West Linn – Wilsonville Schools

June 18, 2020

Dear Boones Ferry Primary School 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 on March 3, 2020. The test canisters were picked up on March 6, 2020 and immediately shipped for testing. Results were received from the lab on March 9, 2020.

Results:
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. Attached is the testing log sheet for Boones Ferry Primary School. Below is a glossary of terms used to help understand the test results.

Next Steps:
The Radon Testing and Protocol Plan adopted by the District prescribes the steps to be taken when results exceed 4.0 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L). Retesting is required to confirm the results from initial testing. Follow-up testing is required within 30 days under the same conditions and locations as the original tests for any test that exceeds exposure limits. Due to the covid-19 state-wide shut down of all school facilities shortly after results were obtained, this was not possible within the specific time-frame. The only allowance is that the Maintenance Department can check to ensure that all HVAC systems are operating as designed when the building is occupied. The retesting date is scheduled for October 2020, as agreed to with Oregon Health Authority. Results from the next round of testing will be available as soon as results are returned from the lab.

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

Department of Operations
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