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ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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June 11, 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: **Indoor Air Quality Assessment**
**P.S. 150M**
**334 Greenwich Street**
**New York, New York 10013**
**ATC Project No. 15-19125-0289**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of indoor air quality (IAQ) measurements collected on June 10, 2002, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested these measurements to evaluate air quality in the school building prior to re-occupancy.

## SCOPE OF WORK

ATC conducted this evaluation to assess the basic parameters of temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) and carbon monoxide (CO).

ATC measured temperature, relative humidity, $CO_2$ 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 Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOCs) using a RAE Systems, Inc. MiniRAE® photoionization detector (PID).

Mr. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Environmental Technician, of ATC's New York City office, conducted the assessment.

ATC's findings and conclusions are based on a visual inspection, real-time environmental measurements and conditions present in the school at the time of the assessment.



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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. 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 BOE 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 ($\mu g/m^3$) 24-hour average | USEPA NPAAQS |
| | 40 $\mu g/m^3$ 24-hour average | USEPA – Recommendation for children / sensitive individuals |
| Temperature | Summer: 73-79°F at 50% RH<br>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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**REAL-TIME ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS**

ATC collected forty (40) sets of real-time environmental measurements consisting of thirty (30) from inside the school building and ten (10) from outdoors. All three floors of the school building were surveyed. These results are described below.

Field data sheets are found in Attachment 1. Readings began at 1:00 P.M. and concluded at approximately 2:31 P.M.

*Temperature*

Indoor dry bulb temperature measurements ranged from 75.1 °F to 80.1 °F. Four (4) of the indoor measurements were above the range of 73 to 79°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) as recommended by the ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the mechanical cooling season (summertime conditions).The outdoor temperature measurements ranged from 90.1 °F to 90.7 °F.

*Relative Humidity*

The relative humidity indoors ranged from 36.1 to 40.1 percent. All of the measurements were within the ASHRAE-recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort. The outdoor relative humidity measurements ranged from 39.1 to 39.3 percent.

*Carbon Dioxide Concentration*

Carbon dioxide concentrations indoors ranged from 501 ppm to 710 ppm. All of the $CO_2$ indoor measurements were within the ASHRAE Standard 62-1999 recommended maximum concentration of <700 ppm above the background level. The maximum outdoor (background) $CO_2$ concentration was 610 ppm. Therefore, the maximum acceptable level of $CO_2$ at this location was 1310 ppm (background level + 700 ppm). Levels above the recommended maximum do not indicate a health risk. Carbon dioxide measurements are used as an indicator of available outside makeup air. The primary source of $CO_2$ indoors is occupant respiration. The school building was occupied during ATC's assessment.

*Carbon Monoxide Concentration*

Carbon monoxide indoor concentrations were 1 ppm for all collected readings. These concentrations were below the NPAAQS/ASHRAE guideline of 9 ppm. The outdoor CO concentrations were also 1 ppm for all collected readings.

*Respirable Particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) ppm.*

Respirable particulate concentrations* indoors ranged between 8 $\mu g/m^3$ to 16 $\mu g/m^3$. None of the indoor measurements were above the NPAAQS of 65 $\mu g/m^3$ 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter or above the USEPA recommendation of 40$\mu g/m^3$ for sensitive individuals and children. The average $PM_{2.5}$ concentration for the entire school building was approximately 12 $\mu g/m^3$. The outdoor respirable particulate concentration measurements ranged from 18 to 22 $\mu g/m^3$ with an average of 20 $\mu g/m^3$.



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

*TVOC Concentrations*

TVOCs were not detected anywhere inside the building (0.0 ppm). The outdoor TVOC concentration was also 0.0 ppm.

## OBSERVATIONS

During this assessment, ATC noted the following:

- There was construction work going on in the plaza;
- The school building was 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 indoor respirable particulates, $CO_2$ , CO, and TVOCs were within applicable standards and guidelines.
2. Four (4) of the indoor temperature measurements were above the range of 73 to 79°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) as recommended by the ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the mechanical cooling season (summertime conditions).
3. All of the indoor relative humidity measurements were within the ASHRAE-recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort.

It is our pleasure to provide these indoor air quality services to the New York City Board of Education. If you have any questions about this report, please call (212) 353-8280, extension 211 or 290.

Sincerely,
***ATC ASSOCIATES INC.***

Yiannis Efstathiou
Senior Project Manager

Reviewed by:

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

Attachment



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