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November 25, 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: Wipe Samples for Dioxins  
Murray Bergtraum High School (M520)  
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0351**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of the results of the wipe-samples for polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs) and dibenzofurans (PCDFs) collected on September 11, 2002, at the referenced location. The New York City Department of Education (DOE) requested these samples to evaluate possible contamination in the school building.

#### **Scope of Work**

The samples were collected using gauze pads and hexane as a solvent. The solvent was provided and samples were analyzed by Pace Analytical Services, Inc. (Pace) of Minneapolis, MN, a laboratory experienced in dioxin analysis. The analysis was performed by modified EPA Method 8290 using combined capillary column gas chromatography/high resolution mass spectrometry.

Sonny Ramlal, Environmental Technician of ATC's New York City office, collected the samples consistent with generally accepted industrial hygiene practices. There were inherent limitations created by constraints of time, operational and work practice variability, variations in contaminant concentrations, and sampling and analytical accuracy. The results of the sampling represent conditions found on the date the samples were collected.

#### **Results**

ATC submitted three wipe samples for PCDDs/PCDFs (plus one blank) to Pace for analysis. Samples were taken from representative floor areas throughout the building. The sample area for each sample was one square meter (1 m<sup>2</sup>). The areas sampled were:

- Main Lobby;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Hallway;
- 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Hallway.

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Each sample was analyzed for sixteen (16) PCDD/PCDF isomers. The results for each isomer were then converted to 2, 3, 7, 8 tetrachloro-dibenzo-p-dioxin (2, 3, 7, 8-TCDD) equivalents by multiplying by an established equivalency factor. This provides a single value (in nanograms) for the analytical results for each sample. A copy of the laboratory analysis report is attached. The results are shown in the following table.

**DIOXIN WIPE SAMPLE RESULTS**  
**2, 3, 7, 8 TCDD EQUIVALENTS - Nanograms per square meter (ng/m<sup>2</sup>)**  
**September 11, 2002**

| LOCATION /SAMPLE ID     | DIOXIN CONCENTRATION |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Main Lobby / DX1        | 0.000043             |
| 3rd Floor Hallway / DX2 | 0.000028             |
| 4th Floor Hallway / DX3 | 0.000044             |

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) established guidelines for dioxin for the re-occupancy of the Binghamton State Office Building following a PCB fire. The NYSDOH guideline for dioxin on surfaces is 25 nanograms per square meter (25 ng/m<sup>2</sup>).

The concentrations on indoor surfaces ranged from 0.000028 to 0.000044 nanograms per square meter (ng/m<sup>2</sup>). The levels found in all of these samples are below the NYSDOH guideline of 25 ng/m<sup>2</sup>.

It is not possible to determine when the 2, 3, 7, 8 - TCDD equivalents detected in these samples was deposited. Dioxin samples were not collected from these locations prior to these samples therefore a background sample is not available for comparison purposes.

It is our pleasure to provide these indoor environmental services to the NYC Department of Education. If you have any questions about this report, please call (212) 353-8280, extension 212.

Sincerely,  
ATC Associates, Inc.



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

Attachment

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