

## INTRODUCTION TO DECEMBER 2019

### AIR SAMPLING REPORTS

In December 2019 168 air samples, plus 24 blanks for quality assurance of the sampling, were collected throughout 17 buildings at the complex. Samples were analyzed for six target metals: arsenic, barium, cadmium, lead, selenium, and silver, resulting in 1,008 data points. All but 41 results were below the limits of detection of the analytical method: 2 had detectable levels of lead, 33 detected cadmium, and 6 detectable barium

For airborne lead, GSA Region 6 uses 1.0 micrograms per cubic meter of air ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for an annual average as its action level, which conforms to [World Health Organization guidelines](#). For airborne cadmium, GSA Region 6 uses the WHO guideline of 0.15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . **Two sample results out of the 1,008 exceeded these internal action levels.**

- The first (1.8 micrograms of lead per cubic meter of air) was collected from Building 104E. A tenant in this building had moved out, which may have exposed areas that were not routinely cleaned.
- The second (0.21 micrograms of cadmium per cubic meter of air) was collected from a hallway of Building 105F.

The regulatory limit for occupational exposure to cadmium is 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter of air. **The other 32 samples that resulted in detectable levels of cadmium ranging from 0.074 to 0.1 micrograms per cubic meter of air, which are below the recommended limit.**

Although there are regulatory limits for occupational exposure to barium, the WHO does not provide guidance on levels for airborne barium. **The six samples that resulted in detectable levels of barium were well below OSHA's PEL of 500  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .**

GSA is working with the housekeeping and industrial hygiene contractors to clean the areas and continue monitoring.

If you have any questions concerning these data, please email [r6environmental@gsa.gov](mailto:r6environmental@gsa.gov) and GSA will provide responses from the appropriate experts.