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December 4, 2001

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

**Re: Air Sampling for Mercury
 Stuyvesant High School
 ATC Project No. 15-19125-0246**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this letter report of air sampling for mercury conducted on November 16, 2001, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested this sampling at the recommendation of H. A. Bader, a consultant to the parents' association.

ATC collected three (3) samples for mercury vapor using Carulite® (Hydrar) tubes connected to battery-powered sampling pumps calibrated to collect 0.2 liters of air per minute. Two samples were collected indoors and one was collected on the roof. The samples were sent to PSC Analytical Services, Inc., an American Industrial Hygiene Association-accredited laboratory in Reading, PA. One blank tube was also submitted. Analysis was performed by means of a mercury analyzer according to NIOSH Method 6009. A copy of the analytical report is attached.

Mercury was found at the limits of detection in each of the three samples. It was also detected in the blank. The table shows the mercury concentrations in each sample.

**Airborne Mercury (Hg) Concentrations
 November 16, 2001**

Sample No. and Location	Hg per sample (micrograms)	Vol. (liters)	Hg Concentration (mg/m ³)*
M-1 1 st Floor Main Lobby	0.018	90	0.000200
M-2 Roof	0.017	89	0.000191
M-3 2 nd floor bridge lobby	0.02	90	0.000222
M-4 Blank	0.018	--	--

* milligrams per cubic meter of air

Mr. Bernard P. Orlan
Air Sampling for Mercury
Stuyvesant High School

December 4, 2001

Page 2

ATC Project No. 15-19125-0246

There are currently no federal ambient air standards for mercury. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for mercury is $1.0\text{mg}/10\text{m}^3$ ($0.1\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$). This is considerably above the levels that were detected or that would otherwise be expected in a school or office and it is not an applicable standard.

The results indicate that airborne mercury *did not* constitute a health concern to the building occupants on the day the samples were collected.

ATC appreciates the opportunity to provide this indoor air quality service to the BOE. Please call me at (212) 353-8280 extension 212 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
ATC Associates, Inc.



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

Attachment