



West Linn – Wilsonville Schools

October 27, 2020

Dear Boones Ferry Primary Parents, Teachers, Staff and all Building Occupants:

As part of the Oregon Health Authority's Healthy and Safe Schools Plan, all Oregon schools are required to test for radon by Jan. 1, 2021. To ensure all West Linn-Wilsonville schools are safe and healthy, and to meet the new OHA mandates, the District placed test canisters at Boones Ferry Primary in March, 2020. A total of 105 canisters were placed in occupied spaces. Two of the tests exceeded the 4.0 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) action level established by the Environmental Protection Agency. On October 20, 2020, seven secondary test canisters were placed at Boones Ferry, including in the two locations that had exceeded the 4.0 picocuries per liter threshold in March. The test canisters were picked up on October 23, 2020 and immediately shipped for testing. Results were received from the lab on October 26, 2020.

Results:

No test canister at Boones Ferry Primary exceeded the 4.0 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) action level established by the Environmental Protection Agency. Attached is the testing log sheet for Boones Ferry Primary. Below is a glossary of terms used to help understand the test results.

GLOSSARY:

Radon — A gaseous radioactive decay product of radium.

Blanks — Measurements made by analyzing unexposed (closed) detectors that accompanied exposed detectors to the field. The School District use of blanks is to assess any change in analysis result caused by exposure other than in the environment to be measured. Background levels may be due to leakage of radon into the detector, detector response to gamma radiation, or other causes.

Duplicates — Duplicate measurements provide a check on the precision of the measurement result and allow the user to make an estimate of the relative precision. Large precision errors may be caused by detector manufacture or improper data transcription or handling by suppliers, laboratories, or technicians performing placements. Precision error can be an important component of the overall error. The precision of duplicate measurements is monitored and recorded as quality records.

Spikes — Measurements used to assess the accuracy of a lab analysis and/or how accurately detectors supplied by a laboratory (i.e. test kit manufacturer) measure radon. “Spikes” are test kits that have been exposed to a known concentration of radon in a chamber approved by the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) or National Radon Safety Board (NRSB). Spikes must be performed by a separate laboratory, then sent for analysis with the bulk samples. The process for completing this aspect of a radon measurement effort’s Quality Assurance/Quality Control plan is laid out in the Radon Test Placement Strategy and Protocol Checklist.

For any questions regarding radon testing or results in our district, please contact Jeff Chambers, designated Radon Coordinator, at (503) 673-7994. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jeff Chambers
Facilities Manager
Department of Operations