



West Linn – Wilsonville Schools

December 22, 2020

Dear Arts and Technology High School students, parents, 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 OHA mandates, the District placed 14 test canisters at Arts and Technology High School on October 20, 2020. Two of the results exceeded the 4.0 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) action level established by the Environmental Protection Agency. Following the Radon Testing and Protocol Plan adopted by the District, those two locations were tested again on November 9, 2020. Results from the re-tests were made available November 16, 2020. The two test results for each room were averaged together, as prescribed by Oregon Health Authority's "Testing for Elevated Radon in Oregon Schools" manual. Both averages exceeded the 4.0 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) action level established by the Environmental Protection Agency. As recommended by the EPA and OHA, the District's first radon mitigation method is HVAC system adjustments. District HVAC technicians made adjustments to the heating and ventilation as the current system would allow. In addition, three new exhaust fans were installed along with corresponding ductwork. These adjustments and installations were completed in early December. A third round of testing was conducted in these two locations December 14-17. Results from the lab were made available December 22.

Results:

After the district's radon mitigation efforts, neither of the locations tested exceeded the 4.0 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) action level established by the Environmental Protection Agency. Due to the district's successful mitigation efforts, no further action is necessary. Attached is the testing log sheet for Arts and Technology High School. 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

CC: Matt Baker, City of Wilsonville- Facilities Maintenance Supervisor