NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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March 1, 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 Metals
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 metals in airborne dust on February 13, 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.

Scope of Work

ATC collected three (3) samples for metals at specified locations. Samples were collected for a minimum of eight (8) hours using 37 mm mixed cellulose ester filters connected to battery-powered sampling pumps at a flow rate of 2 liters per minute. Pumps were calibrated before and after each sampling period. Two (2) samples were collected inside the building and one (1) was collected outdoors. One blank sample 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 NIOSH Method 7300M. Each sample was analyzed for a panel of eleven (11) metals. The metals were aluminum (Al), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), iron (Fe), magnesium (Mg), manganese (Mn), molybdenum (Mo), nickel (Ni) and zinc (Zn). Copies of the analytical reports are attached.

Sampling locations were specified by the parent's association consultant. They were as follows: 1st floor main lobby, 2nd floor bridge entrance hallway, and the roof.

Tenzin Namgyal and Wagdi Abdelshahid, Industrial Hygienists from ATC's New York City office, collected the samples. The results represent conditions on the day the samples were collected.

The established regulatory values for metals are intended for industrial workplace exposures and are not generally applicable to office/school settings. *There are no standards for these metals in indoor air in non-industrial situations.*

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RESULTS

Chromium was detected in all of the samples obtained (including the blank). Blank-correcting the samples will lower the chromium concentrations to below the limit of detection of the analytical method.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a screening level for hexavalent chromium in air of 0.6 ug/m^3, this assumes a continuous exposure for one year. The samples here were analyzed for total chromium (trivalent and hexavalent). Blank-corrected chromium concentrations are well below the EPA level.

Copper was detected at 0.295 micrograms, which is slightly above the analytical limit of detection of 0.2 micrograms in the sample collected at the 2nd floor bridge entrance hallway (Sample #ATC-0213-STUY-M2). The resulting calculated airborne concentration at the location was 0.308 micrograms per cubic meter of air. Copper was not detected in the blank above the analytical limit of detection. The EPA has not established a screening limit or guideline for copper.

No other metals were detected in the samples above the limit of detection for the analytical method.

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