

**Deleted in February 2007, from being audited by the
Federal Government Accountability Office:**

"Christine M B Fishkin" <FishkinC@gao.gov>

04/30/2009 03:41 PM

To: CIAQ@EPA

Cc: "Krista B Anderson" <AndersonKB@GAO.GOV>, "Nicolas A Sloss"
<SlossN@GAO.GOV>

Subject: Re: Mold Report Follow-up

Hi, here's our response to your question about the scope of GAO mold study:

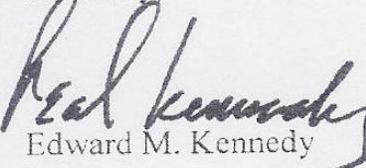
When GAO receives a congressional request for a GAO review, we meet with the requester's staff during job design and reach agreement on the scope and methodology for the review. Considerations for the design of the review include the priorities of the requester, the amount of resources involved, and GAO's statutory audit and access authority. The GAO report on mold reflects the agreement we reached on this review.
C:\Documents and Settings\pjalbe02\My Documents\Ciaq\GAO Mold Rpt\CFishkin-GAO Reply on Scope 30-APR-09.doc

- What medical and scientific standards are used in determining the admissibility of evidence of both acute and persistent health consequences resulting from exposure to mold? Which individuals and organizations have promulgated these standards and what, if any, conflicts of interest exist regarding these standards?

We look forward to your response to this request. If you have any questions, please let me know, or contact David Bowen at (202) 224-7675.

With great respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy

Jury Finds "Toxic Mold" Harmed Oregon Family, Builder's Arbitration Clause Not Binding

PRWeb (March 9, 2005)
by Sharon Kramer

Oregon City, OR - The case is a first in the Northwest to award personal injury damages to a family exposed to toxic mold in a newly built home. This verdict is significant because it holds construction companies responsible when they negligently build sick buildings...

.... a national political think-tank, paid GlobalTox \$40,000 to write a position paper regarding the potential health risks of toxic mold exposure. Although much medical research finds otherwise, the controversial piece claims that it is not plausible the types of illnesses experienced by the Haynes family and reported by thousands from across the US, could be caused by "toxic mold" exposure in homes, schools or office buildings.

In 2003, with the involvement of the US Chamber of Commerce and ex-developer, US Congressman Gary Miller (R-CA), the GlobalTox paper was disseminated to the real estate, mortgage and building industries' associations. A version of the Manhattan Institute commissioned piece may also be found as a position statement on the website of a United States medical policy-writing body, the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

October 20, 2006

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General
United States Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Walker:

I'm writing to request a study of the U.S. government's efforts to minimize and mitigate illnesses associated with human exposure to mold in housing and other indoor environments. Human exposure to environmental mold and the toxins they produce are known to result in allergic and other hypersensitivity reactions in healthy individuals, and there is growing evidence that a subpopulation of otherwise healthy individuals can, after exposure to environmental mold, develop severe persistent health problems. These health effects, coupled with the unprecedented rebuilding of flooded residences and businesses along the coasts of New Orleans, Mississippi and Louisiana could trigger a significant public health crisis.

In your study, please consider the following questions:

- What are the respective roles of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies in establishing standards for minimizing and mitigating mold-related exposure?
- How has the unprecedented damage to existing housing and building stocks which resulted from the 2005 hurricane season caused these roles to change?
- To what extent have these roles been coordinated across federal agencies?
- What are the federal and state statutes that govern construction/renovation practices in reference to minimizing and mitigating mold-related problems, and what enforcement mechanisms exist?
- What are the federal and state requirements for disclosure of prior evidence of environmental mold?

- In the years since the last GAO report on Indoor Pollution, has the understanding by the medical community and scientific community of mold-related health problems changed?

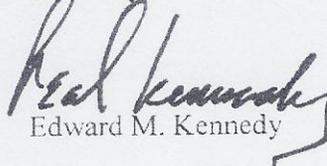
Many examples of mold-related personal injury, property damage and worker compensation claims have been reported in the press. The general perception is that mold-related litigation peaked several years ago and has been declining since then. However, little systematic examination exists of mold-related litigation, mold-related insurance products, and the role of the insurance industry in influencing mold-related litigation. Please consider in your study:

- What is the extent of mold-related personal injury and property damage claims in the United States? Have these claims been increasing or decreasing?
- What efforts have been undertaken by federal agencies to develop, establish, or fund research into a reliable standardized environmental sampling technique to be used in suspected mold exposures?
- What medical and scientific standards are used in determining the admissibility of evidence of both acute and persistent health consequences resulting from exposure to mold? Which individuals and organizations have promulgated these standards and what, if any, conflicts of interest exist regarding these standards?

We look forward to your response to this request. If you have any questions, please let me know, or contact David Bowen at (202) 224-7675.

With great respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy