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February 7, 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 Hydrocarbons**  
**P. S. 89M**  
**ATC Project No. 15-19125-0297**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of the results of air sampling for volatile hydrocarbon compounds conducted on January 31, 2002, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested this sampling as part of a program to determine the indoor air quality prior to reoccupancy.

#### **Scope of Work**

ATC collected four (4) samples for hydrocarbon compounds (HC) at specified locations. Samples were collected for ten (10) hours using activated coconut shell charcoal tubes connected to battery-powered sampling pumps at a flow rate of 0.2 liters per minute. Pumps were calibrated before and after each sampling period. Three (3) samples were collected from locations outside the building and one (1) was collected inside. One blank tube was also submitted for analysis. The samples were sent to PSC Analytical Services, Inc., an American Industrial Hygiene Association-accredited laboratory in Reading, PA. Analysis was performed by capillary gas chromatography/flame ionization detection (OSHA Method 7).

Each sample was analyzed for a panel of sixteen (16) specific HC compounds. These compounds were: pentane, acetone, methylene chloride, hexane, chloroform, methyl chloroform, benzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, trichloroethylene, toluene, perchloroethylene (tetrachloroethylene), chlorobenzene, ethylbenzene, styrene, cumene and xylenes. In addition, two non-identified peaks, total other A-hydrocarbons and total other B-hydrocarbons, were reported. The A-hydrocarbons are those, such as gasoline or light alcohols, with boiling points less than that of benzene (176°F). The B-hydrocarbons are those, such as mineral spirits or petroleum naphtha, with boiling points greater than that of benzene. Copies of the analytical reports are attached.

The sampling locations were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> floor hallway, playground-north, playground-south and the roof.

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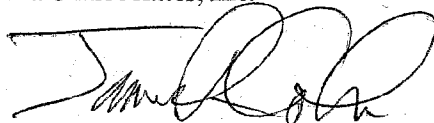
**Results**

The only HC compound present above the limit of detection was chloroform which was detected in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor hallway sample at a concentration of 0.16 parts per million. Chloroform is used as a solvent for commercial waxes and resins and may have been present as the result of the waxing and polishing of the floors in the school in preparation for re-opening.

*None of the other HCs in the panel were present in the other samples above the limits of detection for the analyses.*

ATC appreciates the opportunity to provide this 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