

Hazardous Substance & Waste Management Research, Inc.

2976 Wellington Circle West Tallahassee, Florida 32309 Phone: (850) 681-6894 Fax: (850) 906-9777 www.hswmr.com

FROM: Dr. Christopher M. Teaf

President & Director of Toxicology

TO: James Stephens

Executive Director Utilities/Maintenance

Florida State University

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SUBJECT: FSU Student Union - Radon Evaluation

The new Student Union building (Union) at Florida State University (FSU) has been evaluated for radon content as part of standard practice for new building construction. From July 19 to July 21, 2022, 58 radon measurements were collected from basement and 1st floor locations in the Union. The 48-hour charcoal canister measurements were collected by a state-certified radon contractor, in accordance with standard protocols of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). None of the radon values at any location were greater than the 4 picoCurie/liter (pCi/L) USEPA Action Level. All results were reported as below the detection limit of 0.4 pCi/L. Results for the July 2022 sampling event are summarized in the attached table.

Detectable radon levels are ubiquitous throughout the state, with most areas of Florida exhibiting low radon. Outdoor levels typically are in the 0.4 to 0.5 pCi/L range, and indoor levels regularly range from 1 to 2 pCi/L. Radon comes from decay of natural radium, and elevated indoor radon is related to local geology. Radon often is present in clays, phosphate rock, and igneous rocks, like granite, and can originate from bedrock far below land surface. Because it is a naturally occurring substance, exposure is common and unavoidable.

The data summarized herein reflect a condition that is consistent with many buildings in Florida and throughout the United States, and the radon conditions at the Student Union building do not represent a health concern. Further investigation regarding radon is not recommended at this time.

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RADON MEASUREMENTS - Student Union Building, Florida State University

Location	Sampling Dates	Number of Samples	Min pCi/L	Max pCi/L	Notes
Basement	19 to 21 July 2022	31	< 0.4	< 0.4	No results > 4 pCi/L
1st Floor	19 to 21 July 2022	27	< 0.4	< 0.4	No results > 4 pCi/L

pCi/L = picocuries per liter