NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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March 20, 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 Dioxins
P. S. 150M
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0289

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 February 22, 2002, at the referenced location. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested these samples to evaluate possible contamination in the school building per the recommendation of T. Fusillo of Environ Corp., consultant to the parents association..

SCOPE OF WORK

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

The samples were collected 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.

ATC's findings and conclusions are based on the laboratory samples results and the conditions present in the school at the time of the assessment.

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 date the samples were collected.

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RESULTS

ATC submitted one wipe sample for PCDDs/PCDFs (plus one blank) to Pace for analysis. The sample area was 1square meter ($1m^2$). The location sampled was the Main Entrance – Lobby.

The 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. Copies of the draft laboratory analysis results are attached. The results of the samples are shown in the following table:

DIOXIN WIPE SAMPLE RESULTS
(2, 3, 7, 8 TCDD EQUIVALENTS)
February 22, 2002

LOCATION/SAMPLE NUMBER	DIOXIN CONCENTRATION
MAIN ENTRANCE – LOBBY/DX1	0.00094 ng/m^2
FIELD BLANK/DX2	0.00034 ng/m^2

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 nanograms per square meter (25 ng/m^2).

The dioxin concentration in this sample is *below* the NYSDOH guideline. It is not possible to determine when the 2, 3, 7, 8 - TCDD equivalents detected in this sample was deposited. Dioxin samples were not collected from this location prior to December 13, 2001.

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_000203432