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 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 27, 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 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.

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 day the samples were collected.

Results

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.

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Blank-Corrected (Hg) Concentrations
February 27, 2002

Sample No. and Location	Hg per sample (micrograms)	Vol. (liters)	Hg Detected (ug/m^3)*	Hg Blank-Corrected (ug/m^3)
Hg-1 1st Floor Main Lobby	0.0290	96	0.302	0.031
Hg-2 2nd floor bridge lobby	0.0310	96	0.323	0.052
Hg-3 Roof	0.0270	96	0.281	0.010
Hg-4 Blank	0.0260	--	--	--

* micrograms per cubic meter of air

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