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Brentwood fumigation meets “no growth” standard; renovations expected to begin

The lengthy and thorough process used in December to exterminate anthrax spores at Washington, DC’s Curseen and Morris (formerly Brentwood) P&DC has met all standards established for the fumigation process.

That’s the word from USPS Engineering VP Tom Day, who announced the results to the USPS Board of Governors today at its monthly meeting.

The Postal Service’s goal throughout the process was to achieve no growth of anthrax spores. Day said that the results of thousands of environmental samples taken at the facility since it was treated with chlorine dioxide gas have met that standard.

This was confirmed by Dr. Vincent Nathan, of the District of Columbia’s Department of Health and co-chair of the independent Environmental Clearance Committee (ECC) established to review the test results following the decontamination process.

“I’m very pleased by the results,” said Day. “USPS worked extremely hard to identify the best technology and processes to decontaminate the Curseen and Morris P&DC. These efforts were worth it. The safety of our employees and the people we serve demands no less.”

Day said that in the next few days USPS expects to have an official okay from the ECC that will confirm the success of the fumigation and allow USPS to move to the next step — renovation of the facility.

As contract workers begin the renovation process, environmental samples will continue to be gathered, Day said. Those samples will be evaluated by the ECC after the building is renovated before a final clearance will be given to reoccupy the building, Day said.

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