



October 14, 2025

Mr. Jason Bing, RA, LEED AP
Director, Capital Programs
Ann Arbor Public Schools
2555 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
BingJ@aaps.k12.mi.us

RE: AEG Project #AE250882
Radon Sampling Services
Ann Arbor Public Schools, Thurston Elementary School

Dear Mr. Bing:

Pursuant to the request of Ann Arbor Public Schools, Arch Environmental Group, Inc. (AEG) placed short-term radon detectors throughout frequently occupied locations at ground level or lower throughout Thurston Elementary School. The detectors were placed in the facility on October 6, 2025 and were retrieved on October 8, 2025. Samples were analyzed by Air Chek, Inc. located in Mills River, North Carolina.

I. Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other major national and international scientific organizations have concluded that radon is a human carcinogen and a serious environmental health problem. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. It comes from the natural breakdown (decay) or uranium which is found in soil and rock all over the United States. Radon travels through soil and enters buildings through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Eventually it decays into radioactive particles (decay products) that can become trapped in your lungs when you breathe. As these particles in turn decay, they release small bursts of radiation. The radiation can damage lung tissue and lead to lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. Radon is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. The only way to know whether or not elevated levels of radon are present in a location is to test.

There are two ways to test for radon:

1. A **short-term test** is the quickest test for radon. In this test the device remains in the room for a period of **2 to 90 days** depending on the device.
2. A **long-term test** remains in place for more than 90 days.

The EPA recommends that action should be taken when radon levels are found to be 4pCi/L (Pico Curies per Liter of air) or higher.

II. Sampling Analysis & Strategies

In an effort to determine the radon levels throughout frequently occupied areas at ground level or lower, Arch Environmental Group, Inc. deposited short-term, activated charcoal adsorption devices (AC) in seventy-two locations in Thurston Elementary School.

Activated charcoal adsorption devices (ACs) are a passive detector system for the measurement of radon concentrations in the air. Once the detector is opened, radon gas diffuses passively onto the activated charcoal and radon concentration is determined. ACs are passive devices. The charcoal within these devices has been treated to increase its ability to adsorb gases. The passive nature of the activated charcoal allows continual adsorption and desorption of radon. During the entire measurement period (typically two to seven days), the adsorbed radon undergoes radioactive decay. AEG deposited the AC detectors on October 6, 2025. The detectors were placed between knee and shoulder height on a flat or hanging surface. Additionally, the detectors were placed at least 1 foot from exterior walls, 3 feet from windows or doors, away from direct sunlight and away from heat vents. After a designated time, the samples were retrieved on October 8, 2025; the AC detectors were closed and collected for laboratory analysis. Duplicate samples and blank samples necessary for quality assurance purposes were also collected at the facility.

As the sample results shown in *Attachment A* indicate, seventy-one of seventy-two sample locations identified radon concentrations below the EPA recommended “action level” of 4.0 pCi/L with sample results ranging from <0.3 pCi/L to 2.8 pCi/L. One sample, collected in Room 1A, identified a radon concentration of 4.3 pCi/L, slightly above the action level. Prudent practice recommends that areas where radon levels are potentially above the “action level” should be retested with a second short-term test to confirm the results of the initial test. A second test above the “action level” recommends either progressing to a long-term test of at least 90 days or taking corrective measures to reduce levels below the “action level”.

III. Conclusions

Pursuant to the request of Ann Arbor Public Schools, Arch Environmental Group, Inc. collected radon samples from frequently occupied areas throughout Thurston Elementary School. In accordance with the guidance document titled “Radon Measurements in Schools, Revised Edition (EPA 402-R-92-014, July 1993)” published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “...the EPA has conducted extensive research on the presence and measurement of radon in schools. Initial reports from some of those studies prompted the Administrator in 1989 to recommend that schools nationwide be tested for the presence of radon. Based on more recent findings, EPA continues to advise U.S. schools to test for radon and to reduce levels to below 4pCi/L.” Following some of the sampling recommendations offered by this guidance document, Arch Environmental Group, Inc.’s samples identified 71 of 72 collected samples below the action level of 4 pCi/L.

In accordance with accepted sampling protocols, AEG recommends a second short-term test in Room 1A where a radon concentration of 4.3 pCi/L was reported. AEG anticipates the second test will be completed by October 31, 2025.

The EPA suggests that schools retest sometime in the future, especially after significant changes to the building structure or the HVAC system.

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If you have any question regarding this information or work performed by Arch Environmental Group, Inc., please feel free to contact me at (248) 426-0165 ext. "330" [office] or (248) 252-3618 [mobile].

Sincerely,

HealthAIR
A Division of *arch environmental group*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip E. Grosse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Philip E. Grosse
Project Consultant III