the basement of the Binghamton State Office Building (BSOB) spread soot containing toxic PCBs throughout the entire building. Multiple cleanups of the residue and complete decontamination procedures were performed on the building which remained closed until October 11, 1994. While the initial cost of constructing the building in 1972 was $17 million, the cleanup efforts cost $53 million. The BSOB fire is considered the first indoor environmental disaster.

Scope and Contact Note:
This series documents the effectiveness of decontamination cleanup efforts related to the complex and extensive accidental PCB contamination of the Binghamton State Office Building. Records chiefly consist of technical information and scientific analysis information. Types of records include laboratory reports, testing plans, statistical health information for employees presumed to have been exposed to dioxins during the initial incident, environmental sampling reports and assessments, and cleaning certifications. The series also contains press releases and correspondence documenting the cleanup, decontamination, and reoccupancy of the building.

Use of Records:

Access Restrictions:
There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of the material.

Related Information:

Access Terms:

Subjects:
- Environmental sampling--New York (State)
- Public buildings--New York (State)--Binghamton
- Polychlorinated biphenyls--Decontamination
- Dioxins--Sampling

Corporate Names:
- New York (State). Center for Environmental Health.
- New York State Archives
- New York (State). Department of Health

• Binghamton State Office Building (N.Y.)

Genres:
• Reports
• Statistics

Geographic Names:
• Binghamton (N.Y.)
• New York (State)

Functions:
• Documenting building remediation