



Department of Law

March 22, 2002

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Lee Hellested, P.E., Chief
Office of Waste Management
Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management
Site Remediation and Restoration Program
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 09208

RE: Springfield Street School – Notice of Intent to Enforce (OWM2002-001)

Dear Mr. Hellested:

Alan Sepe Acting Director of Public Property, has forwarded me a photocopy of the Department's Notices dated March 14, 2002.

I have spoken with Brian Wagner, Esquire, who suggested I communicate directly to you. Be advised that the City has every intention of acting in accord with the RAWP dated June 4, 1999.

I am enclosing a photocopy of Kevin McHugh's correspondence of March 8, 2002 to Steven Fischbach. Attached thereto are responses from ATC Associates Inc., the city consultant in this effort. I am also enclosing a photocopy of a later consultant's report which I am forwarding to Mr. Fischbach.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

John T. D'Amico, Jr.
Senior Assistant City Solicitor

JTD:cmr
Enclosures
cc: Alan Sepe
Steven Fischbach, Esquire

CHARLES R. MANSOLILLO
City Solicitor

VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
Mayor



Department of Law

March 22, 2002

Steven Fischbach, Esquire
Unit Head
Housing Law Center and
Eviction Defense Clinic
Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc.
56 Pine Street, Fourth Floor
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Springfield Street School

Dear Mr. Fischbach:

Enclosed please find a supplemental report received from ATC Associates, Inc. with respect to the Springfield Street School.

If you have any questions regarding the same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. D'Amico, Jr." with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

John T. D'Amico, Jr.
Senior Assistant City Solicitor

JTD:cmr
Enclosure



Department of Law

March 8, 2002

Steven Fischbach, Esquire
Unit Head
Housing Law Center and
Eviction Defense Clinic
Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc.
56 Pine Street, Fourth Floor
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Springfield Street School

Dear Mr. Fischbach:

Enclosed find March 6, 2002 letter from ATC Associates, Inc. This will serve as a response to your letter of March 1, 2002.

Also enclosed find another letter from ATC to Alan Sepe dated December 17, 2001 which serves as a response to DEM's December 19, 2001 letter.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin F. McHugh".

Kevin F. McHugh
Assistant City Solicitor

KFM:cmr

cc: Terence J. Tierney, Assistant Attorney General
Brian Wagner, Esquire, Department of Environmental Management
Alan Sepe, Acting Director, Department of Public Property
Adam Sullivan, Senior Project Manager, ATC Associates, Inc.



December 17, 2001

Mr. Alan Sepe
Department of Public Property
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1789

Re: Springfield Street School
Monitoring

Dear Mr. Sepe:

I have reviewed Mr. Fischbach's December 12, 2001 letter concerning the monitoring at the Springfield Street Schools. In response to this letter, ATC Associates Inc. offers the following responses:

1. Mr. Fischbach correctly points out that the blower attached to the Elementary School was not operating at the time of our visit. The system shut-down was likely the result of a recent power disruption in the general area of the school. In the past school personnel have notified us of such problems. To correct this problem in the future, I recommend installing an audible alarm on the system to notify school personnel that the system is not running.

ATC also points out that methane has not been detected in connection with the system in the nine quarterly sampling events completed to date. Nor, have we identified methane in soil gas near either of the schools during perimeter soil gas monitoring events. Based on the apparent lack of methane, a disruption in service for a week or more would not likely cause methane to generate under either slab.

2. Ever since the methane alarms were installed, false readings of methane have been observed. ATC is confident in the fact that the readings are false because on several occasions, we have directly monitored the air space within the building to confirm the fact that the readings were false. Hand-held monitors held directly near each false reading sensor recorded no methane, while the monitors showed false-positive concentrations. The hand-held instruments are independently calibrated and are more sensitive to the presence of methane than the wall sensors. Early this fall, ATC contacted Diamond Calibration to re-calibrate each sensor. During the recalibration process indoor air quality was again directly monitored. No methane was detected.

We have placed ATC contact information near each of the monitoring boards and a copy of the operation and maintenance plan is at each school's office. If

maintenance personnel call the monitor installers, they will not get a response, because the installing company is located out of State. ATC will meet with maintenance personnel to reiterate what to do when the monitors sound an alarm. ATC also recommends that the City contract with a calibration company for monthly inspections and calibration. At this time, ATC believes the use of the building (densely occupied building), and the necessary low positions of the monitors are factors in causing several false alarms.

We should receive laboratory results associated with the latest round of monitoring soon. Once this information is obtained we will forward a copy of the quarterly report to you. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,
ATC ASSOCIATES INC.



Adam Sullivan
Senior Project Manager



1970 Pawtucket Avenue, 2nd Floor
East Providence, Rhode Island 02914
www.atc-enviro.com
401.431.2882
Fax 401.431.1236

March 6, 2002

Mr. Alan Sepe
Department of Public Property
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1789

Re: Springfield Street School
Monitoring

Dear Mr. Sepe:

I have reviewed Mr. Fischbach's March 1, 2002 letter concerning the monitoring at the Springfield Street Schools. In response to this letter, ATC Associates Inc. offers the following responses:

1. The blower connected to the elementary school was not running at the time of the last monitoring event. Walco Electric is repairing the blower's bearings. We expect to receive the blower back on-site in the very near future. This blower, however, is beginning to wear. One solution is to disconnect one of the functioning blowers from the Elementary School and place it at the Middle School. In the past, we have measured vacuum pressure at the perimeter soil gas monitoring wells and have observed vacuum pressure in monitoring wells more than 75 feet from the school. Therefore, we believe the system has sufficient vacuum to ventilate the entire elementary school based on operating one blower. ATC will re-measure vacuum pressure based on the operation of one of the blower at the Elementary School to confirm. Once Walco repairs the worn blower we can arrange for its reinstallation at the Elementary School.
2. ATC is attempting to identify a calibration company to fix and maintain the methane sensors at each school. The sensors are fairly new and the problem is most likely associated with their calibration. One company, Diamond Calibration has refused to bid on the work. We are seeking a second company. Mr. Fischbach will attest that methane was not detected at either school during our indoor air quality evaluation. Our evaluation included monitoring air quality at the defective monitors.
3. It is my understanding that ATC's December 17, 2001 letter to you was forwarded to the Assistant City Solicitor and to the Attorneys involved in the case and that that letter served as a response to RIDEM's December 19, 2001 letter.



1970 Pawtucket Avenue, 2nd Floor
East Providence, Rhode Island 02914
www.atc-enviro.com
401.431.2882
Fax 401.431.1236

March 20, 2002

Mr. Alan Sepe
Department of Public Property
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1789

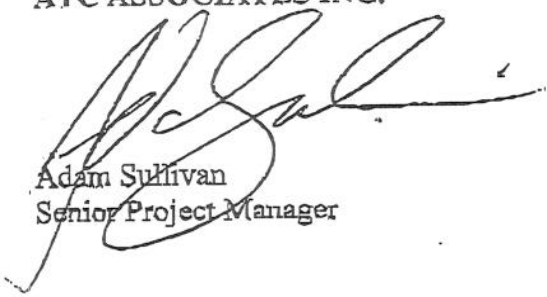
Re: Springfield Street Middle School Blower

Dear Mr. Sepe:

On March 4, 2002 Walco Electric, Inc completed the repair to the sub-slab blower unit for the Middle School. Walco Electric also installed and started the blower on this date. ATC visited the site on March 7, 2002 to confirm the blower unit is in full operation. ATC found the blower unit to be operating normally.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

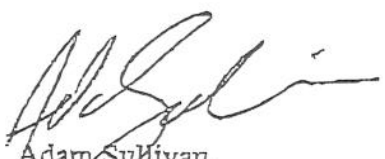
Sincerely,
ATC ASSOCIATES INC.



Adam Sullivan
Senior Project Manager

We should receive laboratory results associated with the latest round of monitoring soon. Once this information is obtained we will forward a copy of the quarterly report to you. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,
ATC ASSOCIATES INC.



Adam Sullivan
Senior Project Manager