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April 1, 2010

Letter No. S3-MTA-0750

Attention: Mr. Kirit Mevawala, PE
Project Manager

Reference: Second Avenue Subway
Contract No. C-26002

Subject: Rats along 92nd and 93rd Streets

Dear Mr. Mevawala,

On Thursday, March 25, 2010 from 11AM-12:30PM, we went on a walk-thru of 92nd and 93rd Streets between First and Second Avenues in response to neighborhood complaints about rats on these streets. In attendance were S3 Field Engineer, a representative from Bugs Are Gone Exterminating, LLC, and the MTA Community Affairs Liaison for the Second Avenue Subway Project.

The walkthrough consisted of walking each side of 92nd and 93rd Streets between First and Second Avenues and along the east side of Second Avenue between 92nd and 93rd Streets. We also looked into the back yards of some buildings. What follows is a summary of our findings and photographs:

1772 Second Avenue

There was no evidence of rats in the back yard. The back yard did have debris and rubbish but no waste types that would be a food source for the rats. Further, there were no signs of burrowing in the dirt in the back yard.

1768 Second Avenue

We found evidence of fresh rat droppings in the back yard and a door leading into the courtyard was open. There was a gap under the door fronting 92nd Street that was large enough for rats to travel through. We also noticed several holes near the building on the 92nd Street side, namely near the traffic signal base, street-level gratings and the cellar door grating. These holes should be baited then sealed. We also noticed several bags of trash and an abandoned ironing board near the entrance to 1768 Second Avenue.

It was the opinion of the representative from Bugs Are Gone Exterminating that this building is the major source of the rat problem. Rats can be finding food in the remnants left over from the former tenants and are breeding then getting out through the holes around the perimeter of the building. He recommended that the building be

thoroughly cleaned and all possible food sources removed. Then the building could be baited and all holes sealed to contain and kill the rats. He believes that if the building is left untreated, the rat issue will worsen.

Bugs Are Gone Exterminating further mentioned that the NYC Department of Health has an exterminating division that can go onto private property clean up hazards and bait the area. If the owner of 1768 does not respond and clean up the property, this would be a means to rectify the situation.

92nd Street

There was no evidence of rats eating through the bottom of garbage cans on either side of the street, nor were any of the bags ripped open. The representative from Bugs Are Gone Exterminating said that if there was a major infestation, the bags would have been ripped open. In several locations along the street we also noticed open trash cans, which may attract rats. We did not see any instances of burrowing around the street trees. The representative from Bugs Are Gone Exterminating opened the bait stations along the street and found that none had been serviced recently. Some also had leaves and standing water in them. He recommended that the building owners have their exterminators come back out, clean and re-bait the traps.

Work Zone between 92nd and 93rd

We then walked in the work zone and found no evidence of rat droppings or food sources. Each week a technician from Bugs Are Gone services the 3 traps in the work area between 92nd and 93rd. We also went down onto the electrical distribution room (EDR) deck and found no evidence of rat droppings. The representative of Bug Are Gone Exterminating stated that with all of the heat from the electric panels, rats would appear in that area first. Given that there was no evidence of rats in the EDR, he felt that there were no rats in launch box.

Bugs Are Gone Exterminating stated that the bait stations in the work zones were meant to kill rats in the work area. He said that rats coming out of 1768 2nd Avenue were unlikely to go thru the fence and into the work zone and were much more likely to run on the sidewalk down to 92nd and 93rd Streets. Traps would need to be set on the side streets or in 1768 to effectively control the problem.

93rd Street

On the south side of 93rd Street we noticed a burrow in the garden in front of 318 93rd Street. At this location we also saw a block of bait that the rats in the borrow dug out. The traps were not cleaned and need to be re-baited. At neighboring 320 93rd Street, there was evidence of rat droppings and open garbage cans. In front of 322 2nd Avenue we noticed a burrow in front of the tree. The open trash containers in the vicinity also provide an abundant food source, making it less likely that the rats go and eat the poison in the bait stations. No other evidence of rats was detected on the south side of

the street. On the north side, we saw a hole near 309 93rd Street and a burrow around the tree in front of the building.

Effect of Blasting on Rats

Bugs are Gone Exterminating stated that the vibration and noise from blasting may make the rats scatter immediately after the blast. However, the rats are located outside the project limits—centered at 1768 2nd Ave and 318-322 93rd Street. Hence, the blasting may be exacerbating a pre-existing condition.

Photos From the Walk Thru

Note: All photos are from areas located outside contract limits.



Open door at 1768 2nd Ave—rat droppings found (note hole at bottom)



Same doorway from 92nd Street



Hole at Cellar Door 1768 2nd Ave



Holes near hydrant at 1768 2nd Ave



Trash at 1768 2nd Ave



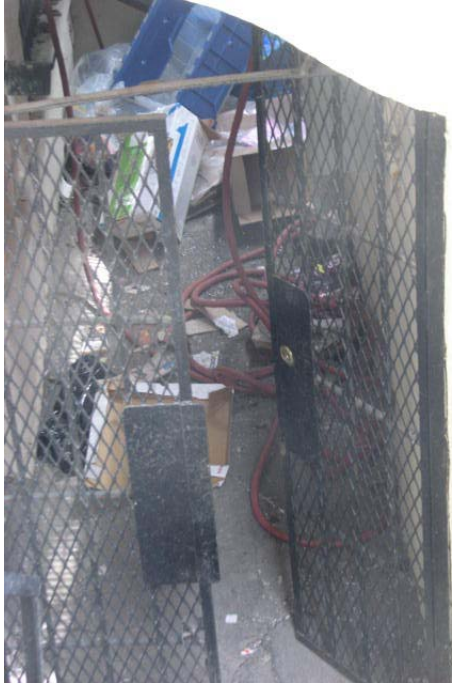
Garbage cans along 92nd Street-no holes



Unmaintained bait station along 92nd St



Unmaintained bait station along 92nd St



Trash stored under 331 2nd Avenue



Burrow hole at 309 2nd Avenue



Burrow at 318 93rd Street



Unmaintained Bait Station at 318 93rd St



Burrow at Street Tree at 318 93rd St

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There are at least 3 bait stations along each block of the Second Avenue Subway Project work zone (91-92 Street has 4 of them) which are serviced weekly. As an update to this report, this week some rat activities were found at 2 of the bait stations between 91st and 92nd Streets. Service consisted of checking for any signs of rats eating the bait and cleaning out any standing water or debris that was left because of the heavy rains earlier this week. If there is evidence of rat activity or bait being damaged (i.e. saturated with water), the bait bags are replaced.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have a question about this issue.

Very truly yours,
S3 TUNNEL CONSTRUCTORS
A Joint Venture

Alaeden Jlelaty

Alaeden Jlelaty
Project Manager

CC: Marcus Book- MTA