

# Allegheny County Health Department

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April 15, 2009

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John S. DiSanti, Ph.D., Superintendent  
West Allegheny School District  
P. O. Box 55  
Imperial, PA 15126

RE: WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Dr. DiSanti:

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has received and investigated numerous complaints regarding odors at the Wilson Elementary School. As of today, April 15, 2009, we have collected and analyzed air samples from inside and outside the Wilson Elementary School.

A 24-hour set of charcoal tube samples were collected at the school by ACHD on March 19-20, 2009. One set was collected in Classroom 13 and the other was collected on the roof of the school. The samples were collected using a Gillian 5000 Pump at a flow rate of liter per minute, for a total sample volume of 1,444 liters of air.

The tubes were analyzed by the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Laboratory. The raw data was then inserted into the OSHA formula for calculating the concentration in PPM. The formula is as follows:  $(24.4 * \text{Total PPM}) / (\text{Molecular Weight} * \text{Total Minutes} * \text{Liters of Air per Minute})$ .

Using the raw data gathered from the March 19-20, 2009 testing and the above formula, the following concentration levels were calculated:

## Classroom 13

Benzene	<0.191 PPB
Ethyl benzene	<0.158 PPB
Toluene	<0.158 PPB
p-Xylene	<0.137 PPB
m-Xylene	<0.137 PPB
o-Xylene	<0.137 PPB
Tot Xylene	<0.411 PPB
Total Hydrocarbon	<0.092 PPB

## Roof top

Benzene	<0.191 PPB
Ethyl benzene	<0.158 PPB
Toluene	<0.158 PPB
p-Xylene	<0.137 PPB
m-Xylene	<0.137 PPB
o-Xylene	<0.137 PPB
Tot Xylene	<0.411 PPB
Total Hydrocarbon	<0.092 PPB

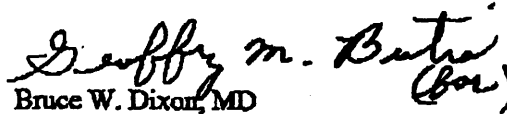
The concentrations of the above compounds are in the range of levels that are regularly measured at ACHD's South Fayette monitoring site (see attachment 1). The South Fayette site is remote to any major industrial source of pollution. As a result, these measurements are considered to be representative of background levels of air contaminants in Allegheny County. Based on this information, the concentrations of the above compounds are at levels below which one would expect to see adverse health effects in adults and children using the school facility.

John S. DiSanti, Ph.D., Superintendent  
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Follow-up sampling, testing, and analyses will be continued by this Department. ACHD staff is in the process of installing continuous monitoring equipment at the school to measure Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and will begin some monitoring for Methane.

We would like to meet with you in the near future to discuss this and any other issues or concerns you may have. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce W. Dixon, MD  
Director

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Attachment

cc: Gary Klingman, Manager, Findlay Township  
Michael Forbeck, P.E., Regional Manager, Waste Management, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Brent Bowker, General Manager, Allied Waste Systems of Pennsylvania, LLC  
Jim Thompson, Project Manager, Air Quality Program, ACHD  
Henry Miller III, Solicitor, ACHD

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**South Fayette 2006  
SUMMA Canister Data**

	<b>Benzene ppb</b>	<b>Toluene ppb</b>	<b>Ethyl Benzene ppb</b>	<b>o-xylene ppb</b>	<b>m-p- xylene ppb</b>
<b>Average</b>	0.33	0.51	0.04	0.04	0.10
<b>Min</b>	0.08	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.02
<b>Max</b>	3.03	3.94	0.15	0.18	0.56

**South Fayette 2007  
SUMMA Canister Data**

	<b>Benzene ppb</b>	<b>Toluene ppb</b>	<b>Ethyl Benzene ppb</b>	<b>o-xylene ppb</b>	<b>m-p- xylene ppb</b>
<b>Average</b>	0.28	0.39	0.03	0.03	0.08
<b>Min</b>	0.09	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.02
<b>Max</b>	0.80	2.46	0.14	0.19	0.43