FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northeast Analytical Responds to EPA's Concerns about PCBs in Schools with Comprehensive Analytical Testing Program

SCHENECTADY NY- Northeast Analytical, Inc. (NEA), an independent testing laboratory specializing in PCB analysis, has developed analytical services to support the testing of caulk, air, and soil for PCBs in schools and municipal buildings.

On Tuesday January 19, 2010 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and New York City announced a pilot program to test five NYC schools for PCB in caulk in accordance with the Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO). This follows the USEPA September announcement of a series of steps that building owners and school administrators should take to reduce exposure to PCBs that may be found in caulk in many buildings constructed or renovated between 1950 and 1978. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson is concerned about the potential risks associated with exposure to these PCBs and is recommending practical, common sense steps to reduce this exposure as we improve our understanding of the science.

With 49 million children being serviced by US public schools NEA has put together a testing program for school districts and communities that assesses caulk, soil, surface wipes, dust and indoor air samples at an affordable cost, using approved USEPA methods which are certified by NYSDOH ELAP. Ann Casey, NEA's Senior PCB Chemist in charge of administering this program, said "all school districts and communities are faced with dwindling budgets and we have kept this in mind with the analytical service packages we have developed. The testing will help schools make informed decisions if PCBs are present, at what level, and if they are in the air or in areas where students and staff have the potential of exposure."

NEA has been a pioneer in PCB analysis working with Dr. Robert Herrick at the Harvard School of Public Health researching caulk and other sealant materials. Many of the caulk samples tested from schools have had PCB Aroclor 1248, 1254, or 1260 present at levels above 50PPM. Some of the samples have been as high as 200,000 PPM and some have had no PCB present. NEA also performed PCB analysis of caulk for the NY Daily News, NYC PS199 Parent Teacher Association and the New Bedford, Mass. Keith Middle School and High School.

PCBs were used as plasticizers in caulk, paints, varnishes, adhesives (particularly in hot-melt type and adhesive tape), inks (particularly inks of the inkpad type or for carbon-less paper), and sealants. This third largest historic use of PCBs allowed for direct contact with the environment and humans on a daily basis.

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