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July 2, 2002

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 Vapor  
 Stuyvesant High School  
 ATC Project No. 15-19125-0246**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of air sampling for mercury vapor conducted on June 5, 12 and 19, 2002, 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.

#### **Scope of Work**

On each day, ATC collected three (3) samples plus one (1) blank 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 per day. Analysis was performed by means of a mercury analyzer according to NIOSH Method 6009. A copy of the analytical report is attached.

Tenzin Namgyal and Wagdi Abdelshahid, Industrial Hygienists from ATC's New York City office, conducted the sampling. Sampling was conducted in accordance with accepted industrial hygiene practices. The results represent the conditions on the day the samples were collected.

#### **Results**

*On all three days, mercury (Hg) was detected in the samples at levels that were indistinguishable from those detected in the blanks.*

The results indicate that the Hg detected was a trace contaminant of the sampling medium and not the result of Hg vapor in the ambient air.

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The established regulatory value for mercury (OSHA: 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) is intended for industrial workplace exposures and is not generally applicable to office/school settings. There are no standards for mercury in indoor air in non-industrial situations. The EPA has no standard or guideline for mercury vapor in ambient air.

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.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James R. Cohn', is written over a horizontal line.

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

Attachment