

## Hazardous Substance & Waste Management Research, Inc.

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**FROM:** Dr. Christopher M. Teaf  
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**TO:** James Stephens  
Executive Director Utilities/Maintenance  
Florida State University

**DATE:** 10 August 2022 (*updated from 6 June 2022*)

**SUBJECT:** FSU Bryan Hall - Radon Evaluation

The Bryan Hall residence hall building (Bryan) at Florida State University (FSU) has been evaluated for radon content due to indoor air quality questions that have been raised regarding other buildings on the FSU campus. From May 20 to May 23, 2022, radon measurements were collected from 7 locations at Bryan. 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). Five of the seven radon values exceeded the 4 picoCurie/liter (pCi/L) USEPA Action Level. The results ranged from 2.4 pCi/L to 6.1 pCi/L. Results for the May 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 May 2022 data summarized herein reflected a condition that was consistent with many buildings in Florida and throughout the United States, and the radon conditions at Bryan Hall did not represent an immediate health concern. However, as noted on the report issued by the radon contractor, the building was vacant and the HVAC system was not operating at the time of the May 2022 testing, so the results may not have represented actual conditions when the building is occupied. They recommended, and I concurred, that the building be retested when the HVAC repair work is complete, and the system is operational.

The HVAC system upgrades and repairs were completed in July 2022 and the building was retested for radon content from July 18 to July 20, 2022. In the retesting of the same seven locations, none exceeded the USEPA Action Level of 4 pCi/L, with the July 2022 results ranging from 1.1 pCi/L to 2.5 pCi/L. The attached summary results table has been updated to also include the July 2022 results. Based on the retest results, further investigation or other action regarding radon at Bryan is not recommended at this time.

## RADON MEASUREMENTS - Bryan Hall, Florida State University

Location	Sampling Dates	Number of Samples	Min pCi/L	Max pCi/L	Notes
1st Floor	20 to 23 May 2022	7	2.4	6.1	5 of 7 results > Action Level 4.0 pCi/L
1st Floor (retest)	18 to 20 July 2022	7	1.1	2.5	No results > Action Level 4.0 pCi/L

pCi/L = picocuries per liter

Shaded results indicate the retest clearance sampling.