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August 29, 2017

Robert Schoenfeldt
Washington Township SD
206 East Holly Avenue
Sewell, NJ 08080

Re: Washington Township School District – Gym Flooring – Mercury Air Testing
Birches, Bells, Wedgewood, Whitman Elementary Schools

Dear Mr. Schoenfeldt,

Background:

Coastal Environmental Compliance, LLC (Coastal Environmental) was contacted by the Washington Township School District (the District) to conduct mercury air testing of four gym floors throughout the District.

US EPA reports that certain polyurethane flooring materials installed between 1962 and the mid-1990s contain mercury. Polyurethane flooring is manufactured by combining two liquid resins to form a durable, resilient, polymeric surface. Mercury is the catalyst in the formation of the polymer; hence, the name for this type of flooring is mercury catalyzed polyurethane flooring, or MCPF. The mercury is typically present as the compound phenyl mercuric acetate. These floors are generally installed over cement sub floors.

Evaluation of Health Concerns:

Studies from Wisconsin Department of Public Health (WDPH) concluded that “mercury vapors typically emitted from the floor during the typical activities in a gym will not harm students or staff”. However, ventilating the space prior to use has been a standard practice in schools that still contain MCPF, and removal operations could release significant amounts of mercury contamination if not performed in a controlled manner.

Assessment Approach:

Air sampling was conducted throughout four gyms within the District. The sampling was conducted on August 2, 2017, by Cathy Ledden of Coastal Environmental, to establish if mercury was present in the air.

Air sampling was conducted, by using a Mercury Analyzer – Jerome 431X Meter.

Below, please find the results of the testing of mercury when analyzed by milligrams per cubic meter.

Facility	Year Built and Floor Color	Results milligrams per cubic meter
Birches	March 1996 – Blue Flooring	0.00
Bells	March 1996 - Blue Flooring	0.00 – 0.0003
Wedgewood	March 1996 – Blue Flooring	0.00
Whitman	March 1996 – Tan Flooring	0.00

Conclusion:

The results revealed zero to low levels of mercury ranging from 0.00 to 0.0003 milligrams per cubic meter throughout the district.

Based upon the air testing results within the gym, it proves that mercury levels are well below the NIOSH standard of 0.05 milligrams per cubic meter and OSHA standard of 0.1 milligrams per cubic meter.

Recommendation:

Even though the air samples proved acceptable, it is recommended that bulk sampling be conducted prior to any disturbance and or removal of the gym floor.

Coastal Environmental Compliance, LLC is pleased to have provided the Washington Township School District with professional services.

Coastal Environmental Compliance, LLC

Cathy Ledden

Cathy Ledden
Sr. Environmental Compliance Officer