

RADON SCREENING SURVEY



**Spofford Pond Elementary School
31 Spofford Road
Boxford, MA**

Prepared by:
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Environmental Health
Indoor Air Quality Program
Radon Assessment Unit
February, 2018

Background

Dates of Assessment:	January 29, 2018 through January 31, 2018
Building Name:	Spofford Pond Elementary School
Address:	31 Spofford Road, Boxford, MA
Assessment Requested by:	Tri-Town School Union
Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Environmental Health (MDPH/BEH) Staff Conducting Assessment:	Lisa A. Hébert, Technical Radon Specialist, Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Program, Radon Unit

Methods

Radon samples were collected for the purpose of this radon survey using the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Method #402-R-92-004 Liquid Scintillation (LS). Sampling devices were obtained through AccuStar Labs, a certified radon laboratory. Eighty- seven devices were deployed throughout the building for a minimum 48-hour time period. Devices were deployed on January 29, 2018 and collected on January 31, 2018.

Results

Tests were taken during normal operations at Spofford Elementary School. Of the 87 areas where test devices were deployed, devices from 84 areas were collected and submitted to AccuStar Labs. The lab results from the survey appear in Appendix A.

Discussion

Radon Unit staff reviewed the lab results from AccuStar Labs and found all quality assurance parameters within acceptable limits. Appendix A shows that radon levels in the building ranged from less than 0.4 pCi/L to 6.6 pCi/L. Five areas screened had radon levels above the US EPA action guideline of 4 picocuries per liter of air pCi/L (Rooms 11, 37 Storage, 36, 19, E-3). Radon levels were not elevated elsewhere. Please note that three vials could not be submitted due to being disturbed/ tampered. These areas were:

- Room 37 - (Vial # 3135653)
- Copy/Mail Room – (Vial # 3135605)
- Library Stacks – (Vial # 3135697)

Radon Gas

According to the National Research Council (NRC, 2009), “low levels of radon are present in all the air we breathe.” Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas that is produced by the natural decay of uranium in the soil. The average outdoor radon level is about 0.4 pCi/L (US EPA, 2009). Once radon is formed, it migrates through various pathways in the soil and can enter a building through cracks, holes, and joints in a building’s foundation (US EPA, 2009). The EPA recommends mitigation for indoor radon levels at or above 4 pCi/L.

According to the US EPA (2009), radon gas “decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe. As they break down further, these particles release small bursts of energy.” This activity can damage your lung tissue and increase a person’s risk of developing lung cancer (US EPA, 2009). Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. In 2005, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a health advisory stating that indoor radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer (US EPA, 2013).

Recommendations

Based on the measurements and observations made during the visit, the following recommendations are made.

1. It would be prudent to contact *certified* radon measurement and mitigation specialists to confirm the results found and to mitigate the radon in the building. The two organizations that certify radon measurement and mitigation specialists are:
 - a. National Radon Safety Board (NRSB) www.nrsb.org
 - b. American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) <http://aarst-nrpp.com/wp/>
2. It would be prudent for your radon measurement specialist to test areas with disturbed/tampered sampling devices during confirmation testing. These areas include:
 - a. Room 37
 - b. Copy/Mail Room
 - c. Library Stacks.
3. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Radon Assessment Unit at (413) 586-7525.

References

National Research Council (NRC). 1999. *Risk Assessment of Radon in Drinking Water*, National Academy Press.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). 2009. “A Citizen’s Guide to Radon. The Guide To Protecting Yourself and Your Family From Radon”. US Environmental Protection Agency. EPA402/K-09/001. January 2009.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). 2013. “Home Buyers and Seller’s Guide to Radon”. US Environmental Protection Agency. EPA402/K-13/002. September 2013.

NELAC NY 11769
NRPP 101193 AL
NRSB ARL0017

EPA Method #402-R-92-004
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NRSB Device Code 12193

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Steve Clifford
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Property Tested:

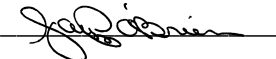
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Log Number	Device Number	Test Exposure Duration:		Area Tested	Result (pCi/L)
2226542	3135601	01/29/2018 3:45 pm	01/31/2018 4:00 pm	Office	1.5
2226543	3135602	01/29/2018 3:50 pm	01/31/2018 4:05 pm	Principal	1.5
2226544	3135603	01/29/2018 3:50 pm	01/31/2018 4:05 pm	Office Suite	3.2
2226545	3135604	01/29/2018 3:50 pm	01/31/2018 4:05 pm	Ms. Cyr	2.8
2226546	3135606	01/29/2018 4:05 pm	01/31/2018 4:15 pm	Nurse	1.7
2226547	3135607	01/29/2018 4:05 pm	01/31/2018 4:15 pm	Nurse Patient Area	1.9
2226548	3135608	01/29/2018 4:05 pm	01/31/2018 4:15 pm	Room 1	2.2
2226549	3135609	01/29/2018 4:10 pm	01/31/2018 4:15 pm	Room 4	2.1
2226550	3135610	01/29/2018 4:10 pm	01/31/2018 4:20 pm	Room 6	1.7
2226551	3135611	01/29/2018 4:15 pm	01/31/2018 4:25 pm	Room 8	3.0

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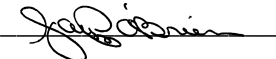
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2226552	3135612	01/29/2018 4:20 pm	01/31/2018 4:25 pm	Room 10	2.0
2226553	3135613	01/29/2018 4:20 pm	01/31/2018 4:30 pm	Room 11	4.4
2226554	3135614	01/29/2018 4:25 pm	01/31/2018 4:30 pm	Room 9	3.2
2226555	3135615	01/29/2018 4:25 pm	01/31/2018 4:35 pm	Room 7	1.8
2226556	3135616	01/29/2018 4:30 pm	01/31/2018 4:35 pm	Room 5	1.2
2226557	3135617	01/29/2018 4:30 pm	01/31/2018 4:35 pm	Room 3	2.1
2226558	3135618	01/29/2018 3:45 pm	01/31/2018 4:00 pm	QA 1	1.4
2226559	3135619	01/29/2018 3:50 pm	01/31/2018 4:05 pm	QA 2	1.6
2226560	3135620	01/29/2018 3:50 pm	01/31/2018 4:30 pm	QA 3	< 0.4
2226561	3135621	01/29/2018 4:40 pm	01/31/2018 4:45 pm	Room 2	1.6

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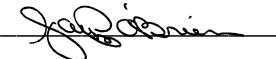
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2226562	3135622	01/29/2018 4:40 pm	01/31/2018 4:45 pm	Room S1	1.7
2226563	3135624	01/29/2018 4:45 pm	01/31/2018 4:55 pm	Room 45	1.5
2226564	3135625	01/29/2018 4:50 pm	01/31/2018 4:55 pm	Storage	1.6
2226565	3135626	01/29/2018 4:50 pm	01/31/2018 4:55 pm	Storage Inner	0.8
2226566	3135627	01/29/2018 5:00 pm	01/31/2018 5:05 pm	Room 47	1.5
2226567	3135628	01/29/2018 5:00 pm	01/31/2018 5:05 pm	Cafeteria	1.2
2226568	3135629	01/29/2018 5:05 pm	01/31/2018 5:10 pm	Room 48	2.1
2226569	3135630	01/29/2018 5:05 pm	01/31/2018 5:10 pm	Room 49	3.4
2226570	3135631	01/29/2018 5:05 pm	01/31/2018 5:10 pm	Room 50	1.5
2226571	3135632	01/29/2018 5:10 pm	01/31/2018 5:15 pm	Cafeteria (Kitchen Side)	1.1

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Shawn Price, Director of Laboratory Operations, AccuStar Labs

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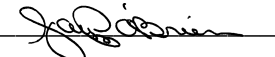
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Log Number	Device Number	Test Exposure Duration:		Area Tested	Result (pCi/L)
2226572	3135633	01/29/2018 5:15 pm	01/31/2018 5:20 pm	Stage Right	1.4
2226573	3135634	01/29/2018 5:15 pm	01/31/2018 5:20 pm	Stage Left	1.3
2226574	3135635	01/29/2018 5:15 pm	01/31/2018 5:25 pm	Cafeteria Storage	1.5
2226575	3135636	01/29/2018 5:20 pm	01/31/2018 5:25 pm	Prep Area	0.5
2226576	3135637	01/29/2018 5:25 pm	01/31/2018 5:30 pm	Manager Office Kitchen	0.7
2226577	3135639	01/29/2018 5:25 pm	01/31/2018 5:30 pm	Storage Kitchen	0.6
2226578	3135640	01/29/2018 4:40 pm	01/31/2018 4:45 pm	QA 4	1.5
2226579	3135641	01/29/2018 4:40 pm	01/31/2018 4:45 pm	QA 5	1.9
2226580	3135642	01/29/2018 5:25 pm	01/31/2018 5:50 pm	QA 6	< 0.4
2226581	3135643	01/29/2018 5:30 pm	01/31/2018 5:35 pm	Room 43	1.1

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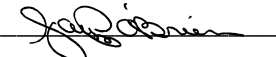
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Log Number	Device Number	Test Exposure Duration:		Area Tested	Result (pCi/L)
2226582	3135644	01/29/2018 5:35 pm	01/31/2018 5:40 pm	Room 42	1.0
2226583	3135645	01/29/2018 5:40 pm	01/31/2018 5:45 pm	Room 41 Head End	1.1
2226584	3135646	01/29/2018 5:45 pm	01/31/2018 5:50 pm	Room 39 Water Treatment Office	3.0
2226585	3135647	01/29/2018 5:55 pm	01/31/2018 6:00 pm	Storage Near Boiler Room	0.8
2226586	3135648	01/29/2018 5:55 pm	01/31/2018 6:00 pm	Electrical Room	0.9
2226587	3135649	01/29/2018 6:00 pm	01/31/2018 6:05 pm	Gym Front	1.3
2226588	3135650	01/29/2018 6:05 pm	01/31/2018 6:10 pm	Gym Storage 1	1.2
2226589	3135651	01/29/2018 6:05 pm	01/31/2018 6:10 pm	Gym Storage 2	1.7
2226590	3135652	01/29/2018 6:10 pm	01/31/2018 6:10 pm	Gym Rear	1.4
2226591	3135654	01/29/2018 6:15 pm	01/31/2018 6:25 pm	Room 37 Storage	5.6

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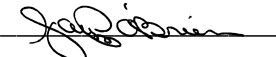
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2226592	3135655	01/29/2018 6:20 pm	01/31/2018 6:25 pm	Room 36	6.6
2226593	3135656	01/29/2018 6:25 pm	01/31/2018 6:35 pm	Room 35	2.4
2226594	3135657	01/29/2018 6:25 pm	01/31/2018 6:35 pm	Room 34	2.5
2226595	3135658	01/29/2018 6:30 pm	01/31/2018 6:40 pm	Room 33	3.7
2226596	3135659	01/29/2018 6:30 pm	01/31/2018 6:40 pm	Room 32	2.2
2226597	3135660	01/29/2018 5:30 pm	01/31/2018 5:35 pm	QA 7	1.0
2226598	3135661	01/29/2018 5:35 pm	01/31/2018 5:40 pm	QA 8	0.9
2226599	3135662	01/29/2018 6:30 pm	01/31/2018 6:35 pm	QA 9	< 0.4
2226600	3135663	01/29/2018 6:40 pm	01/31/2018 6:45 pm	E2 S2	1.9
2226601	3135664	01/29/2018 6:40 pm	01/31/2018 6:50 pm	Room 28	1.4

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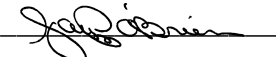
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2226602	3135665	01/29/2018 6:45 pm	01/31/2018 6:50 pm	Room 26	2.0
2226603	3135666	01/29/2018 6:45 pm	01/31/2018 6:55 pm	Room 24	2.3
2226604	3135667	01/29/2018 6:50 pm	01/31/2018 6:55 pm	Room 22	1.5
2226605	3135668	01/29/2018 6:50 pm	01/31/2018 6:55 pm	Room 20	2.9
2226606	3135669	01/29/2018 6:50 pm	01/31/2018 7:00 pm	Room 19	4.3
2226607	3135670	01/29/2018 6:55 pm	01/31/2018 7:05 pm	Room 18	1.5
2226608	3135671	01/29/2018 7:00 pm	01/31/2018 7:05 pm	Room 17B	2.2
2226609	3135672	01/29/2018 7:00 pm	01/31/2018 7:05 pm	Room 17A	2.5
2226610	3135674	01/29/2018 7:00 pm	01/31/2018 7:10 pm	Room 14 Art	1.2
2226611	3135675	01/29/2018 7:05 pm	01/31/2018 7:10 pm	Room 13	1.8

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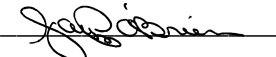
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2226612	3135676	01/29/2018 7:05 pm	01/31/2018 7:15 pm	Room 12	2.7
2226613	3135677	01/29/2018 7:15 pm	01/31/2018 7:20 pm	Room 15 Mr. Turner	1.3
2226614	3135678	01/29/2018 7:15 pm	01/31/2018 7:20 pm	Room 15 Storage	2.4
2226615	3135679	01/29/2018 7:15 pm	01/31/2018 7:20 pm	Room 16	0.8
2226616	3135680	01/29/2018 7:20 pm	01/31/2018 7:25 pm	E3	4.8
2226617	3135681	01/29/2018 6:40 pm	01/31/2018 6:45 pm	QA 10	2.2
2226618	3135682	01/29/2018 6:40 pm	01/31/2018 6:50 pm	QA 11	1.6
2226619	3135683	01/29/2018 6:40 pm	01/31/2018 7:40 pm	QA 12	< 0.4
2226620	3135684	01/29/2018 7:25 pm	01/31/2018 7:30 pm	Room 21	0.9
2226621	3135685	01/29/2018 7:25 pm	01/31/2018 7:30 pm	Room 23	0.7

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NELAC NY 11769
NRPP 101193 AL
NRSB ARL0017

EPA Method #402-R-92-004
Liquid Scintillation
NRPP Device Code 8088
NRSB Device Code 12193

Laboratory Report for:

Steve Clifford
Tri Town School Union
28 Middleton Road
Boxford MA 01921

Property Tested:

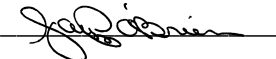
Spofford Pond Elementary School
31 Spofford Road
Boxford MA 01921


Log Number	Device Number	Test Exposure Duration:		Area Tested	Result (pCi/L)
2226622	3135686	01/29/2018 7:30 pm	01/31/2018 7:35 pm	Room 25	1.3
2226623	3135687	01/29/2018 7:30 pm	01/31/2018 7:35 pm	Room 27	1.0
2226624	3135688	01/29/2018 7:35 pm	01/31/2018 7:40 pm	Room 29	1.7
2226625	3135689	01/29/2018 7:35 pm	01/31/2018 7:40 pm	Room 30	1.4
2226626	3135690	01/29/2018 7:35 pm	01/31/2018 7:45 pm	Room 31	2.2
2226627	3135691	01/29/2018 7:40 pm	01/31/2018 7:50 pm	Exterior Storage	0.5
2226628	3135692	01/29/2018 7:40 pm	01/31/2018 7:45 pm	Room 38	3.7
2226629	3135693	01/29/2018 7:45 pm	01/31/2018 7:55 pm	Storage 53	1.2
2226630	3135694	01/29/2018 7:45 pm	01/31/2018 7:55 pm	Storage 52	2.0
2226631	3135695	01/29/2018 7:50 pm	01/31/2018 7:55 pm	Library Desk	3.0

Comment: A copy of this report was emailed to lisa.hebert@state.ma.us.

Distributed by: Dept of Public Health-Western Regional

Date Received: 02/02/2018 Date Logged: 02/02/2018 Date Analyzed: 02/02/2018 Date Reported: 02/05/2018

Report Reviewed By: 

Report Approved By: 

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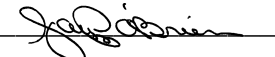
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Boxford MA 01921


Log Number	Device Number	Test Exposure Duration:		Area Tested	Result (pCi/L)
2226632	3135696	01/29/2018 7:50 pm	01/31/2018 8:00 pm	Library Audio Visual	2.7
2226633	3135698	01/29/2018 7:25 pm	01/31/2018 7:30 pm	QA 13	0.9
2226634	3135699	01/29/2018 7:25 pm	01/31/2018 7:30 pm	QA 14	0.8
2226635	3135700	01/29/2018 7:50 pm	01/31/2018 8:00 pm	QA 15	< 0.4
2226636	3135701	01/29/2018 8:00 pm	01/31/2018 8:05 pm	Library Storage	2.7
2226637	3135703	01/29/2018 8:00 pm	01/31/2018 8:05 pm	Computer Room	1.0
2226638	3135705	01/29/2018 8:05 pm	01/31/2018 8:10 pm	Room 55A Office	1.4
2226639	3135706	01/29/2018 8:05 pm	01/31/2018 8:10 pm	S 1 Conference Room	< 0.4
2226640	3135707	01/29/2018 8:10 pm	01/31/2018 8:15 pm	Room 46	2.8
2226641	3135702	01/29/2018 8:00 pm	01/31/2018 8:05 pm	QA 16	2.8

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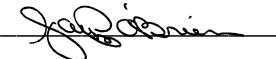
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31 Spofford Road
Boxford MA 01921


Log Number	Device Number	Test Exposure Duration:		Area Tested	Result (pCi/L)
2226642	3135704	01/29/2018 8:00 pm	01/31/2018 8:05 pm	QA 17	1.1
2226643	3135708	01/29/2018 8:00 pm	01/31/2018 8:05 pm	QA 18	< 0.4

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Report Approved By: 

Shawn Price, Director of Laboratory Operations, AccuStar Labs

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