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# HSWMR

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**FROM:** Dr. Christopher M. Teaf  
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**TO:** Laymon Gray  
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**DATE:** 06 November 2023

**SUBJECT:** FSU Johnston Building - Radon Evaluation

The Johnston Building (Johnston) 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 January 9 to 11, 2023, radon measurements were collected at twenty-two locations at Johnston. The 48-hour charcoal canister measurements were conducted 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). Two of the radon values (5.0 and 5.5 pCi/L) slightly exceeded the 4 picoCurie/liter (pCi/L) USEPA Action Level, while the remaining results ranged from 0.4 to 3.6 pCi/L. The two locations with elevated results were retested from March 20 to 22, 2023 and the results for both locations (4.1 pCi/L and 5.4 pCi/L) again exceeded the USEPA Action Level. Results for the January and March 2023 sampling events 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.

Although the occupational nature of potential exposures at Johnston suggested no significant health concern for faculty, students, or visitors, the radon data summarized herein warranted further evaluation to determine the appropriate degree and methods for mitigation. In May 2023, the University proactively contracted for installation of a

sub-slab depressurization radon mitigation system for the Johnston Building. The system was completed in August 2023 and post-mitigation clearance sampling was conducted in September 2023, in accordance with USEPA and FDOH protocols. The attached table has been updated to include those results, all of which were less than the USEPA Action Level of 4 pCi/L. Based on the mitigation system installation and post-mitigation clearance testing, further investigation or other action regarding radon at the Johnston Building is not deemed necessary at this time. The Johnston Building will be placed on the mitigation system maintenance and annual radon monitoring schedule, in accordance with FDOH guidance and FSU policy.

**RADON MEASUREMENTS - Hecht House, Florida State University**

Location	Sampling Dates	Number of Samples	Min pCi/L	Max pCi/L	Notes
1st Floor	06 to 08 Feb 2023	3	8.4	9.4	3 of 3 results > Action Level 4.0 pCi/L
2nd Floor	06 to 08 Feb 2023	3	5.5	6.5	3 of 3 results > Action Level 4.0 pCi/L
1st Floor (post-mitigation)	19 to 21 Sep 2023	All samples < 4 pCi/L - 1st floor cleared			
2nd Floor (post-mitigation)	19 to 21 Sep 2023	All samples < 4 pCi/L - 2nd floor cleared			

pCi/L = picocuries per liter

Shading indicates clearance testing results.