

As you are aware, after Swift was evacuated on December 10, 2015, we had a number of governmental agencies and private companies assess the environmental conditions and the physical plant at Swift Middle School. Although all of these reports found no areas of concern, we wanted to ensure that any and all possible necessary tests had been conducted. We contracted ATC Services, a firm dedicated to indoor air quality and industrial hygiene, to look at what was done, and to propose any supplemental tests or work, if they deemed necessary.

ATC Services arrived on site Swift at Swift Middle School on December 21, 2015 and began conducting “real time” tests – meaning they were done under normal operating conditions in the school – to measure general Industrial Air Quality parameters for carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, temperature, relative humidity, total volatile organic compounds, and respirable particulates (dust and fibers, for example). Likewise, they evaluated the mechanical systems for general industrial air quality concerns, including filtration, cleanliness, and air intake locations and evaluated air flow patterns to identify potential contaminant pathways.

They also conducted extensive interviews with staff from Watertown Public Schools, including the chorus teachers and the school nurse, Chief Black from the Watertown Fire Department, and, reviewed all previous testing and reports that had been done.

All tests conducted by ATC found no problematic indoor air contaminants, or, any exceedances of the guidelines (such as OSHA standards) for indoor air quality. Their results were consistent with the previous testing that had been done by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Brooks Environmental Corporation, the mechanical systems contractors (Tri-Star and Connecticut Combustion), and the Watertown Fire Department.

However, again, under an abundance of caution, the district worked with Chief Black to rent equipment that would continuously monitor the air quality in the auditorium (and, any other area in the school, if necessary, as the unit was portable). As you know, we had already secured this monitor before ATC was contracted, and so, ATC worked with us during the month the monitor was installed, in order to ensure that the data was reviewed properly. The main data to be analyzed was from the 3 week period when school was in session, and the auditorium was back to normal use, as we wanted to ensure that all possible conditions were simulated for the testing to be accurate. Again, no issues were found with air quality as a result of the continued monitoring.

ATC did make a recommendation, however, to maintain a positive pressure of air flow through the auditorium, which we had already done, manually, by increasing the air flow to the area. This would also continually reduce carbon **DI**oxide levels, which are increased when the auditorium is at capacity during a show, and, manually controlling the air conditioning and air flow while the area is being occupied ensures that the stage area does not become too warm for students who are performing.

A full copy of this report, which details the levels of all air quality tests and all variables that the company considered, will be available on the district website. We wanted to first discuss the report here, with the Board, before we published it. The final report was received after we completed the month of additional air quality monitoring, in order to be certain there were no other issues, and so this is the first Board meeting in which we were able to discuss it. All Board members have received a copy of the report to review.... Do you have any other questions we can answer?