NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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April 17, 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 Dioxin
High School of Economics and Finance (M833)
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0291

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 March 8, 2002, at the referenced location. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested these samples to evaluate possible contamination in the school building.

SCOPE OF WORK

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

WIPE SAMPLING RESULTS

ATC submitted three (3) wipe samples for PCDDs/PCDFs to Pace for analysis. A copy of the laboratory report is provided in the Attachment. Samples were taken from surfaces throughout the building. The area of each sample was one square meter (1 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 concentrations are shown in the table.

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DIOXIN WIPE SAMPLE RESULTS
(2, 3, 7, 8 TCDD EQUIVALENTS) - Nanograms per square meter (ng/m^2)

LOCATION/SAMPLE NUMBER	DIOXIN CONCENTRATION (ng/m^2)
Main Lobby/DX1	0.00017
5th Floor Hall by Elevator/DX2	0.00029
10th Floor by Stair B/DX3	0.00024

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 ng/m^2.

The concentrations on indoor surfaces ranged from 0.00017 to 0.00029 ng/m^2. The levels found in these samples are *below* the NYSDOH guideline of 25 ng/m^2.

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 this school prior to January 14, 2002.

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_000197421