NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC

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February 26, 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 Samples for Mercury Vapor
High School for Leadership and Public Service (894M)
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0290

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this letter report of air sampling for mercury vapor collected on February 15, 2002, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested these samples to determine if acceptable air quality is being maintained.

Scope of Work

ATC collected four (4) samples for mercury vapor. Samples were collected using Carulite® (Hydrar) tubes connected to battery-powered sampling pumps calibrated to collect 0.2 liters of air per minute. Samples were collected for a minimum of two (2) hours. Three (3) samples were collected inside the building and one (1) was collected outside.. 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 means of a mercury analyzer according to NIOSH Method 6009. A copy of the analytical report is provided in the attachment.

Tenzin Namgyal and Wagdi Abdelshahid, Industrial Hygienists from ATC's New York City office, collected the samples.

The locations of the samples were: 1st floor Main Lobby, 5th floor Hallway by the Elevator, 10th floor Hallway by the Elevator and the Roof.

Results

The established regulatory value for mercury ($0.1 mg/m^3$) is intended for industrial workplace exposures and is not generally applicable to office/school settings. There are no standards for mercury in indoor air in non-industrial situations. The EPA has no ambient air standard for mercury.

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Mercury was present in one sample at a level that differed from that found in the blank. Sample #Hg3, collected in the 10th floor hallway near the elevator contained 0.0360 micrograms of mercury (0.0360 ug) for a time-weighted average concentration of 0.0003 milligrams of mercury per cubic meter of air (0.0003 mg/m^3). The blank contained 0.0260 ug. If the amount of mercury in the blank is subtracted from the amount in Sample #Hg3, the time-weighted average concentration drops to 0.00008 mg/m^3.

ATC appreciates the opportunity to provide this indoor air quality service to the BOE. Please call (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

NYC-WTC_000297636