NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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January 15, 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 Mercury
Stuyvesant High School
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0246

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this letter report of air sampling for mercury conducted on January 3 and 9, 2002, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested this sampling at the recommendation of H. A. Bader, a consultant to the parents' association.

On each day, ATC collected three (3) samples for mercury vapor using Carulite® (Hydrar) tubes connected to battery-powered sampling pumps calibrated to collect 0.2 liters of air per minute. Two samples were collected indoors and one was collected on the roof. The samples were sent to PSC Analytical Services, Inc., an American Industrial Hygiene Association-accredited laboratory in Reading, PA. One blank tube was also submitted. Analysis was performed by means of a mercury analyzer according to NIOSH Method 6009. A copy of the analytical report is attached.

Mercury (Hg) was found at a trace level in each of the six samples. It was also detected in the blanks. The tables show the mercury concentrations in the samples on each day.

TABLE 1
Airborne Mercury (Hg) Concentrations
January 3, 2002

Sample No. and Location	* Hg per sample (micrograms)	Vol. (liters)	Hg Concentration (mg/m^3)*
Hg-1 1st Floor Main Lobby	0.026	96	0.000271
Hg-2 2nd floor bridge lobby	0.029	96	0.000302
Hg-3 Roof	0.029	96	0.000302
Hg-4 Blank	0.028	--	--

* milligrams per cubic meter of air / *Not* blank corrected

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TABLE 2
Airborne Mercury (Hg) Concentrations
January 9, 2002

Sample No. and Location	Hg per sample (micrograms)	Vol. (liters)	Hg Concentration (mg/m^3)*
Hg-1 1st Floor Main Lobby	0.040	96	0.000417
Hg-2 2nd floor bridge lobby	0.0350	96	0.000365
Hg-3 Roof	0.0360	96	0.000375
Hg-4 Blank	0.0390	--	--

* milligrams per cubic meter of air / *Not* blank corrected

After the Hg levels in the blanks are subtracted, the maximum concentrations in the indoor samples drop to 0.000010 mg/m^3 on both days. The outdoor levels drop to 0.000010 mg/m^3 on January 3rd and below the limit of detection on January 9th

There are currently no federal ambient air standards for mercury. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for mercury is $1.0mg/10m^3$ ($0.1mg/m^3$). This is considerably above the levels that were detected or that would otherwise be expected in a school or office and it is not an applicable standard.

ATC appreciates the opportunity to provide this indoor 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

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