NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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April 8, 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 March 21, 2002, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested this sampling to determine if acceptable indoor air quality is being maintained.

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. 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).

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

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, perchloroetyhylene (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. A copy of the analytical laboratory report is attached.

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The sampling locations were as follows:

1st floor hallway by cafeteria, playground-north, playground-south and the roof.

Results

The only hydrocarbon in the analyte panel detected in the samples was acetone. Acetone was found in two samples, one outside and one inside. The concentrations are shown in the table.

ACETONE CONCENTRATIONS
March 21, 2002

LOCATION SAMPLE NO.	ACETONE (ppm)*
Hallway by the Cafeteria VOC1	**0.18**
Playground-North VOC2	**0.87**
Playground-South VOC3	BDL**
Roof VOC4	BDL
Blank VOC5	BDL

* parts per million
** Below Detection Limit

Acetone is a common solvent in a variety of industrial processes and is the principal component nail polish remover. It has occasionally been detected in other samples. Acetone was detected in two outdoor samples collected the previous week (March 14), however a specific source has not been identified.

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

NYC-WTC_000202195