
HSWMR

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

DATE: 16 May 2022

SUBJECT: FSU Ragans Hall #4 - Radon Evaluation

The Ragans Hall #4 residence hall building (Ragans #4) 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 3 to May 5, 2022, radon measurements were collected from 4 locations at Ragans #4. 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 <0.3 to 0.7 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 Ragans Hall #4 do not represent a health concern. Further investigation regarding radon is not recommended at this time.

RADON MEASUREMENTS - Ragans Hall #4, Florida State University

Location	Sampling Dates	Number of Samples	Min pCi/L	Max pCi/L	Notes
1st Floor	3 to 5 May 2022	4	<0.3	0.7	No results > 4 pCi/L

pCi/L = picocuries per liter