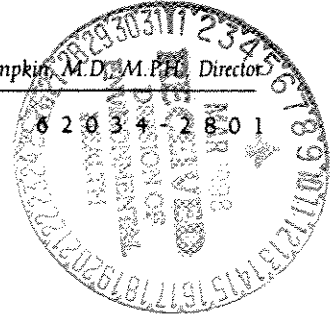


Illinois Department of  
**Public  
Health**

Jim Edgar, Governor • John R. Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., Director

22 Kettle River Drive • Glen Carbon, Illinois



March 4, 1998

Environmental Toxicology #412199701

Bill Walters, Superintendent of Schools  
502 South Madison  
Kinmundy, IL 62854

Dear Mr. Walters:

On December 19, 1997, an inspection of the Kinmundy Middle School was conducted by the Department. The investigation was prompted when five students become ill exhibiting flu-like symptoms. Three went to the emergency room where blood was drawn and carboxyhemoglobin was detected in their blood.

The air in the science laboratory, where the students became ill, was monitored for carbon monoxide between December 19, 1997 and January 5, 1998. The boiler room was monitored for carbon monoxide between December 24, 1997 and January 5, 1998. On a few occasions carbon monoxide was detected, however the carbon monoxide was not detected at levels that would be expected to cause adverse health effects in children or adults at the school.

The school district placed carbon monoxide detectors in the science laboratory classroom and the boiler room. The two holes in the wall that connected the boiler room to the science laboratory ceiling were filled to impede gas exchanged between the two rooms. The boiler room does not appear to have a source of makeup air for combustion. It is recommended that a heating and cooling specialist inspect the boiler room to determine if there is a sufficient source of makeup air for combustion.

If you have any additional problems or have questions, please contact me at the Illinois Department of Public Health, #22 Kettle River Drive, Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034, telephone (618) 656-6680.

Sincerely,

David R. Webb  
Environmental Toxicologist

cc: Division of Environmental Health  
Edwardsville Regional Office

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