

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bennett Community School District Provides Update on Radon Testing and Mitigation Efforts

BENNETT, IOWA — Bennett Community School District has completed required radon testing in its school building(s) and is moving forward with mitigation efforts after identifying elevated radon levels in one or more occupiable spaces.

Test results showed radon concentrations above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended action level of 4.0 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) in certain areas. In response, the district is taking the appropriate steps to address those spaces and reduce radon levels.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted. It can enter buildings through cracks and other openings in foundations from the soil beneath a structure. According to the EPA, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers in the United States.

The State of Iowa requires radon testing at least once every five years for all public school attendance centers, licensed preschools, and licensed childcare centers. To complete the initial testing process accurately and cost-effectively, Bennett Community School District received training through the School Radon Training & Support System, facilitated by the Energy Association of Iowa Schools (EAIS). This training enabled the district to complete its testing while saving taxpayer dollars.

Following the identification of elevated radon levels, the district will continue working with EAIS through the mitigation process. EAIS has also assisted the district in placing its building on a multi-year rotating radon testing schedule to help ensure continued monitoring and long-term safety.

Research indicates that, for most students and staff, schools and workplaces are the second-largest contributors to radon exposure, while the home is often the primary source. Bennett Community School District encourages families to test their homes for radon and, if needed, take action to reduce elevated concentrations and lower the risk of lung cancer.

For questions regarding radon testing at Bennett Community School District, please contact:

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For additional information about residential radon testing, please visit the EPA's radon information page.