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# HSWMR

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**FROM:** Dr. Christopher M. Teaf  
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**TO:** James Stephens  
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**DATE:** 16 May 2022

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

The Cawthon Hall residence hall building (Cawthon) 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 2 to May 4, 2022, radon measurements were collected from 13 locations at Cawthon. 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 (range 0.7 to 1.9 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 data summarized herein reflect a condition that is consistent with many buildings in Florida and throughout the United States, and the radon conditions at Cawthon Hall do not represent a health concern. Further investigation regarding radon is not recommended at this time.

## RADON MEASUREMENTS - Cawthon Hall, Florida State University

Location	Sampling Dates	Number of Samples	Min pCi/L	Max pCi/L	Notes
GF	2 to 4 May 2022	13	0.7	1.9	No results > 4 pCi/L

pCi/L = picocuries per liter