



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SEP 11 2007

Flanigan Square, 547 River Street, Troy, New York 12180-2216

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

September 5, 2007

Dr. Judith Pastel
Superintendent
Ithaca City School District
101 Esty Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

Re: Sampling Results
South Hill Elementary School
520 Hudson Street
Ithaca (C), Tompkins County

Dear Dr. Pastel:

This letter is written on behalf of the New York State Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation (the State) regarding the August 2007 sub-slab soil vapor and crawlspace air sampling performed at the South Hill Elementary School.

As you know, this sampling was performed by the State, in consultation with the School District, to further investigate the low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) detected in soil vapor on the school property.


The State collected a total of 11 sub-slab soil vapor and 7 crawlspace air samples from 16 locations beneath the school on August 21, 2007 through August 22, 2007 to determine whether VOCs are present directly below occupied areas of the elementary school. All samples were analyzed by an approved laboratory to test for VOCs. The State's consultant also completed a school building questionnaire and product inventory, which includes a list of recent activities conducted or products present in the building that might contain VOCs, and recorded real-time air quality readings with a sensitive air monitoring instrument around these products. Enclosed are a figure showing the sample locations, laboratory results, and the field sampling and product inventory form for the samples collected at the elementary school.

I am pleased to inform you that, based on a review of the data, no further sampling is necessary. As is often the case, low levels of VOCs were detected in all samples collected. Chemicals are part of our everyday life. They are present in the products we store and use indoors and in the outdoor air that enters buildings. As such,

some chemicals are expected to be found in air samples. The low levels of VOCs detected in the samples collected from beneath the school do not indicate levels of contamination requiring further investigation.

If you wish to discuss your results further, please call me at 1-800-458-1158 (extension 2-7860).

Sincerely,



Susan B. Shearer, P.E.
Assistant Sanitary Engineer
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation

ENCLOSURES

- Sampling Location Figure.
- A copy of the completed Field Sampling and Product Inventory Forms.
- A copy of the laboratory reports.
- *What is Exposure?* — an information sheet describing how a person may come into contact with chemicals in the environment.

cc: Honorable Barbara Lifton, New York State Assembly
Honorable Maurice Hinchey, United State House of Representatives
Honorable Carolyn Peterson, Mayor, City of Ithaca
Ms. Rae Covey, Principal, South Hill Elementary School
M.J. Peachey/G. Townsend / K. Cahill — NYSDEC (w/o enclosures)
S. Ervolina — NYSDEC (w/o enclosures)
R. Knizek — NYSDEC (w/o enclosures)
N. Kim, Ph.D. — NYSDOH (w/o enclosures)
G. A. Carlson, Ph.D. / A. Salame-Affie, Ph.D. — NYSDOH (w/o enclosures)
G. Litwin/M. VanValkenburg/File — NYSDOH (w/ all enclosures excluding fact sheets)
D. Luttinger, Ph.D. — NYSDOH (w/o enclosures)
C. Thurnau — NYSED
R. Heerkens — NYSDOH Central Regional Office (w/o enclosures)
F. Chase — Tompkins County Department of Health (w/o enclosures)

N:\BEE\Bureau\Sites\Region_7\TOMPKINS\755010\School SVI\DEC source assessment\final Ithaca School results2.doc