

Illinois Department of
**Public
Health**

George H. Ryan, Governor • John R. Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., Director

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

#208310001

August 9, 2001

Jeff Bryan, 6-12 Principal
Avon Junior/Senior High School
400 East Wood Street
Avon IL 61415

Dear Mr. Bryan:

On August 8, 2001, we spoke in regards to the indoor air quality investigation I performed at your school on August 31, 2000. During our telephone conversation we discussed the status of the recommendations I made to your school in a report dated October 16, 2000. You also asked me about the possibility of re-testing Room 101 to ensure that it is safe for future occupants.

I did not identify any imminent health hazards during my investigation, but I made four recommendations in my report based on the information gathered during a visual inspection of your school, multiple telephone calls, and air sampling for mold, temperature, and relative humidity. My report included the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. Mold and moisture damage do not appear to be present in Room 101 or any other location at your school.
2. Consult with a ventilation engineer about providing a means for conditioning air in these classrooms as well as an active system for introducing fresh, outdoor air.
3. Clean dehumidifier drain pans regularly with soap and water since these can be significant sources for mold growth.
4. Store paints and other chemicals used in Room 101 in a locked cabinet or locked closet to prevent students from gaining access.

During our telephone conversation, you told me you had completed the recommendations I provided. Specifically, you took the following actions to complete my recommendations:

1. A unit ventilator was installed in Room 101 to provide a means for conditioning air in the classroom as well as introducing fresh, outdoor air. The ventilator was designed to provide ventilation and thermal conditions consistent with guidelines published by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air

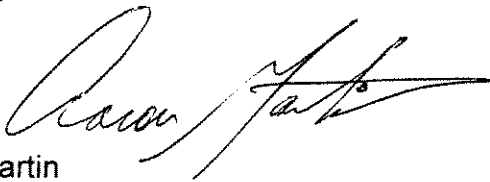
published by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers.

2. Janitorial staff were instructed to regularly clean dehumidifier drain pans and coils.
3. Paints and other chemicals used in Room 101 were encased in Rubbermaid, or similar containers. These containers are no longer stored in Room 101; they are currently stored in the original complainant's new classroom.

During our telephone conversation, you also asked me about the possibility of re-testing Room 101 for other environmental health hazards to ensure that it is safe for future occupants. You told me that the original complainant has been moved to another classroom and you are considering the use of Room 101 as a conference room. For your information, our Department has the ability to identify a wide variety of hazardous substances in indoor air and our technical expertise is quite extensive, but we do not possess a single method that allows us to sample for the gamut of hazardous substances that could be present in indoor air. In fact, our Department does not recommend air sampling unless a potential source of a specific hazardous substance is identified during an investigation. Even then, our Department emphasizes eliminating exposure to potential sources of hazardous substances through practical solutions, rather than complicated and often expensive air sampling methods that do not always result in meaningful conclusions.

Based upon general observations made during my indoor air quality investigation, your completion of the recommendations in my report, and the removal of paints and other chemicals from Room 101, I do not recommend a follow-up investigation at this time. If the status of my recommendations changes, or if other complaints are received by future occupants, I will re-evaluate the need for a follow-up investigation at that time. If you have any questions or concerns about this report, please contact me at (217) 782-5830 or amartin@idph.state.il.us.

Sincerely,



Aaron Martin
Environmental Toxicologist

cc: Constanta Mosiou, Peoria Regional Office
Alan Coleman, Assistant Regional Superintendent