

**Illinois Department of
Public
Health**

John R. Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001

May 7, 1997

#903149701

Dr. Ronald Rood
Superintendent of Schools
Marengo-Union Elementary Consolidated
School District No. 165
539 South Locust Street
Marengo, IL 60152

Re: Evergreen Park School

Dear Dr. Rood:

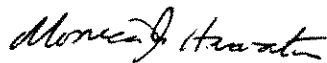
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has completed the analysis of the indoor air samples collected at Evergreen Park School in Union. Two 24-hour samples were collected in SUMMA canisters the week of April 7 and analyzed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's air laboratory. The sampling was conducted due to concerns of elevated levels of trichloroethylene (TCE) in the school. The laboratory analyzed the air samples for TCE, and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX). The sample results are listed in Table 1.

The results indicated that no TCE was detected in the samples. Very low levels of the BTEX compounds were found in both samples. These levels were compared to health comparison values and to levels of BTEX found in indoor air quality study homes in southeast Chicago. The levels of BTEX detected in Evergreen School are far below the health comparison values and are similar to background concentrations found in the study homes. Various products used in schools can contribute to background detections of BTEX. These products include pesticides, arts and crafts products, glues, cleaning fluids, paints, and paint removers.

Based on the results of the two air samples, IDPH has determined that exposure to the detected BTEX compounds would not present an immediate or long-term health concern to those occupying the school.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact me at (217) 782-5830.

Sincerely,



Monica J. Harvatin
Environmental Toxicologist

cc: John Kolman, McHenry County Health Dept.
West Chicago Regional Office, IDPH

TABLE 1 - Indoor Air Sample Results

Compound	Canister 1 (ug/m ³)	Canister 2 (ug/m ³)
TCE	0	0
Benzene	0.9818	1.0716
Toluene	10.533	91.573
Ethylbenzene	0.7898	0.6338
m,p-Xylene	2.4623	1.9349
o-xylene	1.5423	1.666

ug/m³ - micrograms per cubic meter