NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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February 11, 2002

Mr. Bernard P. Orlan
Director, Environmental Health and Safety
New York City Board of Education
28-11 Queens Plaza North
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: Air Sampling for Hydrocarbons
Stuyvesant High School
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0246

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this letter report of air sampling for hydrocarbon compounds conducted on January 30, 2002, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested this sampling at the recommendation of H. A. Bader, a consultant to the parents' association.

ATC collected three (3) samples for hydrocarbon compounds (HC) at specified locations. Samples were collected for a minimum of eight (8) hours using activated coconut shell charcoal tubes connected to battery-powered sampling pumps at a flow rate of 0.2 liters per minute. Pumps were calibrated before and after each sampling period. Two (2) samples were collected inside the building and one (1) was collected on the roof. One blank tube was also submitted on each day. The samples were sent to PSC Analytical Services, Inc., an American Industrial Hygiene Association-accredited laboratory in Reading, PA. Analysis was performed by capillary gas chromatography/flame ionization detection (NIOSH Methods 1003, 1005, 1022, 1300, 1500, 1501).

Each sample was analyzed for a panel of sixteen (16) specific HC compounds. These compounds were: pentane, acetone, methylene chloride, hexane, chloroform, methyl chloroform, benzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, trichloroethylene, toluene, perchloroetyhylene (tetrachloroethylene), chlorobenzene, ethylbenzene, styrene, cumene and xylenes. In addition, two non-identified peaks, total other A- hydrocarbons and total other B-hydrocarbons, were reported. The A-hydrocarbons are those, such as gasoline or light alcohols, with boiling points less than that of benzene (176°F). The B-hydrocarbons are those, such as mineral spirits or petroleum naphtha, with boiling points greater than that of benzene. Copies of the analytical reports are attached.

The sampling locations were specified by the parent's association consultant. They were the 1st floor lobby, 2nd floor bridge entrance hallway and the roof.

The only compound present above the detection limit was chloroform which was detected in both indoor samples. The concentrations were 0.049 parts per million (ppm) in the Main Lobby and 0.14 ppm at the 2nd floor bridge entrance. It was not detected in the roof sample.

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SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER NO. 2, SEPT. 2008

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Chloroform is used as a solvent for waxes and resins although no specific source was identified for the chloroform in these samples. The established OSHA exposure limit for chloroform is a ceiling concentration of 50 ppm, this is an occupational standard not intended for indoor air in schools.

ATC appreciates the opportunity to provide this indoor air quality service to the BOE. Please call me at (212) 353-8280 extension 212 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
ATC Associates, Inc.

James R. Cohn, CIH, CSP
Regional Manager
Industrial Hygiene Division

Attachment

NYC-WTC_000175017