

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **Q. Why did you test for radon?**

A. Testing is a key component of the Navy Radon Assessment and Mitigation Program.

### **Q. What happened that is causing a change in operations in buildings 200 and 285?**

A. During the period of July 18 – Aug. 15, 325 buildings throughout NBG were tested for radon. Of those, 46 were above the Department of the Navy-required action levels for radon 4pCi/L (picocuries per liter). The buildings at issue tested between 4.2 and 45.5 pCi/L in certain areas of the buildings. As a result of this sampling, leadership is working closely with NAVFAC to address the problem.

### **Q. What is being done to correct the issue?**

A. As a result of the testing in July and August, the HVAC systems in all buildings above 4 pCi/L are being adjusted. We are conducting follow-up testing of the radon levels in these areas and the results will be available in mid-October. At that point we will look at other building mitigation if necessary.

### **Q. How long will this remediation take?**

A. We immediately took corrective action with the HVAC system for all affected areas in all buildings above 4 pCi/L are being adjusted. We are retesting and the results will be available in mid-October. We expect this will help reduce the levels of radon we observed but some may require actions that will be based on the Oak Ridge National Laboratory diagnostic evaluations. We expect to have a full mitigation plan together in December if needed.

### **Q. Is my health at risk if I worked in this building?**

A. Long term exposure to elevated levels of radon gas can lead to an increased risk of developing lung cancer. The key word here is “long term” as how long an individual is exposed is a key factor in increasing the risk of developing lung cancer. Although some readings were above the NAVRAMP action level, the highest readings were less than half of the OSHA limit for the workplace. We have undertaken immediate mitigations and pending further results we will determine what, if any, further action is needed.

## **UNDERSTANDING RADON**

### **Q. What is radon?**

A. Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is produced by the radioactive decay of naturally occurring uranium which is a common component of the soil and rocks under all homes and buildings around the world. Outdoors, radon is harmlessly diluted by the atmosphere. However, sometimes in enclosed places, radon can accumulate to levels prompting corrective action.

- It's a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is produced by the radioactive decay of naturally occurring uranium and thorium found in soils and rocks such as granite and shale.
  - For instance, the uranium (found in soils throughout the world) decays into other elements, one of them being radon gas. The gas molecules work their way up through the soils and rock fissures to escape into our air.
- We breathe small concentrations of it every time we step outdoors, where it is relatively harmless.
  - [Analogy: Drop of water in the ocean.]
- Radon undergoes several more radioactive decays, creating radioactive substances known as radon daughters or progeny. The atom finally decays into a stable atom.
- As radon progeny undergo radioactive decay, radiation is released in forms that include
  - High-energy alpha particles,
  - Beta particles, and
  - Gamma radiation.
- Radon is present in outdoor air but may collect in basements or ground level spaces. Thus, indoor environments are commonly studied to determine whether radon is present at high concentrations.
- Long-term exposure to radon gas at high concentrations can potentially impact health over time.

Wherever air or moisture seeps into building drains, joints, pores, cracks, foundations or exterior walls, radon levels can increase.

**Q. Is radon dangerous?**

A. Long term exposure to elevated levels of radon gas can lead to an increased risk of developing lung cancer.

**Q. How does radon enter a building?**

A. There are a variety of ways in which radon may enter a building. Most commonly by simple diffusion through building materials, cracks and structural openings, drainage pipes, etc. In addition, improperly balanced or designed of HVAC systems, use of exhaust systems with insufficient make-up air (negative pressure) and building envelope tightness.

**Q. How common is radon?**

A. Radon comes from natural breakdown (radioactive decay) of uranium. It is usually found in rock and soil uranium in varying amounts throughout the earth's crust, and has been found in all 50 U.S. States, Guam, Europe, Asia and elsewhere.

**Q. Can it be completely removed from indoor spaces?**

A. Radon is a naturally occurring gas that can exist in the air we breathe. Unlike other environmental hazards, radon cannot be permanently removed. However, with the installation and proper maintenance of a mitigation system, radon levels can be controlled.

## **RADON TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR NAVY FACILITIES**

### **Q. What is NAVRAMP?**

A. The Navy Radon Assessment and Mitigation Program (NAVRAMP) is the Navy's plan to identify, mitigate and prevent radon in Navy-occupied buildings.

### **Q. What other buildings were tested and how elevated were the results?**

A. Please refer to appendix B for a list of buildings and the findings.

### **Q. Who is responsible for conducting radon tests in Joint Region Marianas buildings?**

A. NBG PWD Environmental has overall environmental monitoring responsibilities for all NBG facilities. NBG PWD Environmental in coordination with NAVFAC and Oak Ridge National Laboratory conducted this round of tests.

## **RADON GUIDELINES PER EPA AND OSHA**

### **Q. What is the EPA action level for radon?**

A. The U.S. EPA has a recommended action level of 4 pCi/L. This action level is for residential exposure. EPA recommends mitigation of any home or school whose radon level is above 4 pCi/L. EPA has no guidance that applies directly to the workplace. The Navy, however, adheres to its Environmental Readiness Program Manual (OPNAV M-5090.1) and the Navy Radon Assessment and Mitigation Program (NAVRAMP) for standards and guidance on radon and has adopted the EPA action level for its buildings, including office buildings at 4 pCi/L.

### **Q. What is the OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit for Radon?**

A. For work areas occupied for 40 hours per week, with an exposure to radon greater than 100 pCi/L, OSHA requires employers to take action (either by eliminating the hazard, effecting mitigation or reducing the number of hours worked in the area). None of the buildings tested exceed the OSHA standard of 100pCi/L.

### **Q. How far above the action level were the measurements in Buildings 200 and 285?**

A. The radon levels varied by office space but there were 23 rooms above 20 pCi/L and 350 rooms between 4 pCi/L and 20 pCi/L.

## **MITIGATION AND NOTIFICATION**

### **Q. What is the plan to mitigate the exceedances found during the testing?**

A. Pending results of further testing in mid-October, we will identify next steps at that time. The Navy has taken immediate corrective actions in buildings 200 and 285 and we are quickly making our way through all other buildings above 4 pCi/L. The most common contributor to high radon readings is the improper balancing of the HVAC systems, and therefore, changing the ground floor rooms from negative to positive pressure is the most effective action that may be taken in the near term without taking structural mitigation measures.

Also, additional radon sampling kits were ordered and have been received and will be placed throughout buildings 200 and 285. We expect the results from this analysis within 30 days. The results will validate whether the HVAC adjustments already performed have resolved the issue or whether additional actions will be required.

We have engaged Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to conduct diagnostic evaluations of the facilities. ORNL is scheduled to be on site in December for 11 days. The in-depth evaluations will pinpoint problem locations and recommend specific mitigation for the affected facilities which need to be taken.

**Q. How were employees notified of the testing and results?**

A. Employees were notified by the Naval Base Guam Commanding Officer, who sent a letter on Aug. 24 to personnel who worked in the affected buildings. Email notices also went out to affected employees / occupants, through their respective chains of command. JRM Regional Commander and NAVFAC Marianas Executive Officer sent notices to affected employees in Building 200 on 25 August. In addition, JRM Regional Commander and NAVFAC Marianas Commanding Officer sent an email update to all affected JRM and NAVFAC Marianas employees on 1 September. An All Hands Call, jointly hosted by Joint Region Marianas and NAVFAC Marianas, will be held 15 September and follow-up communications are planned for the duration of this effort. Information including fact sheets about radon and other materials have been posted on the G2 site where personnel can learn more about radon and radon testing if they choose.

A link to the NAVRAMP, which discusses procedures for testing can be found at:  
[http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns\\_newport/om/environmental\\_support/radon.html](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/installations/ns_newport/om/environmental_support/radon.html)

**Q. Why did it take 5 days to notify employees?**

A. The test results came back on a Friday and they were briefed to the chain of command as soon as possible on Monday. The Naval Base Guam CO notified RDML Bolivar the next day and then the letters were processed and sent out.

**HR CONCERNS/WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Q. While this issue is being mitigated, will you offer affected employees alternate work sites or allow them to telework?**

A. At this current time per OSHA standards, the levels of radon detected in all surveyed buildings pose no immediate health threat. Employees who may have further questions or concerns should address those with their supervisors. More radon detectors are being installed to determine how effective the actions taken have been. As soon as those results are in, we will be in a better position to make a determination on the next steps, if any. The results are expected no later than mid-October.

**Q. Will you move the ROC?**

A. At this time per OSHA standards, the levels of radon detected in all surveyed buildings

pose no immediate health threat. While the levels detected in Buildings 200 and 285 on the basement floor are at “action levels” for mitigation, they are not above the OSHA permissible exposure limit for continued use of the space.

**Q. Will you delay the RDC?**

A. We have done everything we can to mitigate in the short term. While the levels detected in Buildings 200 and 285 on the basement floor are at “action levels” for mitigation, they are not above the OSHA permissible exposure limit for continued use of the space.

**Q. May I move if I am not in the ROC or RDC?**

A. After adjusting the HVAC system, additional radon detectors were ‘installed’ which will help with a more thorough assessment. Pending those results, we will make a decision on future mitigation including moving workspaces. At this current time per OSHA standards, the levels of radon detected in all surveyed buildings pose no immediate health threat. While the levels detected in Buildings 200 and 285 on the basement floor are at “action levels” for mitigation, they are not above the OSHA permissible exposure limit for continued use of the space.

**Q. What more can and should be done to minimize exposure?**

A. We have undertaken immediate mitigations, including adjustment of the HVAC system. Pending further results, we will consider other alternatives for employees. Although some readings were above the NAVRAM action level, the highest readings were less than half of the OSHA permissible exposure limit for the workplace.

**Q. Is there a form available for potential claims for hazardous exposure on the jobsite?**

A. Our Legal and Human Resources teams are working on this and we will have an answer soon.

**Q. Under the Federal Employees Compensation Act, will employees be compensated by Workers Compensation for exposure to radon in the workplace?**

A. Exposure to a workplace hazard such as radon does not constitute a work-related injury entitling an employee to re-imburement for medical expenses or lost wages unless the employee has sustained an injury or medical condition as a result of that exposure.

**Q. Will Workers Compensation pay for employee treatment or other measures designed to protect themselves from radon exposure?**

A. Workers Compensation is an insurance provided by the employer that is designed to reimburse employees for medical expenses and or lost wages incurred due to work-related injuries. Worker’s Compensation is neither funded nor intended to pay for preventive or protective measures.

**Q. Will Workers Compensation pay for an employee to be tested for radon exposure?**

A. There are no recommended or accepted medical tests for Radon exposure. Furthermore, the law (29 CFR 1910.1096, Ionizing Radiation Standard) does not recommend medical surveillance or monitoring following radon exposure in the work place. The Federal

Employee Compensation Act (FECA) does not provide for routine examination of an employee who has been exposed to hazards of the workplace unless it is part of a diagnostic work-up leading to medical diagnosis of a causally work related disease

**Q. Who may I contact for additional information about Radon or the tests that were completed?**

A. You are encouraged to follow the appropriate chain of command and speak to your supervisor about any questions or concerns. In addition, some helpful information may be found on the US EPA website (radon homepage) at: <http://www.epa.gov/radon>. Additionally, you can contact the Naval Hospital Guam's Occupational Health clinic for any questions regarding Radon Exposures at 344-9240 during normal working hours of 0730 – 1600.

**HEALTH CONCERNS**

**Q. How do we really know the workforce is doing fine until such time that they have been given all the information (levels over time, in each room, what if any mitigation efforts have been implemented and on what schedule, level of knowledge regarding radon and its health effects, etc.,).**

A. Leadership is committed to being completely open and transparent with regard to the radon levels in NBG's facilities. The NBG PWD and NAVFAC Marianas Environmental team is working to put together the radon history in these same buildings. That information will be available to you on our G2 intranet page. We will continue the communication efforts and provide updates via email and on the G2 page as soon as possible.

**Q. Can and should I wear a mask?**

A. Navy policy contained in OPNAVINST 5100.23 states that activity programs shall permit the issuance of respiratory protection for "workers in areas known to have contaminant levels requiring the use of respiratory protection.

**Q. I'm rather concerned. I have been occupying this room since March 2012 which adds up to 4 years and 5 months. How long of an exposure must a person be subjected to before he/she passes the "safe" exposure limits?**

A. The OSHA standard for workplace exposure to radon is 100pCi/L for a 40 hour work week for a year. We are well below that and our mitigations measures will be in place in 4-6 months to bring that level down even further. Levels each year are can be variable based on changes in the weather or even changes in the foundation from earthquakes. The current maximum measurement is 45.5 pCi/L. Assuming nothing significantly higher over the past 4 to 5 years, levels would be below OSHA PEL of 100pCi/L per year.

**Q. There is simply no real ventilation within our two buildings here and so, I find it hard to believe that we have no exposure. Per internet information reviewed, the level of 4.25 is considered a level where some remedial action should be in play. What actions will be done?**

A. Mitigation measures are already in place. We can create airflow in buildings 200 and 285 by adjusting the HVAC system to maintain positive pressure within the building. We are retesting to see if this has helped to reduce radon levels and will take further action pending those results.

**Q. After reviewing this email and the attached documents I feel concerned for my well-being, most especially since I am nursing my 9 month old baby. How is the command going to mitigate the radon exposure levels?**

A. Radon exposure will not affect a woman's milk supply. You are safe to nurse your baby.

**Q. Does this have any effect on me in bldg. 285 or is there anything I should be concerned about now or potentially later on?**

A. Yes, while the highest readings were in building 200, building 285 also had some elevated readings above the action level, the HVAC system in those buildings have been adjusted to reduce these levels. We will be conducting follow-up testing with results expected in mid-October.

**Q. An infographic from EPA compares that level (45.5 pCi/L) to the risk of lung cancer that is higher than that of a "2 pack-a-day smoker" and just right under being exposed to "20,000 chest x-rays per year". This elevated level almost does not appear to be of "no immediate health concern", considering that my staff and I have been potentially exposed to these levels since we have started occupying this building in 2009.**

A. Naturally occurring ionizing radiation is all around us. We are continuously exposed to this background radiation during ordinary living. There are no immediate health concerns (also called deterministic health effects) for this level of exposure to ionizing radiation. However, the international scientific community has determined that any amount of radiation exposure poses the possible risk of initiating cancer. In the case of radon this is the induction of lung cancer which can take years (decades) to develop. To reduce the risk of cancer development at any exposure level a policy of As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) was adopted globally in the radiation protection community. Navy mitigation policy and current efforts are meant to achieve this goal.

**Q. When was the last radon testing conducted in Bldg. 285?**

A. The testing in building 200 and building 285 were done in July and early August 2016.

**Q. Can we get a copy of the results of the radon-measuring/detection devices that were in our immediate areas?**

A. Yes, the results from the testing can be found on the JRM G2 intranet page.

**Q. We suspect that any adverse effects of exposure to elevated radon levels is more than likely not going to have an immediate impact to our health. What steps do we need to take, in terms of documenting our exposure to elevated radon levels, in the event that our health becomes adversely impacted in the future?**

A. Our legal and human resources teams are working on this issue right now. You are always welcome to visit your primary care provider to discuss your health concerns.

Employees can contact CDR Wesley Boose at the Naval Health Guam Occupational Medicine Clinic at (671) 344-9054.

**Q. Does this affect unborn children?**

A. The health risk from radon is from inhalation of radon particles into the lungs. There is little evidence of health effects of radon exposure other than lung cancer. Most of a mother's exposure to ionizing radiation from radon is to her lungs. The fetus would likely receive an insignificant exposure from this source.

**Q. Does this affect my family?**

A. No, only those directly exposed to radon in the air for long periods of time are at elevated risk.

**Q. What about filters and the HVAC system – when was the last time these were changed, and who is responsible for ensuring they are functioning properly?**

A. We have verified that the HVAC systems were not maintaining positive pressure in buildings 200 and 285 and have since adjusted it. We believe this will help reduce the radon levels and will be retesting to verify these actions worked.

**Q. What are the health concerns or hazards for the employees who have been exposed to elevated levels of radon?**

A. Occupational exposure to radon would fall under the Department of Labor-OSHA standards. Under this standard, the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for Radon is 100 pCi/L for an adult worker during a 40-hour work week. (Source: EPA, A Citizen's Guide to Radon, OPA-86-004, 1986) There are no immediate health concerns. Radon exposure poses an increased risk to the individual of developing lung cancer later in life but the concentration in our buildings is below OSHA limits. We are monitoring and have put mitigation efforts in place to reduce that risk.

**Q. Where can employees go for more information if they have health concerns?**

A. Employees can contact CDR Wesley Boose at the Naval Health Guam Occupational Medicine Clinic at (671) 344-9054. The EPA also has radon information available online at: [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon).

**Q. Where can I go for more information if they have health concerns?**

A. Health concerns can be addressed through your private physician or health provider. You can go to the main JRM G2 web page as well. The US EPA website (radon homepage) also has radon information available online at: <http://www.epa.gov/radon>.

**TOWN HALL QUESTIONS**

**Q. Is 4 pCi/L the base that we measure radon levels from?**

A. 4 pCi/L is an action level determined by the EPA and NAVRAMP which requires an installation to take corrective measures within specific timeframes. For example, if radon levels are below 4 pCi/L, no action is required. If radon levels are  $4 < 20$  pCi/L then



mitigation is required within 2 years. If radon levels are  $20 < 200$ , then mitigation is required within 6 months.

**Q. Was building 200 tested while it was DODEA High School?**

A. Yes, it was tested in 1996, 1998, & 2008.

**Q. When was the last time building 200 was tested? What were the radon levels?**

A. Previous to the Aug 2016 testing, building 200 was tested in June 2008. Fourteen of 46 rooms were above 4 pCi/L with an average concentration of 9.3 pCi/L. Of the 46 rooms tested, the highest level was 17.9 pCi/L and the lowest was 0.5 pCi/L.

**Q. Can you elaborate on what mitigations you've done?**

A. The HVAC systems have been adjusted to produce positive pressures in Building 200 & 285. We are in the process of checking the HVAC system in all other affected buildings.

**Q. Do you have a variability chart during the particular time testing was done in building 200?**

A. No, short term radon sampling kits produce an average reading over the cycle of the test. The test kits are not engineered to produce repetitive readings necessary to produce a chart of concentration versus time.

**Q. Can radon exacerbate cancers other than lung cancer?**

A. (from <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/othercarcinogens/pollution/radon>) Being exposed to radon for a long period of time can lead to lung cancer. Radon gas in the air breaks down into tiny radioactive elements (radon progeny) that can lodge in the lining of the lungs, where they can give off radiation. This radiation can damage lung cells and eventually lead to lung cancer.

Some studies have suggested that radon exposure may be linked to other types of cancer as well, such as childhood leukemia. But the evidence for such links has been mixed and not nearly as strong as it is for lung cancer. Because radon and its progeny are absorbed mainly by inhaling, and because the radiation they give off travels only a short distance, it is unlikely that radon would affect other tissues in the body.

The evidence that radon causes lung cancer comes from studies in people and studies done in the lab.

See also:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8096265>

**Q. Are there any other lung ailments that it contributes to other than lung cancer?**

A. There is no evidence to indicate that Radon or its daughter products contribute to any other disease of the lungs other than lung cancer.

**Q. Some of our employees bring kids in. Are they more affected?**

A. The damaging effects of radiation can be more significant at the extremes of life, specifically, the young (pre-teens) and the elderly, as well as, those in poor health. It is also important to note that OSHA's federal limits of 100 pCi/L were developed for the working population of the U.S. (18-65 working individuals).

**Q. For people who have lung cancer caused by radon, can you tell how much exposure they actually had?**

A. There currently is no way to exactly determine the dose of radiation received after someone has developed lung cancer presumably from Radon gas exposure. First, it is often difficult to definitively attribute the development lung cancer to Radon gas. This is because lung cancer from exposure to Radon gas has a long latency and requires many years of exposure to Radon and many other carcinogens. Furthermore, lung cancer has many contributing risk factors like tobacco smoke, pollution, health status, genetics, and age. It is often the lack of other risk factors for lung cancer that lead us to believe that a particular case of lung cancer may have been caused by exposure to Radon. Then, determining the dose of radiation received by that person could be constructed based on radon monitoring data, but that dose re-construction would be an estimate and not the actual exposure they had.

**Q. Has our water system been tested for radon?**

A. The Navy's drinking water is tested for Radionuclides on a recurring basis to comply with the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). These tests are sufficient to ensure that RADON is not and will not be an issue in our drinking water. The annual water testing report is available via a link on the Naval Base Guam official website main page.

<http://www.cnic.navy.mil/content/dam/cnic/jrm/pdfs/Environmental/2015%20U.S.%20Navy%20Water%20System%20Water%20Quality%20Report%206202016.pdf>

**Q. I live in Navy housing. Have you tested there?**

A. Yes, Navy housing is tested by the Housing Department on a recurring basis.

**Q. Why were we allowed to move into building 200 if we knew there was radon in the building?**

A. There is no evidence elevated levels of Radon existed when personnel were moved into B-200 after it was remodeled in May 2010. A mitigation system was installed and we are researching the history of when it was installed and who maintained it.

**Q. Does this contribute to tuberculosis?**

A. Employees with a history of positive PPD (aka PPD converter) are not at any more risk of developing Tuberculosis because of exposure to Radon gas.

**Q. What can we do to screen ourselves diagnostically?**

A. Refer to:

<http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/othercarcinogens/pollution/radon>

There are no widely available medical tests to measure whether you have been exposed to radon.

If you smoke and have been exposed to higher levels of radon, it's very important to try to quit smoking. The combined effects of cigarette smoking and radon exposure raise the risk of lung cancer much more than either exposure alone.

If you think you might have been exposed to high levels of radon over long periods of time, talk with your doctor about whether you should get regular health checkups and tests to look for possible signs of lung cancer. Be aware of possible symptoms of lung cancer, such as shortness of breath, a new or worsening cough, pain or tightness in the chest, hoarseness, or trouble swallowing, and tell your doctor if you start to have any of these symptoms.

**Q. Would it help to open our windows our doors before the workday?**

A. Opening windows or doors will negate the positive pressure of the HVAC system and could potentially increase the levels of Radon in the building. It will also increase the growth of mold.

**Q. Do we need to drill in the floor like in Apra Palms Housing?**

A. The type of mitigation system will be determined during the diagnostic evaluations occurring in Dec 2016.

**Q. What if we still have elevated levels of radon after the second round of testing?**

A. Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is scheduled to be on site in December for 11 days. The in-depth evaluations will pinpoint problem locations and recommend specific mitigation for the affected facilities which need to be taken.

**Q. Does our probability of lung cancer go up if members of our family have had lung cancer?**

A. The probability of developing lung cancer depends of both genetic and environmental factors. A family of history of lung cancer as defined as first degree relatives (parents & siblings) with lung cancer suggest a genetic component in the development of lung cancer and maybe an important risk factor in determining the overall risk or probability of developing lung cancer. However, because relatives (parents & siblings) with lung cancer may have been smokers, it is sometimes unclear whether the increased risk of lung cancer is the result of genetic factors or exposure to the secondhand smoke.

**Q. Can you provide the actual results of the testing to us?**

A. Yes, test results are available on our website.

**Q. Were any results above 4 pCi/L before the most recent tests?**

A. Yes, see the answer to question #3.

**Pacific Daily News Questions**

**Q. Could you describe the buildings found to have elevated radon levels? (Are the buildings located on or near Naval Base Guam? Are they housing or non-housing buildings? How many buildings are affected?)**

A. During the period of July 18 - Aug. 15, 2016, 325 buildings were tested. Of those, 46 non-housing buildings throughout Naval Base Guam were above the Department of the Navy required action levels for radon. The levels of radon are well below the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standard considered safe for normal daily work environments.

**Q. Could you describe the mitigation actions?**

A. As a result of the testing in July and August, the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems in all buildings above the EPA and Navy action level were inspected. Further diagnostic evaluation of all affected buildings will be conducted in order to determine the proper mitigation system(s) to reduce the radon levels below the EPA and Navy actions levels.

**Q. Could you describe the timelines to reduce the radon levels?**

A. We immediately took corrective action by inspecting the HVAC system for all of the affected buildings. The next step will be to conduct a diagnostic evaluation of the affected buildings. The diagnostic evaluation will be used to determine the proper mitigation system(s) to further reduce radon levels below the EPA and Navy action levels. The diagnostic evaluation will begin in December, the results of which will be available shortly thereafter. Final corrective action to reduce radon levels below the EPA and Navy action levels will begin as soon as possible after the results of the diagnostic evaluation are known. The priority will be to mitigate the buildings with the highest radon levels first.

**Q. Will there be more radon testing?**

A. Because radon is naturally occurring and emanates from soil and geological formations under buildings, the potential for radon entering a building is always possible. Under the Navy Radon Assessment and Mitigation Program (NAVRAMP), the Navy manages this potential by taking appropriate, ongoing measures, which includes further radon testing.

**Q. Anything else that you'd like to add?**

A. From our press release: "We are committed to the health and safety of our employees," said Joint Region Marianas Commander, Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar. "While it is safe for our staff to work, we've taken action to immediately address this issue."