NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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February 25, 2002

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

Re: Wipe Samples for Dioxins
P. S. 89M
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0297

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 January 31, 2002, at the referenced location. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested these samples to evaluate possible contamination in the school building per the recommendation of Environ Corp., consultant to the parents association..

SCOPE OF WORK

Wagdi Abdelshahid, Industrial Hygienist of ATC's New York City office, collected the samples.

The samples were collected using gauze pads and hexane as a solvent. The pads and solvent were 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.

The sampling was performed 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.

WIPE SAMPLING RESULTS

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^2). The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has set 0.0006 parts per million (ppm) as the allowable concentration of dioxin in soil. The EPA has established a residential clean-up goal of 1 part per billion (ppb).

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ATC submitted three (3) wipe samples for PCDDs/PCDFs (plus one blank) to Pace for analysis. Copies of the draft laboratory analysis results are provided in Attachment 1. Samples were taken from areas specified by the parents association consultant. The sample area was one square meter (m^2).

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. The sample locations and the results are shown in the table:

DIOXIN WIPE SAMPLE RESULTS
(2, 3, 7, 8 TCDD EQUIVALENTS)
January 25, 2002

LOCATION/SAMPLE NUMBER	DIOXIN CONCENTRATION (ng/m^2)
1st Floor Hallway-north/DX1	0.000055
1st Floor Hallway-south/DX2	0.00042
2nd Floor Hallway-south/DX3	0.00083
Field Blank/DX4	0.00

The concentrations on indoor surfaces ranged from 0.000055 to 0.00083 nanograms per square meter (ng/m^2). The dioxin concentrations in these sample are ***below*** the NYSDOH guideline.

It is not possible to determine when the 2, 3, 7, 8 - TCDD equivalents detected in these samples were deposited. Dioxin samples were not collected from these locations prior to December 20, 2001.

It is our pleasure to provide these indoor environmental services to the NYC Board 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

NYC-WTC_000177714