

# Radon Detection Specialists, Inc.

# **Commercial Radon Survey Report**

Client: Community Consolidated School District 181

Site Address: Elm School

6010 S Elm St

Hinsdale, IL 60521

Survey Date: April 9, 2012 to April 11, 2012

### **Initial Test**

RDS-R-002

Prepared by: Kirsten Schmidt IL Professional Radon License RNI2006204 Licensed for Residential and Commercial Radon Testing

8008 S. Madison Street, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

Phone: 630-325-4443 Fax: 630-655-0842



Site Address: Elm School, 6010 S Elm, Hinsdale, IL

Survey Date: 4/9/12 to 4/11/12

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### **Basics of Radon and Radon Health Impacts**

Radon is recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as well as the scientific and medical communities as a Class A carcinogen, accounting for 15,000 – 22,000 lung cancer deaths annually. Exposure to radon gas is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

Radon is a cancer-causing, naturally occurring, radioactive gas which comes from our soil. It can't be seen, smelled or tasted. The only way to know if the level of radon gas in your building exceeds the recommended action level of 4.0 pCi/L is to test. The Department of Nuclear Safety in Illinois requires those testing for radon in commercial buildings, schools and multi-family housing communities, as well as individual residences, to be licensed.

The amount of radon in the soil depends on soil chemistry, which naturally varies. Radon levels in the soil can range from a few hundred to several thousands of pCi/L (pico Curies per liter of air). The amount of radon that escapes from the soil and enters the building depends on the weather, soil porosity, soil moisture, and the suction within the building.

#### Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

- There is no safe level of radon exposure. Any exposure causes some risk of developing cancer. In two 1999 reports, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) concluded after an exhaustive review that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Only cigarette smoking poses a greater risk. The NAS estimates that 15,000 to 22,000 Americans die every year from radon-related lung cancer. That's 10% of all lung cancer deaths annually.
- The alpha radiation from radon and its decay products cause damage to the sensitive lung tissue. Most of the radiation dose is not actually from radon itself, but rather from radon's chain of short-lived decay products that are inhaled and lodge in the airways of the lungs. These radionuclides decay quickly, producing other radionuclides that continue damaging the lung tissue. Those particles that are retained long enough release radiation and damage the surrounding lung tissue. It is this damage that can lead to lung cancer.

#### What other health risks are related to radon exposure?

- No other respiratory ailments are linked to radon exposure
- There are preliminary studies that are looking at the link between radon exposure and the development of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. These are early studies. For more information on this issue, please visit our website and read the press release.



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### **Scope of Work Performed:**

At the request of Jim Prusa, Facilities Coordinator for District 181, RDS performed radon testing at Elm School, located at 6010 S Elm, Hinsdale, Illinois. This scope of work included a 2 day (short-term) radon test in all classrooms, offices and common use spaces in the subject building.

A total of 82 testing devices were deployed, including 1 continuous radon monitor. Of the 81 passive devices deployed, 67 were single measurements, 9 were duplicates and 5 were blanks.

Testing was conducted from Monday, April 9, 2012 to Wednesday, April 11, 2012. The devices used were electret ionization chambers (Eperms<sup>TM</sup>) manufactured by RAD ELEC, Inc. and continuous radon monitors manufactured by Sun Nuclear, model 1027. The report includes a table that details all device measurement results. Because radon levels fluctuate hourly, daily, weekly, seasonally and yearly, these results should not be used to estimate radon levels of rooms that were not tested, or to estimate future radon levels of rooms that were tested. Changes to the building components (both structural and mechanical) can effect radon concentrations. Duplicate devices have been averaged together and demonstrate the precision of the measurements.

The testing was conducted in accordance with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Division of Nuclear Safety (IEMA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) testing protocols for commercial radon measurements, the device manufacturer's recommendations, and the RDS Quality Assurance Plan.



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## **Quality Assurance Plan for this Site**

#### **Pre-Deployment Testing Strategy**

Tests will be conducted in all classrooms, offices and common use spaces in the subject building. A minimum of 1 detector will be placed every 2000 square feet in open areas. Tests will not be conducted in rooms that are not frequently occupied such as closets, storage rooms, restrooms, hallways, and stairwells unless the space is considered alterable for future regular use, or the measurement is taken for diagnostic purposes.

#### **Materials and Methods**

RDS will use electret ionization chambers and a continuous radon monitor to measure radon levels in the air in the above referenced property. The test will comply with all protocols set forth by IEMA, as well as the RDS Quality Assurance Plan. Duplicate tests will be conducted for not less than 10% of the total single devices placed to measure precision. Field blanks will be deployed for not less than 5% of the total number of tests deployed to measure background gamma radiation. Spike tests will be conducted at a minimum of 3% for the total amount of devices deployed (annually) to measure accuracy. The initial voltage reading will take place not more than 24 hours prior to deployment and the final voltage of the devices will be determined within 24 hours of retrieval.

RDS will locate devices in such a way to limit unintentional interference from building occupants. A walk-through inspection of the building prior to device deployment will allow RDS to document observations regarding radon entry mechanisms and general building pressure gradients. Test results will be reported in picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) of air. The effects of the HVAC system on radon progeny will not be evaluated and working level exposure (WL) will not be calculated during this test.



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## **Explanation of Device Results and Site Notes**

Appendix A provides a detailed drawing showing device locations, if an appropriate and accurate drawing is provided by the client and dimensional device plotting is possible. If Appendix A is blank, please refer to the Device Placement columns provided in Appendix B (Room Use and Room Number) as an explanation of device locations.

Appendix B identifies all of the devices deployed and their reported radon levels. The results were determined using calculations supplied by the device manufacturer.

The radon levels were BELOW the recommended action level in all locations tested, with the exception of four locations in the Administrative Offices. Air exchange rates for the facility were not available at the time of testing. Air exchange rates can affect the radon concentration based on dilution of radon gas.

#### Notes Regarding Appendix B:

- All radon levels are expressed in picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) of air.
- The building was tested according to IEMA, and USEPA protocol in regard to device placement and analytical methods of calculating results.
- Tampering was not detected at the time the devices were retrieved, unless noted in the Comment Column.
- Devices were placed strategically to reduce accidental interference by building occupants.
- Duplicates are averaged together. It is the average of the two devices upon which decisions with regard to mitigation should be based.

#### **Site Notes:**

- 1. The subject building was occupied and fully-functional during this initial radon survey.
- 2. The subject building is a single-story, brick structure, built slab-on-grade.
- 3. The subject building was originally built in the mid-1950's. An addition was made to the structure in 1996. This addition currently serves as the District 181 Administration Offices.



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## **Survey Summary and Recommendations**

The radon levels found during this short-term survey were BELOW to US EPA and IEMA Action Level of 4.0 pCi/L in all locations tested, with the exception of the four locations listed below. All four locations are in the Administration portion of the subject building.

- 1. Mechanical Room M4
- 2. Office 27
- 3. Office 27C
- 4. Office 29B

It is the recommendation of this testing professional to perform another short-term test in the Administration portion of the subject building. If the results of the second short-term test confirm elevated readings, consultation with an Illinois licensed mitigation firm will be recommended.

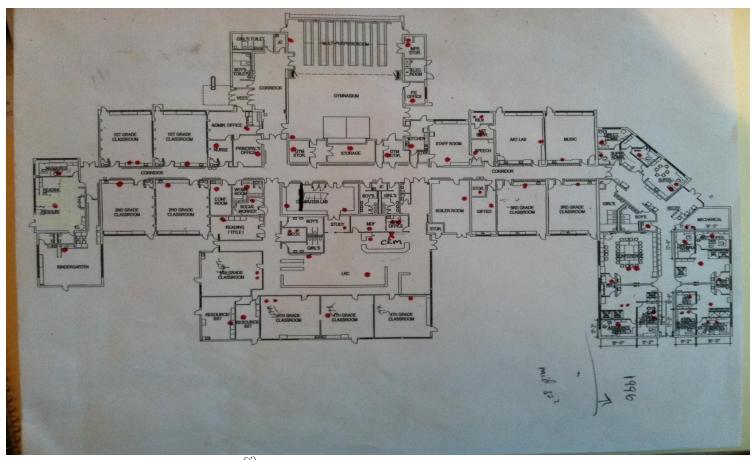
If the results of the second short-term test do not confirm elevated readings, long-term testing will be recommended in the areas where elevated levels were previously found. Long-term testing (testing lasting 90 days or more) provides a better understanding of building radon concentrations and the risks of exposure to radon on an annual basis.

Radon Detection Specialists is licensed for both residential and commercial radon testing in Illinois. For more information regarding radon testing and mitigation practices in the state of Illinois, please visit the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Department of Nuclear Safety's website, www.radon.illinois.gov, or call the state of Illinois Radon Program at 217-782-1325.

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# **Appendix A: Site Plan Showing Device Locations**



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## **Appendix B: Individual Device Results Table**

Electret	Dev	vice Placement			Start			Stop		Exposure Period	Radon Level	Control Measurement	Duplicate Device Avg. Radon Level	Comments
	Foundation	Room Use	Room No.	Date	Time	Volts	Date	Time	Volts	Days	(pCi/L)	Duplicate/ Blank	(pCi/L)	
SFS721	Slab	Main Gym	Gym	4/9/12	9:50 AM	437	4/11/12	10:40 AM	431	2.03	0.9			
SGC391	Slab	Main Gym	Gym	4/9/12	9:50 AM	483	4/11/12	10:40 AM	475	2.03	1.4			
SDF231	Slab	Gym Storage	S1	4/9/12	9:50 AM	236	4/11/12	10:45 AM	228	2.04	1.5			
SGC548	Slab	Behind Stage		4/9/12	9:50 AM	604	4/11/12	10:45 AM	597	2.04	1.1			
SGC548	Slab	Gym Storage		4/9/12	9:50 AM	634	4/11/12	10:45 AM	628	2.04	0.8			
SGC592	Slab	Kitchen	K1	4/9/12	9:50 AM	613	4/11/12	10:45 AM	612	2.04	-0.4			Below the lower limits of detection
SGC334	Slab	Lounge	15	4/9/12	9:50 AM	560	4/11/12	10:45 AM	555	2.04	0.6			
SFS511	Slab	Gym Office	11A	4/9/12	9:55 AM	261	4/11/12	10:45 AM	254	2.03	1.2			
SGC439	Slab	Gym Storage	S5	4/9/12	9:55 AM	510	4/11/12	10:45 AM	500	2.03	1.9			
SFS519	Slab	Gym Storage	<b>S</b> 5	4/9/12	9:55 AM	259	4/11/12	10:45 AM	250	2.03	1.8	Duplicate	1.9	

All radon levels are expressed in picoCuries per liter (pCi/L).

Results of duplicate devices are averaged to determine the radon level in that location.

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	Foundation	Room Use	Room No.	Date	Time	Volts	Date	Time	Volts	Days	(pCi/L)	Duplicate/ Blank	(pCi/L)	
SFS560	Slab	Main Office	9	4/9/12	9:55 AM	446	4/11/12	10:50 AM	439	2.04	1.1			
SGC461	Slab	Principal	7	4/9/12	9:55 AM	607	4/11/12	10:50 AM	603	2.04	0.3			
SFS535	Slab	Nurse	5	4/9/12	9:55 AM	505	4/11/12	10:50 AM	502	2.04	0.1			
SGC556	Slab	Workroom	12	4/9/12	10:00 AM	674	4/11/12	10:50 AM	670	2.03	0.3			
SFS664	Slab	Conference Room	10	4/9/12	10:00 AM	364	4/11/12	10:50 AM	360	2.03	0.4			
SFS692	Slab	Classroom	8	4/9/12	10:00 AM	422	4/11/12	10:50 AM	418	2.03	0.4			
SFS458	Slab	Classroom	3	4/9/12	10:00 AM	298	4/11/12	10:50 AM	294	2.03	0.4			
SFS501	Slab	Classroom	6	4/9/12	10:00 AM	239	4/11/12	10:50 AM	235	2.03	0.5			
SGC563	Slab	Classroom	1	4/9/12	10:00 AM	557	4/11/12	10:50 AM	553	2.03	0.4			
SFS661	Slab	Classroom	1	4/9/12	10:00 AM	412	4/11/12	10:50 AM	409	2.03	0.1	Duplicate	0.3	

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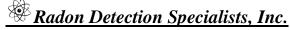
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SFS556	Slab	Classroom	2	4/9/12	10:00 AM	376	4/11/12	10:55 AM	374	2.04	-0.1			Below the lower limits of detection
SFS463	Slab	Classroom	2A	4/9/12	10:00 AM	524	4/11/12	10:55 AM	521	2.04	0.1			
SGC549	Slab	Classroom	4	4/9/12	10:10 AM	447	4/11/12	10:55 AM	445	2.03	-0.1			Below the lower limits of detection
SGI123	Slab	Social Worker	14	4/9/12	10:15 AM	768	4/11/12	10:55 AM	762	2.03	0.8			
SGC467	Slab	Reading	16	4/9/12	10:15 AM	624	4/11/12	10:55 AM	620	2.03	0.3			
SGC502	Slab	Classroom	MRC 1	4/9/12	10:15 AM	678	4/11/12	10:55 AM	673	2.03	0.6			
SFS451	Slab	Classroom	MRC 2	4/9/12	10:15 AM	378	4/11/12	10:55 AM	374	2.03	0.4			
SFS496	Slab	Classroom	MRC 3	4/9/12	10:20 AM	348	4/11/12	10:55 AM	345	2.02	0.2			
SGC589	Slab	Storage	M3	4/9/12	10:20 AM	505	4/11/12	11:00 AM	502	2.03	0.1			
SFS668	Slab	Storage	M3	4/9/12	10:20 AM	492	4/11/12	11:00 AM	489	2.03	0.1	Duplicate	0.1	

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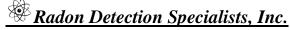
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# **Appendix B: Individual Device Results Table**

Electret	Dev	vice Placement			Start			Stop		Exposure Period	Radon Level	Control Measurement	Duplicate Device Avg. Radon Level	Comments
	Foundation	Room Use	Room No.	Date	Time	Volts	Date	Time	Volts	Days	(pCi/L)	Duplicate/ Blank	(pCi/L)	
SFS662	Slab	LRC North	LRC	4/9/12	10:20 AM	475	4/11/12	11:00 AM	471	2.03	0.4			
SGC512	Slab	LRC Circ Desk	LRC	4/9/12	10:20 AM	584	4/11/12	11:00 AM	580	2.03	0.4			
SDF066	Slab	Study	MRC 7	4/9/12	10:20 AM	384	4/11/12	11:00 AM	380	2.03	0.4			
SGC425	Slab	Computer Lab	18	4/9/12	10:25 AM	602	4/11/12	11:00 AM	597	2.02	0.6			
SFS615	Slab	MDF	MRC 8	4/9/12	10:25 AM	298	4/11/12	11:00 AM	294	2.02	0.4			
SDM742	Slab	LRC South	LRC	4/9/12	10:25 AM	555	4/11/12	11:05 AM	551	2.03	0.4			
SFS484	Slab	Classroom	MRC 6	4/9/12	10:25 AM	470	4/11/12	11:05 AM	467	2.03	0.1			
SFS682	Slab	Classroom	MRC 5	4/9/12	10:25 AM	341	4/11/12	11:05 AM	337	2.03	0.4			
SGC537	Slab	Classroom	MRC 4	4/9/12	10:25 AM	563	4/11/12	11:05 AM	559	2.03	0.4			
SDF079	Slab	Classroom	MRC 4	4/9/12	10:25 AM	233	4/11/12	11:05 AM	230	2.03	0.2	Duplicate	0.3	

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	Foundation	Room Use	Room No.	Date	Time	Volts	Date	Time	Volts	Days	(pCi/L)	Duplicate/ Blank	(pCi/L)	
SGC535	Slab	LRC Office	MRC 9	4/9/12	10:30 AM	611	4/11/12	11:05 AM	605	2.02	0.8			
SGC460	Slab	Classroom	18A	4/9/12	10:30 AM	604	4/11/12	11:05 AM	601	2.02	0.1			
SFS709	Slab	Boiler Room	M2	4/9/12	10:30 AM	402	4/11/12	11:05 AM	391	2.02	2.2			
SFS663	Slab	Art Storage	<b>S</b> 7	4/9/12	10:30 AM	250	4/11/12	11:10 AM	244	2.03	1.0			
SFS446	Slab	Classroom	20	4/9/12	10:30 AM	361	4/11/12	11:10 AM	357	2.03	0.4			
SFS596	Slab	Classroom	22	4/9/12	10:35 AM	448	4/11/12	11:10 AM	445	2.02	0.1			
SGC524	Slab	Classroom	15A	4/9/12	10:35 AM	618	4/11/12	11:10 AM	613	2.02	0.6			
SGC339	Slab	Classroom	17	4/9/12	10:35 AM	633	4/11/12	11:15 AM	629	2.03	0.3			
SFS469	Slab	Kiln Room	17B	4/9/12	10:35 AM	380	4/11/12	11:15 AM	373	2.03	1.2			
SGH839	Slab	Kiln Room	17B	4/9/12	10:35 AM	768	4/11/12	11:15 AM	757	2.03	1.9	Duplicate	1.6	

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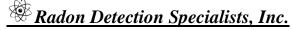
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	Foundation	Room Use	Room No.	Date	Time	Volts	Date	Time	Volts	Days	(pCi/L)	Duplicate/ Blank	(pCi/L)	
SGI007	Slab	Storage	17A	4/9/12	10:35 AM	762	4/11/12	11:15 AM	761	2.03	-0.4			Below the lower limits of detection
SGC453	Slab	Classroom	24	4/9/12	10:35 AM	615	4/11/12	11:15 AM	612	2.03	0.1			
SGH860	Slab	Classroom	19	4/9/12	10:35 AM	757	4/11/12	11:15 AM	753	2.03	0.3			
SGH626	Slab	Office	21	4/9/12	10:40 AM	770	4/11/12	11:15 AM	763	2.02	1.0			
SGH723	Slab	Office	21	4/9/12	10:40 AM	773	4/11/12	11:15 AM	768	2.02	0.5			
SGH827	Slab	Asst. Superintend ent	21	4/9/12	10:40 AM	757	4/11/12	11:15 AM	748	2.02	1.5			
SGH792	Slab	Superintend ent	25	4/9/12	10:40 AM	777	4/11/12	11:15 AM	776	2.02	-0.4			Below the lower limits of detection
SGI113	Slab	Coffee Room		4/9/12	10:45 AM	763	4/11/12	11:20 AM	757	2.02	0.8			
SGI134	Slab	Mechanical Room	M4	4/9/12	10:45 AM	747	4/11/12	11:20 AM	726	2.02	4.3			
SGI135	Slab	Mechanical Room	M4	4/9/12	10:45 AM	769	4/11/12	11:20 AM	750	2.02	3.8	Duplicate	4.1	

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	Foundation	Room Use	Room No.	Date	Time	Volts	Date	Time	Volts	Days	(pCi/L)	Duplicate/ Blank	(pCi/L)	
SGI164	Slab	Conference Room	26	4/9/12	10:45 AM	765	4/11/12	11:20 AM	750	2.02	2.9			
SGI085	Slab	Office	28A	4/9/12	10:45 AM	774	4/11/12	11:20 AM	759	2.02	2.8			
SGI026	Slab	Office	27	4/9/12	10:50 AM	789	4/11/12	11:20 AM	769	2.02	4.0			
SGH643	Slab	Tech Director	27C	4/9/12	10:50 AM	777	4/11/12	11:20 AM	755	2.02	4.5			
SGI184	Slab	PPS	27B	4/9/12	10:50 AM	760	4/11/12	11:20 AM	742	2.02	3.6			
SGH973	Slab	Office	27A	4/9/12	10:50 AM	783	4/11/12	11:20 AM	767	2.02	3.1			
SGC390	Slab	Office	29	4/9/12	10:50 AM	618	4/11/12	11:20 AM	605	2.02	2.5			
SGH728	Slab	Payroll	29A	4/9/12	10:50 AM	769	4/11/12	11:20 AM	751	2.02	3.6			
SGH452	Slab	Asst. Business Manager	29B	4/9/12	10:50 AM	682	4/11/12	11:25 AM	662	2.02	4.1			
SGH651	Slab	Asst. Business Manager	29B	4/9/12	10:50 AM	775	4/11/12	11:25 AM	754	2.02	4.2	Duplicate	4.2	

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	Foundation	Room Use	Room No.	Date	Time	Volts	Date	Time	Volts	Days	(pCi/L)	Duplicate/ Blank	(pCi/L)	
SGI015	Slab	Business Manager	29C	4/9/12	10:50 AM	752	4/11/12	11:25 AM	738	2.02	2.6			
SFS555	Slab	Business Manager	29C	4/9/12	10:50 AM	543	4/11/12	11:25 AM	530	2.02	2.6			
SGH853	Slab	Office	28	4/9/12	10:55 AM	778	4/11/12	11:25 AM	765	2.02	2.4			
SGH716	Slab	HR Superintend ent	28A	4/9/12	10:55 AM	759	4/11/12	11:25 AM	747	2.02	2.2			
SFS509	Slab	Curriculum Superintend ent	28B	4/9/12	10:55 AM	323	4/11/12	11:25 AM	310	2.02	2.8			
SGH734	Slab	Curriculum Superintend ent	28B	4/9/12	10:55 AM	772	4/11/12	11:25 AM	755	2.02	3.3			
SGC557	Slab	Office	28	4/9/12	10:55 AM	614	4/11/12	11:25 AM	614	2.02	-0.6	Blank		
SGH872	Slab	Conference Room	26	4/9/12	10:45 AM	758	4/11/12	11:20 AM	759	2.02	-0.8	Blank		
SGC447	Slab	Superintend ent Office	21	4/9/12	10:40 AM	600	4/11/12	11:15 AM	600	2.02	-0.6	Blank		
SEY682	Slab	LRC Office	MRC 9	4/9/12	10:30 AM	197	4/11/12	11:05 AM	198	2.02	-0.9	Blank		

All radon levels are expressed in picoCuries per liter (pCi/L).

Results of duplicate devices are averaged to determine the radon level in that location.



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Site Address: Elm School, 6010 S Elm City, State, ZIP Hinsdale, IL 60521 Survey Date: 4/9/12 to 4/11/12

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## **Appendix B: Individual Device Results Table**

Electret	Dev	vice Placement			Start			Stop		Exposure Period	Radon Level	Control Measurement	Duplicate Device Avg. Radon Level	Comments
	Foundation	Room Use	Room No.	Date	Time	Volts	Date	Time	Volts	Days	(pCi/L)	Duplicate/ Blank	(pCi/L)	
SEY494	Slab	Classroom	MRC 1	4/9/12	10:15 AM	190	4/11/12	10:55 AM	191	2.03	-0.9	Blank		
CRM 7460	Slab	LRC- Circulation		4/9/12	11:05 AM		4/11/12	11:05 AM			0.3			See hourly results attached

All radon levels are expressed in picoCuries per liter (pCi/L).

Results of duplicate devices are averaged to determine the radon level in that location.

Radon Detection Specialists, Inc.

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