

MAY 29 2018

NJIT  
Office of the President



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CONSUMER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE  
PO BOX 369  
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0369

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
Lt. Governor

[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

SHEREEF M. ELNAHAL, MD, MBA  
Commissioner

May 21, 2018

Dr. Joel Bloom, President  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
University Heights  
Newark NJ 07102

Re: UPA Number: **1339667**

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Program received a notice of health hazards at your worksite listed above.

The specific nature and location of the alleged hazard is as follows:

***Hundreds of employees at risk. Several cancer deaths have occurred in recent years of employees who have been in the building for years. There are persistent leaks resulting in mold and corrosion. The air vents are poor and we are breathing in cigarettes, chemicals, fertilizer, dust, as well as debris from a building being torn down nearby. This is an old and decrepit building housing chemicals in sub-standard ways and employees are constantly at risk. The air quality is poor and there is never sufficient air condition, forcing us to work in hot offices, classrooms and labs-again, where chemicals and specialized equipment are present.***

We have not determined whether the hazards, as alleged, exist at your workplace. However, since allegations of violations and/or hazards have been made, we request that you immediately investigate the alleged conditions and make any necessary corrections or modifications. Please advise me in writing to: **PEOSH Program, PO BOX 369, 135 East State Street, Trenton NJ 08625-0369, (via fax if possible at: 609.984.2779) no later than fifteen (15) business days** of the results of your investigation. You must provide documentation of your findings, including any applicable measurements or monitoring results, and photographs/video which you believe would be helpful, as well as a description of any corrective action you have taken or are in the process of taking.

This letter is not a citation or a notification of proposed penalty, which, according to the PEOSH Act, may be issued only after an inspection or investigation of the workplace has been conducted. It is our goal to assure that hazards are promptly identified and eliminated. Please take immediate corrective action where needed. We encourage employee participation in investigating and responding to any alleged hazard.

**If we do not receive a response from you within fifteen (15) business days indicating that appropriate action has been taken or that no hazard exists and why, a PEOSH inspection may be conducted.** An inspection may include a review of the following: injury and illness records, hazard communication, personal protective equipment, emergency action and response, bloodborne pathogens, and other related health issues.

Please note, however, that the PEOSH Program selects for inspection some cases where we have received letters in which employees have indicated satisfactory corrective action. This is to ensure that employers have actually taken the action stated in their letters.

The PEOSH Program offers consultation services, without charge, to assist in resolving all occupational health issues. The variety of services available or the scheduling of those services may be limited by the consultation project's backlog. However, you may be able to obtain similar services from your insurance carrier or private consultant in a timelier fashion. To discuss or request services, call 609.984.1863 or write to the address listed in paragraph three (3) above.

You are requested to post a copy of the letter where it will be readily accessible for review by all of your employees and return a copy of the signed **Certificate of Posting (Attachment A)** to this office. Also, you are requested to provide a copy of this letter and your response to it, to a representative of any recognized employee union or safety and health committee, if these are at your facility. Failure to do so may result in an on-site inspection. The complainant has been furnished a copy of this letter and will be advised of your response. N.J.S.A. 34:6A-45 of the PEOSH Act provides protection for employees against discrimination because of their involvement in protected safety and health related activity.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the PEOSH Program at the address listed in paragraph three (3) above. Your personal support and interest in the safety and health of your employees is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Gary Centifonti*

Gary Centifonti, Director

Consumer Environmental and Occupational Health Service

Attachment A  
c: Complainant

# CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

## PEOSH NOTIFICATION OF ALLEGED HAZARD(S)

Attachment A

Complaint Number:     **1339667**

Employer Name:         **New Jersey Institute of Technology**

Site:                    **Tiernan Hall, 161 Warren Street, NEWARK NJ**

Date of Posting:         \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Date Copy Given to an Employee Representative:     \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of the employer, I certify that a copy of the complaint letter received from PEOSH has been posted in a conspicuous place, where all affected employees will have notice, or near such location where the violation occurred, and such notice has been given to each authorized representative of affected employees, if any. This notice was or will be posted for a minimum of ten (10) working days or until any hazardous conditions found are corrected.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Full Name

**Return a Copy or fax to:**  
***Gary Centifonti, Director***  
***Consumer, Environmental and Occupational Health Service***  
***NJ Department of Health***  
***PEOSH Unit***  
***PO BOX 369***  
***135 East State St., Trenton NJ 08625-0369***  
***Fax: 609.984.2779***