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November 2, 2001

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
 Stuyvesant High School (M477)
 345 Chambers Street
 New York, New York 10007
 ATC Project No. 15-19125-0246**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of an indoor air quality (IAQ) assessment conducted on November 1, 2001, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested this assessment to determine if 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.

Tenzin Namgyal and Wagdi Abdelshahid, Industrial Hygienists, 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.

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

ATC measured concentrations of respirable particulates 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).

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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	USEPA NPAAQS (as cited in ASHRAE 62)
Respirable Particulates (PM _{2.5})	65 micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m ³) 24-hour average	USEPA NPAAQS
Temperature	Summer: 73-79°F at 50% RH Winter: 69-76°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

REAL-TIME ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS

ATC collected one hundred and fifteen (115) sets of real-time environmental measurements consisting of one hundred and thirteen (113) in the school building and two (2) outdoors. All ten floors of the school were surveyed. These results are described below. Field data sheets are found in Attachment 1. Readings began at 9:00 A.M. and concluded after 2:20 P.M.

Temperature

Indoor dry bulb temperature measurements ranged from 72.2 °F to 79.3 °F. Seventy-two (72) measurements were above the range of 69 to 76°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the heating season (wintertime conditions). These measurements were collected in rooms on all floors. The outdoor temperature range was 61.9 to 71.8 °F.

Relative Humidity

The relative humidity indoors ranged from 36.9 percent to 50.2 percent. All measurements were within the ASHRAE-recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort. The outdoor relative humidity measurements were 38.7 to 44.2 percent.

Carbon Dioxide Concentration

Carbon dioxide concentrations indoors ranged from 438 ppm to 1850 ppm. Eleven (11) CO₂ measurements were above the ASHRAE Standard 62-1999 recommended maximum concentration of <700 ppm above the background level. The outdoor (background) CO₂ concentrations were 395 and 400 ppm. Therefore, the maximum acceptable level of CO₂ at this location was 1100 ppm (background level + 700 ppm). The highest reading, 1850 ppm, was in Room 303. Rooms with CO₂ levels above the recommended maximum were found on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th floors. Levels above the recommended maximum do not indicate a health risk. 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 was not detected anywhere inside the building (0 ppm). The outdoor CO concentration was also 0 ppm.

Respirable Particulates (PM_{2.5})

Respirable particulate concentrations indoors ranged between 37 µg/m³ and 88 µg/m³. Eighteen (18) of the measurements were above the NPAAQS of 65 µg/m³ 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter. The outdoor respirable particulate concentrations were 83 and 107 µg/m³.

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ATC was informed that filters with a higher efficiency rating were installed on the HVAC units that serve rooms on the 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th floors (See Attachment 1). The PM_{2.5} concentration range for those rooms was 46 - 88 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ with an average of approximately 61 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The PM_{2.5} concentration range for the other rooms was 37 - 88 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ with an average of approximately 57 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

TVOC Concentration

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:

- The interior of the building appeared clean and free of dust and debris;
- The building was occupied at the time of the assessment;
- One or more windows were open in Rooms 209, 435, 638, 717, 738, 837, 936 and 1004;
- No smoke odor was detected in the building.

FINDINGS

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

1. Measurements of relative humidity and concentrations of CO and TVOCs were within applicable standards and guidelines.
2. Eleven CO₂ measurements were above the range recommended by ASHRAE 62-1999. All others were below the recommended maximum concentration.
3. Seventy-two (63%) temperature measurements were above the range recommended by ASHRAE 55-1992.
4. Eighteen respirable particulates measurements were above the NPAAQS of 65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter.

CONCLUSION

Based on our observations and measurements, ATC concludes that the assessed locations were suitable for occupancy at the time of ATC's investigation. Some individuals may find the conditions in some rooms to be uncomfortable. The elevated CO₂ levels indicate the need for increased outdoor air. The higher efficiency filters installed on the HVAC units for rooms on the 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th floors did not reduce respirable particulate levels compared to the other rooms.

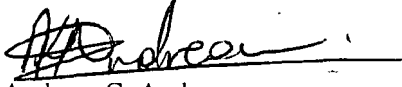
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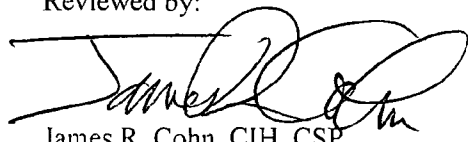
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- Keep comfort parameters within established guidelines by using adequate ventilation;
- Discontinue daily TVOC measurements; TVOCs have not been detected since daily measurements began October 9, 2001;
- Ensure that the HVAC system is operating properly;
- Conduct limited follow-up monitoring/inspection to ensure that air quality is acceptable.

It is our pleasure to provide these indoor air consultative services to the New York City Board of Education. If you have any questions about this report, please call (212) 353-8280, extension 261 or 212.

Sincerely,
ATC ASSOCIATES INC.


Andreas C. Andreou
Senior Project Manager

Reviewed by:

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

Attachments