



January 3, 2018
File No. 5171-06-01

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

RE: December 2017 PCB BMP Quarterly Status Report
Doherty Memorial 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 Doherty 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 and December 7, 2017, accompanied by yourself and facility staff¹.

Doherty Memorial High School

OTO observed 43 rooms in the school, 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 1, and selected representative photographs are attached.

The overall quality of compliance with the BMPs at Doherty was very good. The interior over-caulking was intact and in good condition in each of the spaces observed, although several rooms in the 300s wing of the building (e.g. 306, 310, 318 and 322) need some replacement caulking. The univents were free of significant dust or visible oil leakage. Several rooms, mostly in the wood shop area, exhibited some accumulated dust, but this appeared to consist mostly of recently generated sawdust. We note that in some areas, over-caulking that was previously

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.

intact appears to have been locally damaged. WPS staff accompanying OTO during the Doherty observations 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 create difficult to clean areas that promote the accumulation of dust and cannot be wet-wiped or effectively HEPA-vacuumed.

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 Doherty Memorial High School
Selected photographs from Doherty High School

Table 1 - Summary of BMP Observations
Doherty Memorial High School
299 Highland Street
Worcester, MA 01602
November 22 and December 7, 2017

Room	Condition of Caulk	Condition of Univents
101	VG	VG
103	Needs overcaulking replacement	VG
104	VG	VG
106	replacement	VG
107	VG	VG
Cafeteria	VG	NA
Exterior doors by cafeteria	VG	NA
201	VG	VG
202 (TV studio)	VG	VG
205	VG	VG
208	VG	VG
209	VG	VG
210	VG	VG
212	VG	VG
214	VG	VG
302A	VG	NA
302B	VG	VG
303A	VG	Dust in vent
303B	VG	VG
304	VG	VG
304B	VG	VG
306	Needs overcaulking replacement	VG
310	Needs overcaulking replacement	VG
318	Needs overcaulking replacement	VG
320	Needs overcaulking replacement	VG
Stairwell to 300s wing	VG	VG
322	Needs overcaulking replacement	VG
324	VG	VG
326	VG	VG
Faculty Room, 300s Wing	VG	VG
402	VG	VG
403	VG	VG
406	VG	VG
408	VG	VG

412	VG	VG
414	VG	VG
416	VG	VG
418	VG	VG
420	VG	VG
422	VG	VG
424	VG	VG
430	VG	VG
Ground floor exterior in courtyard, at rooms 400-422	VG	NA

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

Univents

Very good = minimal dust or debris, no oil leakage

Some = enough dust to leave a residue on a gloved finger

Moderate = visible accumulations of dust, trace oil leakage

Significant = thick layer of dust, distinct oil leakage

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

Dust Accumulation
Some
Some
Some
VG
VG
VG
VG
VG
VG
VG
VG
VG
VG
G
Dust and cobwebs
Dust and cobwebs
Some
Some
VG
Some dust, obstructed
Significant
VG
VG
VG
VG
Obstructed, plants on windowsill
VG
VG
VG
VG
VG
VG
VG

CATEGORIZATION

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[illegible]

finger

finger
akage

əbris
· patching

Site Photographs



Photograph 1: Typical window unit, room 402



Photograph 2: Typical uninvent exhaust, room 402

Site Photographs



Photograph 3: Typical caulk around exterior door unit, main doorway by cafeteria



Photograph 4: Windowsill obstructed by storage (typical)

Site Photographs



Photograph 5: Typical area in need of recaulking, room 103



Photograph 6: accumulated dust and cobwebs, room 306