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May 13, 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 April 8, 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 Environ Corp., consultant to the parents association.

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

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.

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

#### **RESULTS**

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

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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. A copy of the laboratory analysis report is attached. The results of the samples are shown in the following table:

**DIOXIN WIPE SAMPLE RESULT**  
**(2, 3, 7, 8 TCDD EQUIVALENTS) - Nanograms per square meter (ng/m<sup>2</sup>)**  
**April 8, 2002**

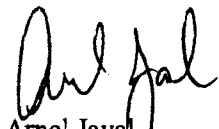
| LOCATION/SAMPLE NUMBER                         | DIOXIN CONCENTRATION |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Main Entrance- Lobby/DX1 | 0.0012               |
| Blank                                          | 0.000028             |

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<sup>2</sup>). 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.



Arnel Javal  
Senior Project Manager

*Reviewed By:*



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

Attachment