NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

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February 20, 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 Vapor
Stuyvesant High School
ATC Project No. 15-19125-0246

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of air sampling for mercury vapor conducted 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.

ATC collected three (3) samples for mercury vapor using Carulite® (Hydrar) tubes connected to battery-powered sampling pumps calibrated to collect 0.2 liters of air per minute. Two samples were collected indoors and one was collected on the roof. 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. A copy of the analytical report is attached.

Mercury (Hg) was found at a trace level in each of the three samples. It was also detected in the blank. The following table presents the mercury data by sample location.

Airborne Mercury (Hg) Concentrations
February 13, 2002

Sample No. and Location	Hg per sample (micrograms)	Vol. (liters)	Hg Concentration (mg/m^3) *
Hg-1 1st Floor Main Lobby	0.0280	96	0.000021
Hg-2 2nd floor bridge lobby	0.0280	96	0.000021
Hg-3 Roof	0.0270	96	0.000010
Hg-4 Blank	0.0260	--	--

* Milligrams per cubic meter of air / blank-corrected

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The mercury vapor concentrations in the samples are essentially indistinguishable from the blank.

There are currently no federal ambient air standards for mercury. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for mercury is 1.0 mg/10m^3 (0.1mg/m^3). This is considerably above the levels that were detected or that would otherwise be expected in a school/office setting.

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