

JOHN D. DINGELL
15TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

CHAIRMAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2215

September 10, 2008

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The Honorable Robert A. Sturgell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Acting Administrator Sturgell,

I write to you today regarding the ongoing issue of black mold and poor indoor air quality in the air traffic control facility at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. As you may know, black mold was discovered at the air traffic control facility during an inspection by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in 2004. Since that time the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has made remediation efforts, however, the success of these efforts has been in question. Not only has the situation at the airport tower affected the health and well being of the air traffic control specialists, but it also continues to be a distraction from the important work they do at the airport.

The FAA has repeatedly stated that mold and moisture projects have been completed and there is no mold in the facility. In February, May and June 2008, mold was reportedly found in the same areas where the mold was initially discovered and where the agency has stated to have corrected the mold problem. New areas of mold were also reportedly discovered on other floors during the June 2008 inspection.

As the federal representative of Detroit Metropolitan Airport, I am concerned about the possible effects the long-term exposure to black mold and poor indoor air quality on the employees at the airport and the safety and efficiency of our national airspace. Therefore I would ask that you please answer the following questions with regard to this matter:

1. Has the FAA conducted an employee health survey of the building occupants at the Detroit Air Traffic Control Facility? If so, when was the survey conducted and what were the results of this survey? If not, please explain why.
2. Excluding visual inspections, has the FAA conducted a detailed inspection of the facility and tested for mold since the initial remediation efforts? If so, when were the inspection and tests conducted and what were the results? If not, please explain why.

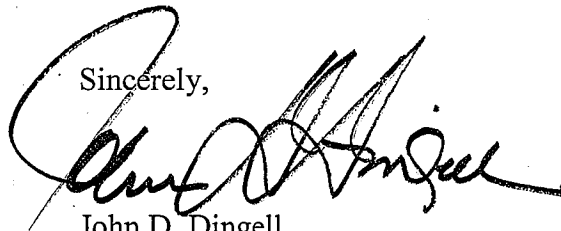
3. If these tests or future tests indicate that harmful mold is present, what actions does the FAA intend to take to ensure that mold is eliminated from the air traffic control facility and that air quality is improved?
4. What continuing precautions are to be taken to protect the building occupants from future indoor air quality issues?

As the Acting Administrator of the FAA, you know well that the effectiveness of our air traffic control facilities is critical to the delivery of the national airspace system. I am concerned that controllers at Detroit Metropolitan Airport continue to experience health issues potentially caused by mold. In recent weeks, three controllers have reportedly had to leave their jobs due to these issues. These types of distractions have the potential to not only harm the effectiveness of the air traffic controllers at Detroit Metro Airport, but also the effectiveness of the facility as a whole.

Given the sensitive nature of this situation, I would ask that you please fax a response to my Washington, DC office at (202) 226-0371 no later than September 22, 2008. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kimberlee Trzeciak of my staff at (202) 225-4071.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Dingell", written in a cursive style.

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress