



December 27, 2017
File No. 5171-06-01

Mr. Joshua Watkins, Environmental Coordinator
Worcester Public Schools
20 Irving Street
Worcester, MA 01609, MA 02035

RE: November 2017 PCB BMP Quarterly Status Report
Burncoat High School

Dear Mr. Watkins,

At the request of the Worcester Public Schools, O'Reilly Talbot & Okun Associates, Inc. (OTO) has prepared this status report summarizing our observations relative to the condition of materials suspected of possibly containing PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) at Burncoat High School. As you know, these quarterly observations are part of the School Department's ongoing self-assessment of its PCB best management practices (BMPs). The assessment was conducted in accordance with our June 30, 2017 proposal, and the Worcester Public Schools' BMP program.

The assessment included three components:

- 1) The visual evaluations of the condition of caulk;
- 2) The condition of plenum air vents; and
- 3) The degree of dust present on windowsills and window frames at the school.

OTO conducted the observations on Wednesday, November 22, 2017, accompanied by yourself and facility staff¹.

Burncoat High School

OTO observed 43 rooms or other spaces in the Burncoat High School building, including the cafeteria, kitchen, library, faculty break rooms and offices, and classrooms, with general observations of hallway areas. General observations are summarized in the enclosed Table 2, and selected representative photographs are attached.

As evidenced by these observations, the overall level of compliance with the BMPs was very good. The vents for the sub-floor heating plenum were free of significant dust and debris. The interior over-caulking was intact in the spaces observed, with some limited localized areas of damage or missing caulk noted in rooms A16, C-3, C-5, C-6, C-8, D5, D6A, D8, and the hallways by the E and G wing. We note that some areas of over-caulking that were intact in previous visual observations

¹ Although not part of the BMP program, OTO staff also observed limited sampling of caulk and other building materials by Environmental Health, Inc. (EHI) on November 9 and 22, 2017. OTO's understanding is that EHI had been retained by the Educational Association of Worcester (EAW) to conduct this sampling.

now appear to have been locally damaged. When these areas were pointed out, the WPS staff accompanying OTO indicated that these areas would be addressed as part of routine maintenance.

The spaces observed exhibited little dust, but we note that the storage of classroom materials on the windowsills in the classroom spaces creates obstacles for the routine cleanings. These regular cleanings are an important component of the WPS BMP program. The placement of classroom items such as dioramas or rows of textbooks on the windowsills creates difficult to clean areas that promote the accumulation of dust and cannot be wet-wiped or effectively HEPA-vacuumed.

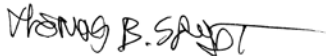
Certain low-occupancy areas such as the auto trade shop room and the hallway outside the gymnasium exhibited minor dust accumulations. School maintenance staff indicated that windowsills and adjacent surfaces had been wet-wiped prior to the start of classes in accordance with BMPs.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In conclusion, our observations indicated good compliance with BMPs. OTO understands that WPS has requested these status observations on a quarterly basis. We therefore suggest the next site visit be conducted in February 2017.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,
O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, Inc.



Thomas B. Speight, CHMM
Project Manager



James D. Okun, LSP
Principal

Attachments

Table 1 – Summary of Observations for Burncoat High School
Selected Photographs from Burncoat High School

Table 1 - Summary of BMP Observations
 Burncoat High School
 179 Burncoat Street
 Worcester, MA 01606
 November 22, 2017

Room	Condition of Caulk	Condition of Plenum Vents	Dust Accumulation
A5 - Staff Conf. Room	VG	VG	VG
A14	VG	VG	Some
A16	1 window missing overcaulk	VG	VG
A18	VG	VG	VG
B1	VG	VG	VG
B2	VG	VG	VG
B3	VG	VG	VG
B4	VG	VG	VG
B5A	VG	VG	VG
B6	VG	VG	VG
B8	VG	VG	VG
Classroom off B5A	VG	VG	VG
Hallway by B1	Hole in window frame	VG	VG
C1A	VG	VG	VG
C3	2 window sections missing overcaulk	VG	VG
C4	VG	VG	VG
C5	1 missing section of overcaulk	VG	VG
C6	4 window sections missing overcaulk	VG	VG
C8	1 window missing overcaulk	VG	VG
C12	VG	VG	VG
C19	VG	VG	VG
C21	VG	VG	VG
Chemical Storage Room	VG	VG	Some
D2	VG	VG	VG
D3	VG	VG	VG
D4	VG	VG	VG
D5	Needs replacement caulk	VG	VG
D6A	Caulk torn by opening window, needs replacement	VG	VG
D8	Caulk needs patching	VG	VG
D14	VG	VG	VG
D16	VG	VG	VG
D18	VG	VG	Moderate
D20	VG	VG	VG
D24	VG	VG	VG
E-4	VG	VG	VG
E-5	VG	VG	VG
E-6	VG	VG	Some
E-8	VG	VG	Some
Hallway by E-wing	Needs repair	N/A	Some
F2	VG	VG	VG
F4 - Media Arts	VG	VG	VG
G-wing Hallway	Needs repair	N/A	Some
Exterior doorway in cafeteria	VG	VG	VG
Courtyard access between D and B wings	VG	N/A	VG
Main Office	VG	VG	VG
Teachers' dining room and lounge	VG	VG	VG
Guidance Offices	VG	N/A	VG

CATEGORIZATION

Dust

Very good = minimal dust or debris
 Some = enough dust to leave a residue on a gloved finger
 Moderate = visible accumulations of dust
 Significant = thick layer of dust

Plenum Vents

Very good = minimal dust or debris
 Some = enough dust to leave a residue on a gloved finger
 Moderate = visible accumulations of dust
 Significant = thick layer of dust

Caulk

Very Good = Overcaulking is intact, with no visible debris
 Good = Overcaulking is generally intact but for minor patching
 Needs repair = Overcaulking missing or damaged

Site Photographs



Photograph 1: Typical window unit, room E-5



Photograph 2: Caulking torn by opening window, room D6A

Site Photographs



Photograph 3: Window and windowsill, room D3



Photograph 4: Typical plenum vent in floor, room D3

Site Photographs



Photograph 5: Windowsill obstructed by book storage (typical)



Photograph 6: Typical window caulk, viewed during sampling by EHI.