NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

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June 19, 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**
**High School of Economics and Finance (833M)**
**ATC Project No. 15-19125-0291**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this letter report of air sampling for hydrocarbon compounds conducted on March 9, 2002, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested this sampling to evaluate possible contamination in the school building.

## Scope of Work

ATC collected four (4) samples for hydrocarbon compounds (HC) at locations throughout the building. Samples were collected for a minimum of 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 inside the building and one (1) was collected outside. 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 (NIOSH Methods 1003, 1005, 1022, 1300, 1500, 1501).

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 total other A-hydrocarbons are those, such as gasoline or light alcohols, with boiling points less than that of benzene (176°F). The total other B-hydrocarbons (TOBHC) are those, such as mineral spirits or petroleum naphtha, with boiling points greater than that of benzene. A copy of the analytical report is attached.

The sampling locations were: Outdoors on the roof, 1st floor lobby, 5th floor elevator lobby, and 10th floor staircase B.

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**Results**

The only HC compound present above the limit of detection was chloroform which was detected in the 1st floor main lobby sample (concentration of 0.036 ppm), 5th floor hallway (concentration of 0.055 ppm), and 10th floor hallway (concentration of 0.036 ppm). Chloroform is used as a solvent for commercial waxes and resins and may have been present as the result of the waxing and polishing of the floors in the school.

*None of the other HCs in the panel were present in the other samples above the limits of detection for the analyses.*

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.**

Arnel Javal
Senior Project Manager

Reviewed By:

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

Attachment



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