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August 28, 2002

Mr. Bernard P. Orlan
Director, Environmental Health & Safety
New York City Department of Education
28-11 Queens Plaza North
Long Island City, NY 11101-4008

**Re: Indoor Air Quality Assessment
DeSoto School (P.S. 130 M)
143 Baxter Street
New York, New York 10013
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0345**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of indoor air quality (IAQ) measurements collected on August 26, 2002 at the referenced school. The New York City Department of Education (DOE) requested these measurements as part of a program to verify that acceptable indoor air quality is being maintained.

SCOPE OF WORK

ATC conducted this evaluation to assess the basic parameters of temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide (CO₂) and carbon monoxide (CO).

Total volatile organic compounds (TVOCs) and respirable particulates were also measured.

Jimmy Choy, Environmental Technician of ATC's New York City office, conducted the assessment. ATC's findings are based on a visual inspection, real-time environmental measurements and conditions present in the school at the time of the assessment.

ATC measured temperature, relative humidity, CO₂ and CO with a Q-Trak® Model 8551, manufactured by TSI, Inc.

ATC measured concentrations of respirable particulates (PM_{2.5}) with a Dust-Trak® Aerosol Monitor Model 8520, manufactured by TSI, Inc.

ATC measured concentrations of TVOCs using a RAE Systems, Inc. MiniRAE® photoionization detector (PID).

The assessment was performed consistent with generally accepted indoor air quality assessment practices. As with all such assessments, there were inherent limitations created by constraints of time, operational and work practice variability, variations in indoor air quality parameters and sampling and analytical accuracy.

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SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER NO. 2, SEPT. 2008

Mr. Bernard P. Orlan
Indoor Air Quality Assessment
P.S. 130 M

August 28, 2002

Page 2

ATC Project No. 15-19125-0345

The results of the sampling represent conditions found on the dates of the survey and may not represent conditions found at other times. The information presented in this report should be used by the DOE as a guide to assess the need for further improvements in current indoor air quality control activities.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Currently, there are no regulatory standards for indoor air quality in non-industrial buildings, such as offices and schools. For the real-time data collected, ATC uses the commonly accepted guidelines cited in the following publications:

- *Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality (ASHRAE 62-1999)*, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE);
- *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy (ASHRAE 55-1992)*;
- *Industrial Hygienists Guide to Indoor Air Quality Investigations (1993)*, American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).

Table 1 lists target guidelines for the parameters that ATC evaluated during this investigation. Meeting one, some, or all of the listed values does not assure that acceptable indoor air quality will be achieved at all times.

TABLE 1
TARGET GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR AIR QUALITY PARAMETERS EVALUATED

PARAMETER	TARGET LEVEL	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION
Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	<700 parts per million (ppm) above background level	ASHRAE 62
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	9 ppm	ASHRAE 62 (adopted from USEPA NPAAQS)
Respirable Particulates (PM _{2.5})	65 micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m ³) 24-hour average	USEPA NPAAQS
	40 µg/m ³ 24-hour average	USEPA – Recommendation for children / sensitive individuals
Temperature	Summer: 73-79°F at 50% RH Winter: 68-75°F at 50% RH	ASHRAE 55
Relative Humidity	30 – 60 %	ASHRAE 55
Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOC)	1 ppm	AIHA

USEPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency
NPAAQS = National Primary Ambient-Air Quality Standard
AIHA = American Industrial Hygiene Association

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CITY_21MC100_003430727

SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER NO. 2, SEPT. 2008

Mr. Bernard P. Orlan
Indoor Air Quality Assessment
P.S. 130 M

August 28, 2002

Page 3

ATC Project No. 15-19125-0345

REAL-TIME ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS

ATC collected fifty (50) sets of real-time environmental measurements consisting of forty-eight (48) in the school building and two (2) outdoors. All floors of the school were surveyed. Field data sheets are found in the Attachment. Readings were collected in the morning and evening. The results are described below.

Temperature

Indoor dry bulb temperature measurements ranged from 74 to 84.4 °F. Thirty-nine (39) of the indoor measurements were above the range of 73 to 79 °F (at 50 percent relative humidity) recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the summer season. The outdoor temperature ranged from 78.8 to 79.2 °F.

Relative Humidity

The relative humidity indoors ranged from 40.5 percent to 52 percent. All of the indoor measurements for relative humidity were within the ASHRAE-recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort. The outdoor relative humidity measurements ranged from 44.5 to 48.2 percent.

Carbon Dioxide Concentration

Carbon dioxide concentrations indoors ranged from 456 ppm to 1270 ppm. One (1) of the indoor measurement for CO₂ was above the ASHRAE Standard 62-1999 recommended maximum concentration of <700 ppm above the background level. The outdoor (background) CO₂ concentration was 430 ppm. Therefore, the maximum acceptable level of CO₂ at this location was 1130 ppm (background level + 700 ppm). The highest reading was measured in room 304 with 21 occupants at 9:55 AM. Carbon dioxide measurements are used as an indicator of available outdoor air. The primary source of CO₂ indoors is occupant respiration.

Carbon Monoxide Concentration

Carbon monoxide concentrations indoors ranged from 1 ppm to 2 ppm. These concentrations were within the NPAAQS/ASHRAE guideline of 9 ppm. The outdoor CO concentrations was 2 ppm for all readings.

Respirable Particulates (PM_{2.5})

Respirable particulate concentrations* indoors ranged between 19 µg/m³ to 45 µg/m³ with an average 32 µg/m³. None of the indoor measurements for PM_{2.5} were above the NPAAQS of 65 µg/m³ 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter. Eight (8) of the forty-eight (48) instantaneous indoor readings were above the USEPA recommended concentration of 40 µg/m³ for sensitive individuals such as asthmatic people and children. The outdoor respirable particulate concentrations ranged from 24 µg/m³ to 26 µg/m³ with an average of 25 µg/m³. All of the outdoor measurements for PM_{2.5} were below the NPAAQS of 65 µg/m³ 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter and the USEPA recommended concentration of 40 µg/m³ for sensitive individuals such as asthmatic people and children.

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CITY_21MC100_003430728

SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER NO. 2, SEPT. 2008

Mr. Bernard P. Orlan
Indoor Air Quality Assessment
P.S. 130 M

August 28, 2002

Page 4

ATC Project No. 15-19125-0345

* The measurements made during this assessment were instantaneous readings, the NPAAQS is a 24-hour average.

TVOC Concentration

The TVOCs indoor concentrations ranged from 0.1 to 0.2 ppm. These concentrations were below the AIHA guideline for odor control of 1 ppm. The outdoor TVOC concentration was 0 ppm.

OBSERVATIONS

During this assessment, ATC noted the following:

- The interior of the building appeared clean and free of dust and debris;
- The building was not occupied at the time of the assessment;
- No smoke odor was detected in the building;

FINDINGS

Based on the real-time measurements, the following findings are presented:

1. Concentrations of CO and TVOCs were within applicable standards and guidelines.
2. Thirty-nine (39) of the indoor measurements were above the range of 73 to 79 °F (at 50 percent relative humidity) recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the summer season.
3. All of the indoor measurements for relative humidity were within the ASHRAE-recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort.
4. One (1) of the indoor measurement for CO₂ was above the ASHRAE Standard 62-1999 recommended maximum concentration of <700 ppm above the background level. The outdoor (background) CO₂ concentration was 430 ppm. The highest reading was measured in room 304 with 21 occupants at 9:55 AM. Carbon dioxide measurements are used as an indicator of available outdoor air. The primary source of CO₂ indoors is occupant respiration.
5. None of the indoor measurements for PM_{2.5} were above the NPAAQS of 65 µg/m³ 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter. Eight (8) of the forty-eight (48) instantaneous indoor readings were above the USEPA recommended concentration of 40 µg/m³ for sensitive individuals such as asthmatic people and children. All of the outdoor measurements for PM_{2.5} were below the NPAAQS of 65 µg/m³ 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter and the USEPA recommended concentration of 40 µg/m³ for sensitive individuals such as asthmatic people and children.

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CITY_21MC100_003430729

SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER NO. 2, SEPT. 2008

Mr. Bernard P. Orlan
Indoor Air Quality Assessment
P.S. 130 M

August 28, 2002

Page 5

ATC Project No. 15-19125-0345

It is our pleasure to provide these indoor air quality services to the New York City Department of Education. If you have any questions about this report, please call (212) 353-8280, ext. 211 or 212.

Sincerely,
ATC ASSOCIATES INC.



Arnel Javal
Senior Project Manager

Reviewed By:



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

Attachment

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