



New York City Department of Buildings
280 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Patricia Lancaster, FAIA, Commissioner

Port Authority
7 WTC

Fatma Amer, P.E.
Acting Deputy Commissioner
Technical Affairs
Phone: (212) 566-3188
Fax: (212) 566-3796
fatmaa@buildings.nyc.gov

September 28, 2004

Acting Chief Patrick McNally
NYC Fire Department
Bureau of Fire Prevention
9 MetroTech Center, 3rd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: 7 World Trade Center, Manhattan
Proposal for installation of Automatic Breech
Control Valves (ABCV's) as well as other
enhancements to the Fire Standpipe/Sprinkler
System

Dear Chief McNally:

This Department has received a copy of a September 10, 2004 letter from Mr. Robert Benazzi, P.E. of JB & B Consulting Engineers, which has been addressed to the NYC Fire Department in regards to the above referenced subject.

Please be advised that the Department of Buildings has no objection to the applicant's proposal as the "concept" of employing ABCV's satisfies the intent of Reference Standard RS 17-1. We would require compliance with the following additional conditions:

- Special signage indicating that the ABCV's are present was recommended. The preferred location for the signage would be at the Fire Command Center or the Fire Pump Room.
- Position indicators should be incorporated into the design of the ABCV's
- A means of testing and maintenance for the ABCV's would need to be developed and documented similar to NFPA 25. All tests and maintenance shall be documented similar to testing dry pipe valves.

However, as the detail criteria of the ABCV's may entail a variation to the existing Fire Department's Standard Operating Procedure, and with the understanding that Mr. Benazzi has presented a demonstration to your Department, we request that you review the aforementioned letter and forward your comments to my office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fatma Amer', written over a horizontal line.

Fatma Amer, P.E.,
Acting Deputy Commissioner

FA:DG:dw

c: Patricia Lancaster, FAIA, Commissioner
Donald Gottfried, P.E., Director, MEA Division
Chief Ed Sanger, NYC Fire Department (FP Index #0409031)
Anthony Hsueh, NYC Fire Department
Robert Benazzi, JB & B



Jaros Baum & Bolles
Consulting Engineers

C O P Y

Robert V. Benazzi
Partner
212.530.9303

Automatic Breech Control Valves
7 World Trade Center
New York, New York
Project No. 12244.0.000

September 10, 2004

Chief of Fire Prevention
New York City Fire Department
9 MetroTech Center
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Sir:

We are the engineers for the above-referenced project and have recommended certain enhancements to the fire protection systems. One of the recommended enhancements was the installation of Automatic Breech Control Valves (ABCV's) on the fire standpipe system to prevent the loss of the stored fire water at the top of the standpipe zones in the event of pipe failure. Since these valves are a new concept and do not have MEA or UL listing, we approached Deputy Commissioner Fatma Amer of the Building Department to discuss with her the application of these valves and the approach to take in order to achieve acceptance of these valves for use in this project. She arranged to have a joint meeting with her department and yours to discuss the benefits and any unforeseen operational detriments to these valves. We made a presentation to her staff only on July 26, 2004, as the invited members of your staff did not attend. At the end of this meeting, the Building Department indicated that they would be willing to issue a conditional MEA number for the valve if the following were done:

1. The valve was tested by the manufacturer and witnessed by an independent testing laboratory.
2. That we make a second presentation to the Fire Department to see if there were any technical or operational problems envisioned by your department that would negate the Building Department's intention to grant MEA listing and approval of the valve installation.

Commissioner Amer arranged the second meeting with your department for August 4, 2004 at which time we presented the valve as well as the other enhancements to Chief Sanger, Anthony Hsieu, John Macek, Joseph Barracato, as well as Deputy Commissioner Shah and Maurice Cosentino of the Building Department. At that meeting, we again discussed the reasons for the installation of this valve, its operation and benefits. We believe that all the questions raised at the meeting were answered and it was our impression that the representatives of your department had no objection to the valves.



Jaros Baum & Bolles
Consulting Engineers

C O P Y

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We would appreciate a letter from you indicating that the valves, as described during the presentation, are acceptable to your department. Upon receipt of the letter, we will arrange with the manufacturers to test the valve in the presence of UL. For your information, UL has already agreed to witness this test. In addition, we will also recommend to NFPA that this valve should be considered in all applications involving captive water storage and would like to reference your support as well as that of the Building Department for such consideration.

As this issue has been on the table for some time, and as the building construction schedule requires the installation of these valves at this time, we would appreciate your prompt response. For your aid, we are also enclosing a copy of the presentation made to your department as well as the letter written to Commissioner Amer after our presentation to the Building Department.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

JAROS, BAUM & BOLLES

RVB:jb

cc: (1) Chief E. Sanger (w/enc.)
(1) Deputy Commissioner F. Amer (w/enc.)
(1) Mr. A. A. DiGiacomo
(1) Mr. R. V. Benazzi
(1) Mr. J. K. McGarity
(1) File

Enc.

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280 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10007-1801
PATRICIA J. LANCASTER, A.I.A., COMMISSIONER
212-566-6000; 212-566-4789 tty
NYC.gov/buildings

Technical Affairs
Fax: (212) 566-3796

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

280 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10007-1801
PATRICIA J. LANCASTER, A.I.A., COMMISSIONER
212-566-5000; 212-566-4769 tty
NYC.gov/buildings

Technical Affairs**Fax: (212) 566-3796****FAX TRANSMISSION
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FROM: Satma Amer DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

UNIT: _____

FAX: _____ TELEPHONE: 212/566-348

COMMENTS: _____

