West Linn – Wilsonville Schools

December 18, 2023

Dear Athey Creek Middle 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. To ensure all West Linn-Wilsonville schools are safe and healthy, and to meet OHA mandates, the District placed test canisters at Athey Creek Middle School on December 4, 2023 for required testing following the completion of the school. The test canisters were picked up on December 7, 2023 and immediately shipped for testing. Results were received from the lab on December 12, 2023.

Results:
No test canister at Athey Creek Middle School 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 Athey Creek Middle 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 Jeremy Nichols, designated Radon Coordinator, at (503) 673-7981 or (503) 515-4792 (cell). Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Nichols
Safety & Security Supervisor
Department of Operations