NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

ATC ASSOCIATES INC.

104 East 25th St., 10th Floor
New York, New York 10010
www.atc-enviro.com
212.353.8280
Fax 212.353.8306

April 10, 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 letter report of air sampling for mercury conducted on March 20 and 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

On each day, 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 consistent with accepted industrial hygiene practices. The results represent the conditions on the days the samples were collected.

## Results

Mercury (Hg) was detected at trace levels in the samples and in the blanks. The Hg level in only one sample (Hg1-ATC-0320-STY) was at a concentration that was distinguishable from the blank. The blank-corrected Hg concentration in that sample was 0.052 micrograms per cubic meter (0.052 ug/$m^3$). The blank-corrected Hg concentrations in all of the other samples from both days are at or below the limit of detection.

The results indicate that the Hg detected is a consistent contaminant of the sampling medium and not from the ambient air.

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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 1.0mg/10m$^3$ (0.1mg/m$^3$). This is considerably above the levels that were detected or that would otherwise be expected in a school or office and it is not an applicable standard.

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



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