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May 17, 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  
 Stuyvesant High School (M477)  
 345 Chambers Street  
 New York, New York 10007  
 ATC Project No. 15-19125-0246**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of indoor air quality (IAQ) measurements collected on May 16, 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<sub>2</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO).

Total volatile organic compounds (TVOCs) and respirable particulates were also measured.

Herant Antonyan, Environmental Technician, of ATC's New York City office, conducted the assessment. ATC's findings and conclusions are based on a visual inspection, real-time environmental measurements and conditions present in the school at the time of the assessment.

ATC measured temperature, relative humidity, CO<sub>2</sub> and CO with a Q-Trak® Model 8551, manufactured by TSI, Inc.

ATC measured concentrations of respirable particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) with a Dust-Trak® Aerosol Monitor Model 8520, manufactured by TSI, Inc.

ATC measured concentrations of TVOCs using a RAE Systems, Inc. MiniRAE® photoionization detector (PID).

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.

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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**

| <b>PARAMETER</b>                             | <b>TARGET LEVEL</b>                                                       | <b>AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION</b>                               |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )            | <700 parts per million (ppm)<br>above background level                    | ASHRAE 62                                                   |
| Carbon Monoxide (CO)                         | 9 ppm                                                                     | ASHRAE 62 (adopted from USEPA NPAAQS)                       |
| Respirable Particulates (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) | 65 micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) 24-hour average | USEPA NPAAQS                                                |
|                                              | 40 µg/m <sup>3</sup> 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

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### REAL-TIME ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS

ATC collected one hundred and twenty (120) sets of real-time environmental measurements consisting of one hundred and eighteen (118) in the school building and two (2) outdoors. All ten floors of the school were surveyed. These results are described below.

Field data sheets are found in Attachment 1. Readings began at 8:00 A.M. and concluded after 1:05 P.M.

#### Temperature

Indoor dry bulb temperature measurements ranged from 68°F to 73.7°F. One hundred and ten (110) of the indoor measurements were below and eight (8) were within the range of 73 to 79°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the mechanical cooling season (summertime conditions). The outdoor temperature range was 65.1 to 70.1°F.

#### Relative Humidity

The relative humidity indoors ranged from 32.8 percent to 41.2 percent. All of the measurements were within the ASHRAE-recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort. The outdoor relative humidity levels were 35.2 and 38.7 percent.

#### Carbon Dioxide Concentration

Carbon dioxide concentrations indoors ranged from 458 ppm to 1136 ppm. Twelve (12) of the CO<sub>2</sub> measurements were above the ASHRAE Standard 62-1999 recommended maximum concentration of <700 ppm above the background level. The outdoor (background) CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were 396 ppm and 399 ppm. Therefore, the maximum acceptable level of CO<sub>2</sub> at this location was 1099 ppm (background level + 700 ppm). The highest reading was taken in room 936 at 12:10 PM with 30 occupants. 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<sub>2</sub> indoors is occupant respiration.

#### Carbon Monoxide Concentration

Carbon monoxide concentrations indoors ranged from 0 ppm to 1 ppm. These concentrations were below the NPAAQS/ASHRAE guideline of 9 ppm. The outdoor CO concentrations was 1 ppm for both readings.

#### Respirable Particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

Respirable particulate concentrations\* indoors ranged between 16 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 27 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with an average of approximately 21 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. None of the indoor measurements were above the NPAAQS of 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup> 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter and the USEPA recommendation of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for sensitive individuals and children. The outdoor respirable particulate concentrations were 40 and 59 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

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In addition to higher efficiency rating filters on their HVAC units, portable High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) purifiers were placed in Rooms 327, 333, 638 and 740. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration range for these rooms was 17 - 24  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  with an average of approximately 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

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

#### TVOC Concentration

TVOCs inside the building were 0.0 ppm for all readings. The outdoor TVOC concentrations were also 0.0 ppm.

#### OBSERVATIONS

During this assessment, ATC noted the following:

- The interior of the building appeared clean and free of dust and debris;
- 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 respirable particulates, CO , and TVOCs were below applicable standards and guidelines.
2. All measurements of relative humidity were within the ASHRAE recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort.
3. One hundred and ten (110) indoor temperature measurements were below the range of 73 to 79°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the mechanical cooling season (summertime conditions).
4. Twelve (12) of the CO<sub>2</sub> measurements were above the ASHRAE Standard 62-1999 recommended maximum concentration of <700 ppm above the background level. The highest reading was taken in room 936 at 12:10 PM with 30 occupants. 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<sub>2</sub> indoors is occupant respiration.

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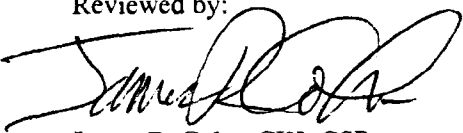
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It is our pleasure to provide these indoor air quality services to the New York City Board of Education. If you have any questions about this report, please call (212) 353-8280, extension 211 or 212.

Sincerely,  
**ATC ASSOCIATES INC.**

  
Arnel Javal  
Senior Project Manager

Reviewed by:  
  
James R. Cohn, CIH, CSP  
Regional Manager  
Industrial Hygiene Division

Attachment