NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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March 11, 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
P.S. 150M
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0289

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this letter report of air sampling for mercury conducted on February 25 and March 4, 2002, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested this sampling at the recommendation of Environ Corp., a consultant to the parent's association.

Scope of Work

ATC collected three (3) samples for mercury vapor on both days using Carulite® (Hydrar) tubes connected to battery-powered sampling pumps calibrated to collect 0.2 liters of air per minute. Samples were collected for ten (10) hours. Two (2) samples were collected outdoors and one (1) was collected indoors. 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. Copies the analytical reports are attached.

Tenzin Namgyal and Wagdi Abdelshahid, Industrial Hygienists from ATC's New York City office, conducted the sampling. Sampling was conducted in accordance with accepted industrial hygiene practices. The results represent the conditions on the days the samples were collected.

The sampling locations on both days were: the 1st floor lobby, Outdoor-Plaza, and the Roof.

Results

February 25

Mercury vapor was detected in all three samples at concentrations just above the level found in the blank.

The blank-corrected mercury concentrations found on this date are shown in the table:

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BLANK-CORRECTED Hg CONCENTRATIONS
February 25, 2002

LOCATION	MICROGRAMS PER SAMPLE	MICROGRAMS/M^3 DETECTED	MICROGRAMS/M^3 CORRECTED
Plaza – Outdoors	00280	0.233	**0.0167**
Lobby	0.0280	0.233	**0.0167**
Roof	0.0290	0.242	**0.0250**
Blank	0.0260	--	--

March 4

Mercury vapor was detected in the samples at concentrations that were indistinguishable from that detected in the blank.

The established regulatory value for mercury (OSHA: 0.1mg/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 standard or guideline for mercury vapor in ambient air.

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

NYC-WTC_000375644