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ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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June 7, 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. 234M**
**292 Greenwich Street**
**New York, New York 10007**
**ATC Project No. 15-19125-0279**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of indoor air quality (IAQ) measurements collected on June 6, 2002,at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested these measurements as part of a program 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 ($CO_2$) and carbon monoxide (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 are based on a visual inspection, real-time environmental measurements and conditions present in the school at the time of the assessment.

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.



NYC-WTC_000199221

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document



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

## REAL-TIME ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS



NYC-WTC_000199222

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document



ATC collected sixty (60) sets of real-time environmental measurements consisting of fifty (50) from inside the school building and ten (10) outdoors. All three floors of the school were surveyed. These results are described below.

Field data sheets are found in Attachment 1. Readings began at 7:00 AM and concluded after 12:46 P.M.

*Temperature*

Indoor dry bulb temperature measurements ranged from 72.4 °F to 75.8 °F. Six (6) of the indoor measurements for temperature were below the range of 73 to 79°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) as recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the summer season. The outdoor temperature measurements ranged from 74.2 °F to 74.5 °F.

*Relative Humidity*

The relative humidity indoors ranged from 51.6 percent to 61.1 percent. Two (2) of the indoor measurements for relative humidity were above the ASHRAE-recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort. The outdoor relative humidity ranged from 68.0 percent to 68.2 percent.

*Carbon Dioxide Concentration*

Carbon dioxide concentrations indoors ranged from 561 ppm to 1162 ppm. All of the 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 563 ppm. Therefore, the maximum acceptable level of $CO_2$ at this location was 1263 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 outdoor air. The primary source of $CO_2$ indoors is occupant respiration.

*Carbon Monoxide Concentration*

Carbon monoxide concentrations indoors were 2 ppm for all readings. These concentrations were below the NPAAQS/ASHRAE guideline of 9 ppm. The outdoor CO concentrations were also 2 ppm for all readings.

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

Respirable particulate concentrations* indoors ranged between 8 $\mu g/m^3$ to 28 $\mu g/m^3$ with an average approximately 16 $\mu g/m^3$. None of the measurements collected indoors for respirable particulate concentrations were above the NPAAQS 65 $\mu g/m^3$ 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter and the USEPA recommended concentration of 40 $\mu g/m^3$ for sensitive individuals and children. The outdoor respirable particulate concentration ranged from 108 $\mu g/m^3$ to 112 $\mu g/m^3$ with an average of approximately 110 $\mu g/m^3$.

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



NYC-WTC_000199223

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document



*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 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 $CO_2$, CO, and TVOCs were below applicable standards and guidelines.
2. Six (6) of the indoor measurements for temperature were below the range of 73 to 79°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) as recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the summer season.
3. Two (2) of the indoor measurements for relative humidity were above the ASHRAE-recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort.
4. None of the measurements collected indoors for respirable particulate concentrations were above the NPAAQS 65 $\mu g/m^3$ 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter and the USEPA recommended concentration of 40 $\mu g/m^3$ for sensitive individuals and children.

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 212.

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

Yiannis Efstathiou
Senior Project Manager

Attachment



NYC-WTC_000199224