NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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April 12, 2002

Mr. Bernard P. Orlan
Director, Environmental Health & Safety
New York City Board of Education
28-11 Queens Plaza North
Long Island City, NY 11101-4008

Re: Indoor Air Quality Assessment
P.S. 234M
292 Greenwich Street
New York, New York 10007
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0279

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of indoor air quality (IAQ) measurements collected on April 11, 2002, at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested these measurements as part of a program to determine if acceptable indoor air quality is being maintained.

SCOPE OF WORK

ATC conducted this evaluation to assess the basic parameters of temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide (CO_2) and carbon monoxide (CO) with a Q-Trak® Model 8551, manufactured by TSI, Inc.

ATC measured concentrations of respirable particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) with a Dust-Trak® Aerosol Monitor Model 8520, manufactured by TSI, Inc.

ATC measured concentrations of Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOCs) using a RAE Systems, Inc. MiniRAE® photoionization detector (PID).

Mr. Jimmy Choy, Environmental Technician, of ATC's New York City office, conducted the assessment.

ATC's findings are based on a visual inspection, real-time environmental measurements and conditions present in the school at the time of the assessment.

The assessment was performed consistent with generally accepted indoor air quality assessment practices. As with all such assessments, there were inherent limitations created by constraints of time, operational and work practice variability, variations in indoor air quality parameters and sampling and analytical accuracy.

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The results of the sampling represent conditions found on the dates of the survey and may not represent conditions found at other times. The information presented in this report should be used by the BOE as a guide to assess the need for further improvements in current indoor air quality control activities.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Currently, there are no regulatory standards for indoor air quality in non-industrial buildings, such as offices and schools. For the real-time data collected, ATC uses the commonly accepted guidelines cited in the following publications:

- *Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality (ASHRAE 62-1999)*, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE);
- *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy (ASHRAE 55-1992);*
- *Industrial Hygienists Guide to Indoor Air Quality Investigations* (1993), American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).

Table 1 lists target guidelines for the parameters that ATC evaluated during this investigation. Meeting one, some, or all of the listed values does not assure that acceptable indoor air quality will be achieved at all times.

TABLE 1
TARGET GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR AIR QUALITY PARAMETERS EVALUATED

PARAMETER	TARGET LEVEL	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION
Carbon Dioxide (CO_2)	<700 parts per million (ppm) above background level	ASHRAE 62
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	9 ppm	ASHRAE 62 (adopted from USEPA NPAAQS)
Respirable Particulates ($PM_{2.5}$)	65 micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu g/m^3$) 24-hour average	USEPA NPAAQS
	40 $\mu g/m^3$ 24-hour average	USEPA – recommendation for children/sensitive individuals
Temperature	Summer: 73-79°F at 50% RH Winter: 68-75°F at 50% RH	ASHRAE 55
Relative Humidity	30 – 60 %	ASHRAE 55
Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOC)	1 ppm	AIHA

USEPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency
NPAAQS = National Primary Ambient-Air Quality Standard
AIHA = American Industrial Hygiene Association

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REAL-TIME ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS

ATC collected sixty (60) sets of real-time environmental measurements consisting of fifty-one (51) from inside the school building and nine (9) outdoors. All three floors of the school were surveyed. These results are described below.

Field data sheets are found in Attachment 1. Readings began at 2:00 P.M. and concluded after 3:55 P.M.

Temperature

Indoor dry bulb temperature measurements ranged from 68.9 °F to 76.1 °F. Twenty-seven (27) indoor measurements for temperature were above and twenty-four (24) were within the range of 68 to 75°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) as recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the heating season (wintertime conditions). The outdoor temperature measurements ranged from 55.3 to 59.6 °F.

Relative Humidity

The relative humidity indoors ranged from 28 percent to 34.4 percent. Thirty (30) indoor measurements for relative humidity were below and twenty-one (21) were within the ASHRAE-recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort. The outdoor relative humidity ranged from 25.9 to 34.9 percent.

Carbon Dioxide Concentration

Carbon dioxide concentrations indoors ranged from 480 ppm to 1250 ppm. One (1) of the indoor measurements was below the ASHRAE Standard 62-1999 recommended maximum concentration of <700 ppm above the background level. The maximum outdoor (background) CO_2 concentration was 487 ppm. Therefore, the maximum acceptable level of CO_2 at this location was 1187 ppm (background level + 700 ppm). The highest reading was taken in room 380 (1250 ppm) at 2:20 PM with 19 occupants. Levels above the recommended maximum do not indicate a health risk. Carbon dioxide measurements are used as an indicator of available outdoor air. The primary source of CO_2 indoors is occupant respiration.

Carbon Monoxide Concentration

Carbon monoxide concentrations indoors ranged from 1-2 ppm. These concentrations were below the NPAAQS/ASHRAE guideline of 9 ppm. The outdoor CO concentrations were 1 ppm for all readings.

Respirable Particulates ($PM_{2.5}$)

Respirable particulate concentrations* indoors ranged between 10 $\mu g/m^3$ to 28 $\mu g/m^3$. None of the indoor or outdoor measurements for $PM_{2.5}$ were above the NPAAQS of 65 $\mu g/m^3$ 24- hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter and the USEPA recommended concentration of 40 $\mu g/m^3$ for sensitive individuals and children.

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The average $PM_{2.5}$ concentration for the entire school building was approximately 13 $\mu g/m^3$. The outdoor respirable particulate concentration ranged from 24 to 35 $\mu g/m^3$ with an average of 26 $\mu g/m^3$.

* The measurements made during this assessment were instantaneous readings, the NPAAQS is a 24-hour average.

TVOC Concentration

TVOCs were not detected anywhere inside the building (0.0 ppm). The outdoor TVOC concentration was also 0.0 ppm.

OBSERVATIONS

During this assessment, ATC noted the following:

- The building was occupied at the time of the assessment;
- No smoke odor was detected in the building.

FINDINGS

Based on the real-time measurements, the following findings are presented:

1. Concentrations of CO and TVOCs were below applicable standards and guidelines.
2. One (1) of the indoor measurements was below the ASHRAE Standard 62-1999 recommended maximum concentration of <700 ppm above the background level. The highest reading was taken in room 380 (1250 ppm) at 2:20 PM with 19 occupants. Levels above the recommended maximum do not indicate a health risk. Carbon dioxide measurements are used as an indicator of available outdoor air. The primary source of CO_2 indoors is occupant respiration.
3. Twenty-seven (27) indoor measurements for temperature were above and twenty-four (24) were within the range of 68 to 75°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) as recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the heating season (wintertime conditions).
4. None of the indoor or outdoor measurements for $PM_{2.5}$ were above the NPAAQS of 65 $\mu g/m^3$ 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter and the USEPA recommended concentration of 40 $\mu g/m^3$ for sensitive individuals and children.
5. Twenty-seven (27) indoor measurements for temperature were above and twenty-four (24) were within the range of 68 to 75°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) as recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the heating season (wintertime conditions).

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It is our pleasure to provide these indoor air quality services to the New York City Board of Education. If you have any questions about this report, please call (212) 353-8280, extension 211 or 212.

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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