

**Energy Efficient Indoor Air Quality Analysis  
Preliminary Findings Report – Month 2**

**520 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10022**

*Note: Text in italics is from the previous monthly report.*

**Work Plan Number:** WP-VID02

**Date:** 8/26/2020

**Customer and/or Site Name:** 520 Madison Avenue, Tishman Speyer

**Building Square Footage:**

1,000,000 square feet

**Building Description:**

*520 Madison Avenue, New York City, is a 43-story high-rise office building located on Madison Avenue between 53rd and 54th Streets in the Plaza District of Midtown Manhattan. The property was built in 1982 with a total rentable area of approximately 1,000,000 sq. ft. intended for both corporate and retail purposes. The ground floor includes two restaurants and other retail tenants.*

*The building has remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the tenant occupancy load is approximately 5%.*

*HVAC Overview:*

*1st Floor Lower Level houses the refrigerant plant, incoming high-pressure steam service, steam pressure reducing stations and heating equipment. The refrigerant plant consists of three (3) centrifugal chillers, condenser water pumps and chilled water pumps. The heating system consists of a steam to hot water heat exchanger, circulating pumps, perimeter radiators, and hot water piping distribution.*

*The tenant floors are occupied by office space. The air conditioning system consists of a medium and low-pressure air distribution system, variable air volume boxes and ceiling diffusers. The conditioned air is delivered to the floor area using a medium pressure ductwork distribution system via duct risers running through the main building shafts. Variable volume boxes control the amount of conditioned air delivered to each zone. Ductwork distribution downstream of the variable air volume boxes is low pressure type. The conditioned air is returned from the office space to the main return air shafts via a ceiling return air plenum. The office spaces are typically heated by perimeter radiators fed from the main hot water supply and return risers.*

*Plant:*

*Centrifugal Chiller Plant is located in the Basement.*

*Cooling Towers are on the roof.*

*Con Ed Steam is used for heating (via steam to hot water heat exchanger).*

*Airside System:*

*6 Large Air Handling Units (ACS-1 thru 6 : 132,000 CFM & 200 HP each) are located on the 2-story mechanical space on Floors 14 & 15, These units serve the entire building. They include steam pre-heat*

coils and chilled water coils. Each ACS system has a Return Fan (RS-1 through 6: 75 HP each). Return Air is pulled through return gratings.

Distribution System:

On Mechanical Floor 14/15: All Return Air mixes together before entering the 6 ACS Units.

On Mechanical Floor 14/15: All Supply Air Ducts from the 6 ACS units merge (mix) into one large Supply Duct.

On each tenant floor, there is an automatic damper at each horizontal tap on the supply and return vertical risers.

On tenant floors, return ductwork is generally not used, and the space above the ceiling is a return air plenum.

On tenant floors, supply air ductwork is installed above the hung ceiling.

VAV Boxes per floor: Approximately 25 to 30 VAV Boxes / Floor

Diffusers used: mostly square diffusers with some linear diffusers in special spaces.

Perimeter Heating:

Perimeter Heating: Finned Tube Radiation - Hot Water

No reheat coils on the tenant floors.

Supplement AC Units:

Tenants may have Supplemental AC units, as needed for small computer rooms, trading spaces, etc.

Tenants may purchase condenser water from the building, as needed.

- **Study findings to date**

1. Data Collection

- Progress to date – 90% complete.

- a. Vidaris received drawings and documents from the building manager (typical floor plans, elevations, HVAC information) for developing the baseline energy model which will be used to study the impact of various IAQ EEMs.
- b. Site visit by Vidaris Engineer to collect information on HVAC system (including AHU location, cfm, fan power, risers, VAV boxes, perimeter FTR heating), scope for UVGI-based and/or other filtration & disinfection strategies, and interior floor plan layouts, i.e. floor-by-floor area distribution of open office, conference, trading, dining, etc.

2. Energy Use Baseline

- Progress to date – 80% complete.

- a. The energy model is currently in the utility matching phase. Minor pieces of information about HVAC controls are needed and are requested from the building manager.

3. Energy efficient IAQ model based on ASHRAE recommendations

- Progress to date – 20% complete.

The following items are identified as building-specific opportunities for COVID-safe energy efficient IAQ package of improvements:

- a. UV-C lamps adjacent to AHU cooling coils: 6 Large Air Handling Units are located on the double-height mechanical floor 14 and serve the entire building. There appears to be adequate space (but tight) for the UV-C lamps on the leaving side of the chilled water coil in the air handling unit. At that location the air velocity is relatively low (approx. 500 feet per minute to prevent condensation drop carry-over) and almost linear flow. The electrical box would likely need to be relocated a couple feet to the side.

There is a large supply duct (approx. 15 feet AFF) on mechanical floor 14/15 where air from all 6 supply ACS units combine briefly. However, the duct velocity is likely higher (1600 to 1800 fpm). And additionally, special ladders, supports and platforms would be required for safe UV-C system/lamp install & maintenance. Installing UV-C lamps here is not recommended.

- b. *UV-C Lamps at Lobby AHU: Access to lobby AHU is via tenant space and is difficult. This requires further study.*
  - c. *Portable UVGI devices in large meeting rooms, dining area and trading floors (this option to be used if UV-C lamps cannot be installed at the central AHU location due to space limitations; or if treatment at the central AHU location is inadequate to handle the disinfection needs of particular high-occupancy spaces). Client is open to using portable UVGI devices to disinfect high-occupancy areas before and after occupancy.*
  - d. *Reduce infiltration by better air sealing at doors so untreated air doesn't go to other spaces. Client is open to reduce infiltration by better air sealing at doors so untreated air doesn't go to other spaces. Vestibules around the elevators to minimize the stack effect is one option.*
  - e. *IAQ sensors to monitor particulates in addition to CO<sub>2</sub>; sensors need to measure CO<sub>2</sub>, concentration of other contaminants besides CO<sub>2</sub>, and particle sizes to evaluate air quality before determining whether 100% OA should be used at any point in time. Client is open to IAQ sensors to monitor particulates in addition to CO<sub>2</sub>; client believes sensors need to measure CO<sub>2</sub>, concentration of other contaminants besides CO<sub>2</sub>, and particle sizes to evaluate air quality before determining whether 100% OA should be used at any point in time.*
  - f. *Air flushing before and after occupancy. Building is capable of providing 100% OA and air flushing before and after occupancy is done when the weather allows it. HVAC (heating and cooling coils) is not designed to condition 100% OA on a design day.*
  - g. *Heat recovery for OA. Limited scope for adding heat recovery for OA due to space limitations.*
  - h. *Static pressure monitoring to make sure filters are replaced at the right time. Static pressure at filters is monitored regularly as 75% of the building is DDC, to make sure filters are replaced at the right time.*
  - i. *Rotation of filters. Rotation of filters is impractical as there are too many filters (444+ filters) and the labor would be too time consuming.*
  - j. *Oversize fan motors for better part-load operation. This is not possible because fan motors are already too big to make it bigger*
4. Economic Analysis  
Not started yet. Will be done after completion of previous tasks.
  5. Draft Report  
Not started yet. Will be done after completion of previous tasks. Expected delivery: Fourth week of September 2020.
  6. Final Report  
Not started yet. Will be done after completion of previous tasks. Expected delivery: Third week of October 2020

- **Proposed work plan adjustments**

1. EEMs to be added
  - a. *Need further study.*
2. EEMs that are considered potentially impractical, but still under consideration:
  - a. *Heat recovery (insufficient space), to be studied further*
3. EEMs that are considered potentially impractical, and removed from consideration:
  - a. *Replacing certain fan motors with larger ones to operate at lower part load (Fans are very big already. Likely we will need to replace this EEM with another)*
  - b. *Static pressure reduction for advanced filtering (Building already has DDC controls and MERV 15 advanced filters. Likely we will need to replace this EEM with another)*

c. *Rotation of filters on a scheduled basis (Over 400 filters – impractical in terms of labor. We will need to replace this EEM with another)*

- **Next steps**

1. Finalize list of EEMs
  - a. *Need further study and discussion.*
2. Energy Model
  - a. Calibrate energy model baseline to utility bills.
  - b. Code IAQ EEMs to investigate energy savings

# Energy Efficient Indoor Air Quality Analysis Preliminary Findings Report

**THE MARK HOTEL, NEW YORK, NY 10075**

*Note: Text in italics is from the previous monthly report.*

**Work Plan Number:** WP-VID01

**Date:** 8/26/2020

**Customer and/or Site Name:** Mark Hotel LLC

**Building Square Footage:**

185,000 square feet

**Building Description:**

*Built in 1927 and upgraded during 2006 -2009 with new restaurants and penthouse, the 118-room boutique hotel is approximately 185,000 SF and has short- and long-term guest rooms and suites, guest amenities such as meeting rooms, salon, restaurant, full-service kitchen and fitness areas. Laundering process is outsourced except in house emergency guest services.*

*The building is heated and cooled by two absorption chiller heaters. AHUs with heating and cooling coils provide comfort cooling and ventilation in lower level common areas. Two natural gas fired DX roof top units provide conditioned ventilation air in corridors. Dedicated kitchen make-up air units, toilet and other exhaust fans provide the air pressurization balance. A Building Management System controls schedules and setpoints and setbacks for the HVAC System. Domestic HW heaters are dedicated for Guestrooms, Low Zone/Salon, and Kitchen/Restaurant.*

*The hotel was closed due to COVID-19 from March 28, 2020 through June 15, 2020. After reopening, the occupancy is currently at around 20%. The hotel restaurant opened on July 6, 2020.*

- **Study findings to date**

1. Data Collection

- Progress to date – 70% complete.

- a. Vidaris received architectural and mechanical drawings from Mark Hotel for creating baseline energy model and usage.
- b. A comprehensive list of all air handling units and AC units has been assembled based on field measurements. The data includes make, model, serial number flow rate, and outdoor air CFM.
- c. The following table lists all AHUs serving the facility and their flow rates, as well as the % outdoor air operation in the current COVID-pandemic phase. Some units are operating at 100% outdoor air (i.e. AHU C-5 Lobby) and are 24/7 to keep any potential contaminants from reentering the supply air.
- d. The table also shows existing MERV filter ratings on these units that can be upgraded to MERV 13/14 ratings for better filtration as recommended by ASHRAE.

Unit	Service	Location	Make	Design (M Dwgs, Submittals, Catalog Data)			
				Supply Fan Flowrate cfm	Outdoor Air Flowrate cfm	% OA	Air Filter
AHU-C-1	Cellar Switch Gear Rm	Cellar Switch Gear Rm	United CoolAir Corporation	2,160	0	0%	Pleated, Throw-away, 30% efficiency, MERV 7
AHU-C-2	Cellar Telecom	Cellar Telecom	United CoolAir Corporation	800	0	0%	Pleated, Throw-away, 30% efficiency, MERV 7
AHU-C-4	Cellar Office, Locker Rooms, Employee Lounge/Dining	Cellar Women's Locker Rm	United CoolAir Corporation	2,200	2,200	100%	Pleated, Throw-away, 30% efficiency, MERV 7
AHU-C-5	FL 1 Lobby	Cellar Men's Locker Rm	York/JCI	8,000	8,000	100%	Prefilter-Merv 7 Post Filter-Merv 8
AHU-C-6	Cellar Laundry	Cellar Laundry	United CoolAir Corporation	800	200	25%	Pleated, Throw-away, 30% efficiency, MERV 7
AHU-C-7	Cellar Compactor Rm	Cellar Compactor Rm	United CoolAir Corporation	400	0	0%	Pleated, Throw-away, 30% efficiency, MERV 7
AHU-C-8	Cellar Kitchen	Cellar Kitchen	United CoolAir Corporation	4,500	4,500	100%	Pleated, Throw-away, 30% efficiency, MERV 7
AHU-1-1	FL 1 Casual Dining/Lounge	FL 1 Glass Wash Rm	United CoolAir Corporation	1,750	0	0%	Pleated, Throw-away, 30% efficiency, MERV 7
AHU-1-2	FL 1 Casual Dining	FL 1 Casual Dining	United CoolAir Corporation	1,300	600	46%	Pleated, Throw-away, 30% efficiency, MERV 7
AHU-2-1	FL 1 Formal dining	FL 2 MER	United CoolAir Corporation	4,000	2,000	50%	Pleated, Throw-away, 30% efficiency, MERV 7
AHU-2-2	FL 2 Fitness	FL 2 MER	United CoolAir Corporation	3,000	1,000	33%	Pleated, Throw-away, 30% efficiency, MERV 7
AC-16-1	FL 2-16 East Corridor	Roof	York	3,000	3,000	100%	
AC-16-2	FL 2-16 West Corridor	Roof	York	3,000	3,000	100%	

- e. In addition, measurements were also performed for air temperatures, CHW flow rates, and temperatures.
- f. The AHU and FCU MERV filter upgrade measurement plan has been finalized. AHU-C-5/Lobby and two different model/size Guest Rm FCUs will be tested for pressure drop.
- g. The Hotel's HVAC service provider has ordered the MERV 13/14 filters. They are expected to arrive in two weeks of time however the vendor has notified that they are backordered. The Hotel's engineering department has also ordered filters for the FCU units which have arrived.
- h. JCI/York has been asked to provide a material and labor proposal for air disinfection UVC lamps for AHU-C-5 Lobby. Note, the original United CoolAir Corporation AHU was replaced with a JCI/York unit in 2012-2013. JCI/York offers factory UVC lamp options (by UVDI).
- i. The cost quotation for material and labor from JCI/York has been obtained for the UVDI V-MAX Grid.

2. Energy Use Baseline

- Progress to date – 100% complete.

*Vidaris has developed an energy use baseline consisting of several years of building utility use prior to any recent building shutdowns or adjustments due to COVID-19.*

*This energy use will be used as a baseline to determine the energy impact from COVID-safe energy efficient IAQ package of improvements in a manner that aligns with published guidance from reputable sources and code minimums.*

3. Economic Analysis

Not started yet. Will be done after completion of previous tasks.

4. Draft Report

Not started yet. Will be done after completion of all field tasks. Expected delivery: Fourth week of September 2020.

5. Final Report

Not started yet. Will be done after completion of previous tasks. Expected delivery: Third week of October 2020

- **Proposed work plan adjustments**

- Progress to date – 70% complete.

*a. After field investigation it was determined heat recovery to the lobby system may not be feasible due to the lack of the room in the ceiling ductwork and return air plenum for installation of the heat recovery wheel. Following new measures are being considered in-lieu of this measure:*

b. Absorption chiller 1 Qty @ 330T may be replaced by an array of modular chillers 11x30T Multistack modules – Sizing calculation is ongoing and rigging paths, and electrical infrastructure are being investigated.

c. 2 Qty CHW pumps are also being reviewed and whether a higher delta T design (44-56) could be pursued instead of (44-54) on some AHUs based on AHU cut sheets and existing piping and balancing valves. These pumps are already on VFD.

d. The Gym AHU 2-2 is a standalone unit rated 3,000 cfm. This unit operates continuously and cycles at night to maintain setpoint. We will review the possibility of adding portable devices during unoccupied times and cycling the AHU during those times.

- **ECMs considered but not selected**

- a. The Lobby AHU is a 100% OA system with no heat recovery or demand-controlled ventilation currently. Typically, the system operates at 50% OA spring, fall and summer; However currently due to the COVID-19 it is operating at 100% OA. This will affect the energy use negatively but is a necessity, for now, to maintain safe indoor environment. Installing heat recovery was considered as an EEM but due to space limitations and access issues this measure was not deemed suitable.*
- b. UV feasibility in AHUs and Ductwork for guestrooms – cost of installation of any UVGI devices would be much higher since the access to majority of the AHUs is from guest rooms. Some systems may not have a direct access at all and would need to have to cut a hole in the ceiling to gain access to the AHUs.*
- c. UVGI Portable Room Decontamination as Maintenance Protocol.*

- **Next Steps**

- a. Fan coil filters have been received by the building engineer for 2 sizes. We are awaiting balancer dates to test. Once we test for the MERV 13, once it fits in the filter rack, further evaluation of EC Motors which consume ~30 w less can be used instead of PSC motors. There are over 200 Fan coils in the building.
- b. 2-Inch-thick MERV 13 are on back order for the AHUs related to Lobby and Restaurant and formal dining. These units may have ventilation reduction via DCV controls.
  - a. Complete analysis for DCV measure.
  - b. Complete analysis for EC motor measure.
  - c. Analyze potential for maintaining certain (40% RH) humidification levels in the supply air to reduce the impact of viruses and bacteria.
  - d. Complete measurement of in-room FCUs and two AHUs when filter samples arrive.