

Illinois Department of  
**Public  
Health**

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

22 Kettle River Drive • Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034-2801



January 7, 1998

Environmental Toxicology #412199701

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

Dear Mr. Walters:

Pursuant to your request this letter is a summary of the investigation at the Kinmundy Middle School. On December 19, 1997, you spoke with Mike Moomey an Environmental Toxicologist with the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding possible carbon monoxide exposure at the Kinmundy Middle School. Five students got sick on Thursday, December 18, 1997. Three students went to the hospital and carboxyhemoglobin was detected in the students blood.

On December 19, 1997, Mr. Moomey contacted the Edwardsville Regional Office and asked that we investigate. In the afternoon on December 19, 1997, I conducted an investigation at the school. A Q-Trak air monitor was placed in the science laboratory room. At the time of the inspection no carbon monoxide was detected above background levels in the science laboratory room or the boiler room. The boiler furnace was identified as the only combustion source in the building. A concrete block wall separates the science laboratory room and boiler room. There are two small holes, approximately 1 foot in diameter, in the wall between the boiler room and the science laboratory room. These holes enter the science laboratory in a space above the ceiling tiles. An additional Q-Trak was placed in the boiler room on December 24, 1997.

The science laboratory had carbon monoxide levels between 1 and 3 parts per million (ppm) on two occasions, these are within the background levels found in buildings of between 1 to 3 ppm. There were a few times that the air monitor in the boiler room indicated the presence of carbon monoxide with the levels ranging from 1 ppm to 7 ppm. The carbon monoxide concentrations detected in the laboratory and boiler room at the Kinmundy Middle School were not at levels that would be expected to cause adverse health effects in children or adults at the school.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this inspection to date, please contact me at the Edwardsville Regional Office, 22 Kettle River Drive, Glen Carbon, Illinois 62234, telephone (618) -656-6680.

Sincerely,

David R. Webb  
Environmental Toxicologist

cc ✓ Division of Environmental Health  
Edwardsville Regional Office