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April 9, 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 Silica
P. S. 89M
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0297**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this letter report of air sampling for silica-containing dust conducted on March 14, 2002 at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested this sampling at the recommendation of Environ Corp., the consultant to the parents association.

Scope of Work

ATC collected ten (10) samples respirable dust using pre-weighed 37mm PVC filters connected to size-selective cyclones to remove the larger (non-respirable) particles prior to deposition on the filters. All samples were collected indoors. The samples were sent to PSC Analytical Services, Inc., an American Industrial Hygiene Association accredited laboratory in Reading, PA. One blank filter was also submitted. Silica analysis was performed by x-ray diffraction according to OSHA Method 142. A copy of the analytical report is attached.

Tenzin Namgyal and Wagdi Abdelshahid, Industrial Hygienists of ATC's New York City office, collected the samples consistent with generally accepted industrial hygiene practices. As with all such sampling, there were inherent limitations created by constraints of time, operational and work practice variability, variations in air contaminant concentrations 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.

Results

The sampling locations were: the 1st floor hallway by cafeteria (North), 1st floor hallway by cafeteria (South), cafeteria, gymnasium, auditorium, Room 202 (south), Room 204 (east), Room 228 (south), 2nd floor hallway (South), and 4th floor hallway (South).

Silica was *not* present above the limit of detection (<10 micrograms per sample) in any of the ten samples.

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The OSHA PEL is the only regulatory standard for silica exposure, however it is intended for occupational exposure in settings such as foundries, sandblasting, rock drilling, etc. The EPA does not have an ambient-air quality standard for silica.

ATC appreciates the opportunity to provide this indoor air quality consultative 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