



West Linn – Wilsonville Schools

December 23, 2020

Dear Lowrie Primary 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 test canisters at Lowrie Primary School on November 30, 2020 and December 14, 2020. The test canisters were picked up on December 3 and December 17, respectively, and immediately shipped for testing. Results were received from the lab on December 5, and December 22, respectively.

Results:

A total of 42 occupied first floor spaces were tested. 8 of the 42 locations exceeded the 4.0 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) action level established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Next Steps:

There is no immediate risk posed to building occupants, though the information gathered will prompt a deliberate response to address the issue. The district will proceed with a radon mitigation plan, as recommended by EPA and OHA, as well as the Radon Testing and Protocol Plan adopted by the District. Consultations and site reviews are scheduled with a contractor for January 2021. Once a mitigation system has been installed, the district will conduct a new round of testing for all occupied first floor spaces. Attached is the testing log sheet for Lowrie Primary 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's 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