

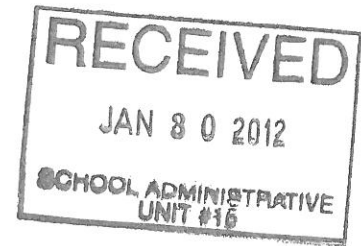


# The Scott Lawson Group, Ltd.

Environmental, Health & Safety Consultants

January 25, 2012

Mr. Peter Barbuto, Facilities Manager  
School Administrative Unit No. 15  
Hooksett School District  
90 Farmer Road  
Hooksett, New Hampshire 03106



Re: Indoor Air Quality Survey – Auburn Village School  
SLGL File Number 11-1044

Dear Mr. Barbuto:

On January 3, 2012, *The Scott Lawson Group, Ltd. (SLGL)* conducted a limited Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Survey for School Administration Unit No. 15 (SAU #15) at the Auburn Village School located at 11 Eaton Road in Auburn, New Hampshire. The objective of the Survey was to further evaluate the indoor environment for IAQ issues following our initial survey in November of last year. The IAQ Survey was accomplished by conducting visual observations of the area, the collection of air samples for Fungi, and the use of a direct-reading instrument to collect spot readings for Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

During the survey, *SLGL* collected five (5) Air-O-Cell® samples within the school, one (1) outside the building (for comparison purposes), and an analytical blank (for quality control purposes) for the evaluation of total airborne fungal spore concentrations. As the samples were collected during the cold winter months, the outside samples were lower than they would typically be during other times of the year.

All occupied buildings require a supply of outdoor air. As outdoor air is drawn in, indoor air is exhausted or allowed to escape, removing air contaminants. Previous testing indicated that there was insufficient ventilation in the tested areas, due to exhaust fans not functioning properly (not turned on, or no ventilation units serviced the area). Based on this information, facility maintenance staff, inspected, adjusted, and repaired existing ventilation systems as feasible to remedy this situation.

Testing conducted on January 3, 2012, revealed that in most tested areas the improvements to the ventilation system resulted in a decrease of CO<sub>2</sub>, a good indicator of air circulation. Analysis of the air samples indicate that airborne Fungi levels are within normal/background levels, and do not present a concern to the health of staff/occupants.



*Air Samples – Total Spore Counts with Predominant Genus Identification:*

Resampling of Portable Classrooms P5 and P6, and Modular Classrooms M1 and M2 was also included in this survey. Each sample was collected by drawing air through an Air-O-Cell sampling cassette. Analysis of the Air-O-Cell cassettes (with count and identification by Predominant Genus) was used to determine total airborne viable and non-viable Fungi spores. All Fungi are considered to be potentially allergenic. (The term “genus” refers to the particular “family” of Fungi or Bacteria, and there are individual species within each genus.) The following table compares airborne spore levels on November 15, 2011, sampled with no ventilation running, and January 3, 2012, with ventilation systems in operation.

**TABLE I - Spore Count Comparison**

Sample Location	Total fungal Spore Count (Count/m <sup>3</sup> ) 11/15/11	Predominant Genus(s) 11/15/11	Total fungal Spore Count (Count/m <sup>3</sup> ) 1/3/12	Predominant Genus(s) 1/3/12
P-5	2,293	<i>Aspergillus/Penicillium</i> -like (1,120) Basidiospores (533)	None detected	_____
P-6	Not Tested	-----	53	Basidiospores (53)
M-2	800	<i>Aspergillus/Penicillium</i> -like (320) Basidiospores (213)	None detected	_____
M-1	587	<i>Aspergillus/Penicillium</i> -like (320) Basidiospores (107) <i>Cladosporium</i> (107)	107	<i>Myxomycetes/Periconia</i> /smuts (107)
Maintenance Office	Not Tested	-----	160	<i>Myxomycetes/Periconia</i> /smuts (53) Ascospores (53)
Exterior	6,827	Basidiospores (5,333) Ascospores (853) <i>Aspergillus/Penicillium</i> -like (427)	640	Basidiospores (267) <i>Cladosporium</i> (267)

*Data Logging Instrument, Carbon dioxide Readings:*

Data collected with the TSI Q-TRAK documented CO<sub>2</sub> levels in selected areas of the school. Studies indicate that CO<sub>2</sub> is an excellent surrogate indicator of indoor air quality. Since CO<sub>2</sub> is given off by humans when exhaling, its levels in the air provide a good indication of the quality of air circulation and how effectively the ventilation system, if present, is diluting and removing pollutants from the air. It must be noted that it is (generally) not necessarily the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> itself that is of concern in non-industrial settings, but rather it is the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> exceeding 1,000 parts per million (1,000 ppm), which are indicative of inadequate fresh/outdoor air introduction - or under-ventilation.

The following table compares CO<sub>2</sub> levels on November 15, 2011, with no ventilation running, and January 3, 2012, with ventilation system in operation.

**TABLE II - CO<sub>2</sub> Comparison**

Sample Location	CO <sub>2</sub> (PPM) 11/15/11	Ventilation System in Operation (Y/N)	CO <sub>2</sub> (PPM) 01/03/12	Ventilation System in Operation (Y/N)
P-5	1,512	N	665	Y
P-6	Not Tested	N	631	Y
M-1	1,608	N	1,039	Y
M-2	1,590	N	439	Y
101	1,911	N	1,200	Y
Special Ed Office	1,704	N	745	Y
Main Office	1,143	N	645	Y
Library	1,412	N	1,116	Y
115	Not Tested	N/A	2,120	N
126	1,442	N	1,087	Y

Sample Location	CO <sup>2</sup> (PPM) 11/15/11	Ventilation System in Operation (Y/N)	CO <sup>2</sup> (PPM) 01/03/12	Ventilation System in Operation (Y/N)
201	1,056	Window Open	973	Y
205	1,415	N	1,082	N
Exterior	390	N/A	195	N/A

The sampling period was from 11:05 am to 1:30 pm on 11/15/11 and the sampling period was from 12:35 pm to 1:40 pm on 1/3/12.

ANSI/ASHRAE standard 62-1989 recommends that 1,000 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> be utilized as a value not to be exceeded, to ensure adequate fresh/outdoor air introduction and dilution of indoor air pollutants.

Controlling the source of contaminants is fundamental in any IAQ strategy. The latest round of sampling with the ventilation system in operation, clearly indicates that ventilation of the area is one way to control contaminants, in this case microbial spores and CO<sub>2</sub>. Both the quantity and quality of ventilation air necessary to assure adequate dilution of contaminants must be considered when evaluating air quality. When using dilution as a IAQ solution, the air exchange must be balanced to allow occupant comfort and still not allow for contaminants to accumulate.

In areas where dilution (increasing the amount of fresh air to total air) is not feasible, and/or adequate, another option is air cleaning. Air cleaning is most effective when used in conjunction with ventilation. Air cleaning equipment intended to provide better air quality must be properly selected and designed for the particular contaminant of concern. Once installed it must be properly maintained, and maintenance requirements must be considered in selection of the equipment.

Successful mitigation of IAQ problems requires the involvement of building management, facility maintenance, housekeeping, and staff. All must be educated about the cause(s) of IAQ problems and about the actions that are being taken or avoided to prevent recurrence of the problems. A buildings indoor air quality is the result of the decisions and actions of a wide variety of individuals. Design of the buildings heating, ventilation, air conditioning system, contaminant sources, and air-cleaning efficiency all play roles, as do the cooperation of staff and maintenance in the operation of these systems. Microbial Spore and CO<sub>2</sub> levels clearly were reduced in most areas with the ventilation system in operation. *SLGL* recommends that all ventilation systems be reviewed and maintained in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

Thank you for providing *The Scott Lawson Group, Ltd.* with the opportunity to assist you with this project. We enjoyed working with on this project and would welcome the opportunity to work with you again. We trust that you will find everything in order; however, should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

*The Scott Lawson Group, Ltd.*



Stephen McPherson  
Senior Safety & Health Professional  
Member Indoor Air Quality Association (#7954), Associated Member ACGIH (305730-00)

Enclosures

#### **WARRANTY**

The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are based on information available to *SLGL* as of January 3, 2012. *SLGL* provides no warranties on information provided by third parties and contained herein. Data compiled were in accordance with *SLGL's* approved scope of services and should not be construed beyond their limitations. Any interpretations or use of this report other than those expressed herein are not warranted. The use, partial use, or duplication of this report without the expressed written consent of *The Scott Lawson Group, Ltd.*, is strictly prohibited.



**APPENDIX A**

**ANALYTICAL RESULTS**





The Scott Lawson Group, Ltd.

Environmental, Health & Safety Consultants

Post Office Box 3304, Concord, NH 03302-3304

(603) 228-3610 / (800) 645-7674 / Fax (603) 228-3871

Client: SAU #15

90 Farmer Road

Hooksett, NH 03106

SLGL Job #: 11-1044

Client Project: Auburn Village School

Report Date: January 6, 2012

Date Sampled: January 3, 2012

Date Received: January 4, 2012

Collected by: SRM

Analyzed by: NEF, #01040036



Analytical Results

Table with 4 columns: Lab Number, Sample Identification, Analysis, Methodology, Sample Media, Debris Rating, Air Volume (L), Minutes, Date Analyzed. Rows correspond to Lab Numbers 294574, 294575, and 294576.

Table with 7 columns: Mold/Fungi Type, Raw Count, Count/m³, Raw Count, Count/m³, Raw Count, Count/m³. Lists various mold types like Alternaria, Aspergillus, etc., and includes a Total fungal spores and fragments row.

TNTC: Too numerous to count

< Less Than

> Greater Than

Count/m³: Count per meter cubed

PAACB: Pan-American Aerobiology Certification Board

Detection Limit: The detection limit is equal to one fungal spore or hyphal fragment.

\*\* Aspergillus and Penicillium spores (and others such as Paecilomyces ) are small and round with few distinguishing characteristics. They cannot be distinguished by this method.

\* No analytical field blank submitted with associated sample(s).

Background Debris: Background debris is an indication of the amount of non-microbial debris present on the slide and is rated on a scale of 1 to 5:

Debris Load of 1: <10% debris present. Counts not affected.

Debris Load of 2: 11-25% debris present. Counts not affected.

Debris Load of 3: 25-75% debris present. Counts may be underestimated.

Debris Load of 4: 76-90% debris present. Counts underestimated.

Debris Load of 5: >90% debris present. Counts could not be determined, sample overloaded.

Reviewed by: Helen M Enzu

Approved By: Norman E Fletcher, Lab Manager







**The Scott Lawson Group, Ltd.**  
Environmental, Health & Safety Consultants

20 Chenell Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
Ph: (603) 228-3610, Fax: (603) 228-3871  
www.slg.com email: Lab@slg.com

Accounting Co: SAU 15

11-1044

Client Project: **Abner Village School**  
Client PO:

Attention: **SMC**  
Sampled By: **SMC**  
email:  
Phone:  
Fax:

Turnaround Time (select one)  
 3 hours\*  6-8 hours\*  24 hours\*  48 hours\*  72 hours\*  
 5 days  10 days  Weekend  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Not available for all tests. Schedule rush and weekend tests in advance.*

Sample Matrix Type (select one)  
 Air  Bulk  Soil  
 Aqueous  Oil  Solid  
 Agar (biostrip)  Paint  Swab  
 Agar (plate)  Sludge  Tape Lift

Comments:  
 Water, drinking or waste  
 Wipe  
 Wipe composite  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**All samples on this form should be of the SAME matrix type. Use additional forms as needed.**  Yes  No

SLGL Lab #	Sample Identification	Analysis	Date Sampled	Time	Media/ Container	Preservative	4°C	Swab/Wipe Area Units:	Air Volume (L)	Minutes
294571	1-3-12-11-1044 A01	Fung 21 or + ID	1/3		Air-0 Cell				75	5
572	A02								75	5
573	A03								75	5
574	A04								75	5
575	A05								75	5
576	A06								75	5
577	A07								0	0

**Sample Collection and Custody Information**

Relinquished By: *[Signature]* Date/Time: 1-3-12 1500  
 Received By: *[Signature]* Date/Time: 1/4/12 9:00

Samples Shipped Via:  FedEx  UPS  DHL  US Mail  Drop Box  Drop Off  Other

*A Note to Customer: by signing and relinquishing your samples to the laboratory, you agree with the terms and conditions found on the back of this Chain of Custody Form.*



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Submitting Co. SAU 15

11-1044

Client Project: Auburn Village School  
Client PO:

Turnaround Time (select one)  
 3 hours\*  6-8 hours\*  24 hours\*  48 hours\*  72 hours\*  
 5 days  10 days  Weekend  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attention: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sampled By: SAC  
 email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Not available for all tests. Schedule rush and weekend tests in advance.

Sample Matrix Type (select one)  
 Air  Bulk  Soil  Water, drinking or waste  
 Aqueous  Oil  Solid  Wipe  
 Agar (biostrip)  Paint  Swab  Wipe composite  
 Agar (plate)  Sludge  Tape Lift  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

All samples on this form should be of the SAME matrix type. Use additional forms as needed. Samples received in good condition?  Yes  No

SLGL Lab #	Sample Identification	Analysis	Date Sampled	Time	Media/Container	Preservative	4°C	Swab/Wipe Area Units:	Air Volume (L)	Minutes
24571	1-3-12-11-1044 A01	Fung 21 CA + FD	1/3	1	Air 0 Cell				75	5
672	A02								75	5
573	A03								75	5
574	A04								75	5
575	A05								75	5
576	A06								75	5
577	A07								75	5

Relinquished By: Date/Time: 1-3-12 1500  
 Relinquished By: Date/Time: 1/4/12 900  
 Samples Shipped Via:  FedEx  UPS  DHL  US Mail  Drop Box  Drop Off  Other  
 Received By: HCCN18720 Date/Time: 1/4/12 900

A Note to Customer: by signing and relinquishing your samples to the laboratory, you agree with the terms and conditions found on the back of this Chain of Custody Form.