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University of Pennsylvania  
Institute for Environmental Studies



presents

# Dennis Carney

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

## Cleaning Anthrax on Capitol Hill - A Search for Zero Spores

### **Abstract:**

This seminar will discuss the actions taken, and issues faced, by personnel from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as they worked to cleanup US Senate and House Office Buildings after a letter containing anthrax spores was mailed to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. While EPA has extensive experience remediating chemical contamination, a cleanup of this magnitude, involving biological agents in office buildings, had never been previously attempted. Nor was the science well established on what could be safely and effectively used to kill the spores, and make the Buildings safe for reoccupancy. Since federal health agencies had performed few studies of anthrax, they were not prepared to define what is a “safe level” of anthrax. In the absence of a health-based cleanup level, EPA was required, from a risk management standpoint, to set a cleanup level of zero spores. An almost impossible task when you realize that millions of anthrax spores can fit on the head of a pin.

**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2002  
**Time:** 12:15 pm - 1:45 pm  
**Place:** Auditorium at Wistar Institute

On Penn's campus: Spruce Street & Penn's 36<sup>th</sup> Street Walkway

### **NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

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