

File
2814



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE REGIONAL HOSPITAL SHEPPARD (ATC)
SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE TX 76311-5300

1 June 1988

REPLY TO
ATTN OF SGPB

SUBJECT

Results of Initial Screening, Radon Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP)

TO

Occupant
2 Beaumont
Sheppard AFB TX 76311

1. Results of the RAMP for Sheppard AFB have been received. Overall, no structure sampled on Sheppard exceeded the 4 picocurie per liter limit; therefore, Sheppard has been placed in the lowest risk category. No further sampling will be performed. No mitigation efforts are necessary. Due to problems with sampling or analysis, a result for the sampler placed in your residence is not available. However, the average result for Sheppard was 1.3 picocuries per liter. Please refer to the chart on page 10 of the attached booklet for risk comparisons.

2. The sampling was performed in the most probable worst case situation--in the winter. Residences and other buildings should have been closed up tighter, allowing radon gas to accumulate. A sample taken over three months should therefore show significantly higher results than if exposures were averaged over an entire year.

3. For additional health effects information, contact Environmental Health Services, Bldg 61, telephone 851-2164. Direct any questions concerning this letter to me at 851-4489 or 851-6614.

Allen R Naugle

ALLEN R. NAUGLE, 2d Lt, USAF, BSC
Chief, Bioenvironmental Engineering

1 ATCH
Citizen's Guide to
Radon

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



SEPTEMBER 18, 1947

Radon risk 'low' here

Front page

2 June 88

Sheppard Senator

Sheppard is considered a low-risk base for radon gas based on results of tests released this week by Air Training Command officials.

These tests which began in December 1987, are the initial phase of the Air Force Radon Assessment and Mitigation Program to discover and correct potential radon hazards present on base.

Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless, colorless, radioactive gas produced by decaying uranium in the soil. Research has shown that extended exposure to elevated levels of radon increases the risk of developing lung cancer.

Radon diffuses from the surrounding soil into buildings through cracks in concrete slabs, basement cinder blocks or concrete, from air spaces around pipes and from negative pressure created by furnaces and clothes dryers.

Outside or in well-ventilated areas, radon dissipates naturally. The gas be-

comes a potential health hazard when it accumulates in an enclosed area.

"Because Sheppard has been placed in the lowest-risk category for the testing, no further testings or studies for the gas on the base are planned," said Sheppard's Bioenvironmental Engineer 1st Lt. Allen R. Naugle.

There are three levels of risk according to Lieutenant Naugle — high, medium and low.

"High-risk bases have at least one structure that tested out during the initial screening as having a radon count greater than 20 picocuries per liter of air. Picocuries are a measure of radioactivity. Medium-risk bases have at least one structure with a reading greater than four picocuries, but none greater than 20 picocuries. Low-risk bases tested out without any structure greater than four picocuries," said the lieutenant.