

Press Release for the National Radon Action Month
The NORM Group Organization, Cambridge, MA
<http://www.thenormgroup.org>
February 7, 2007

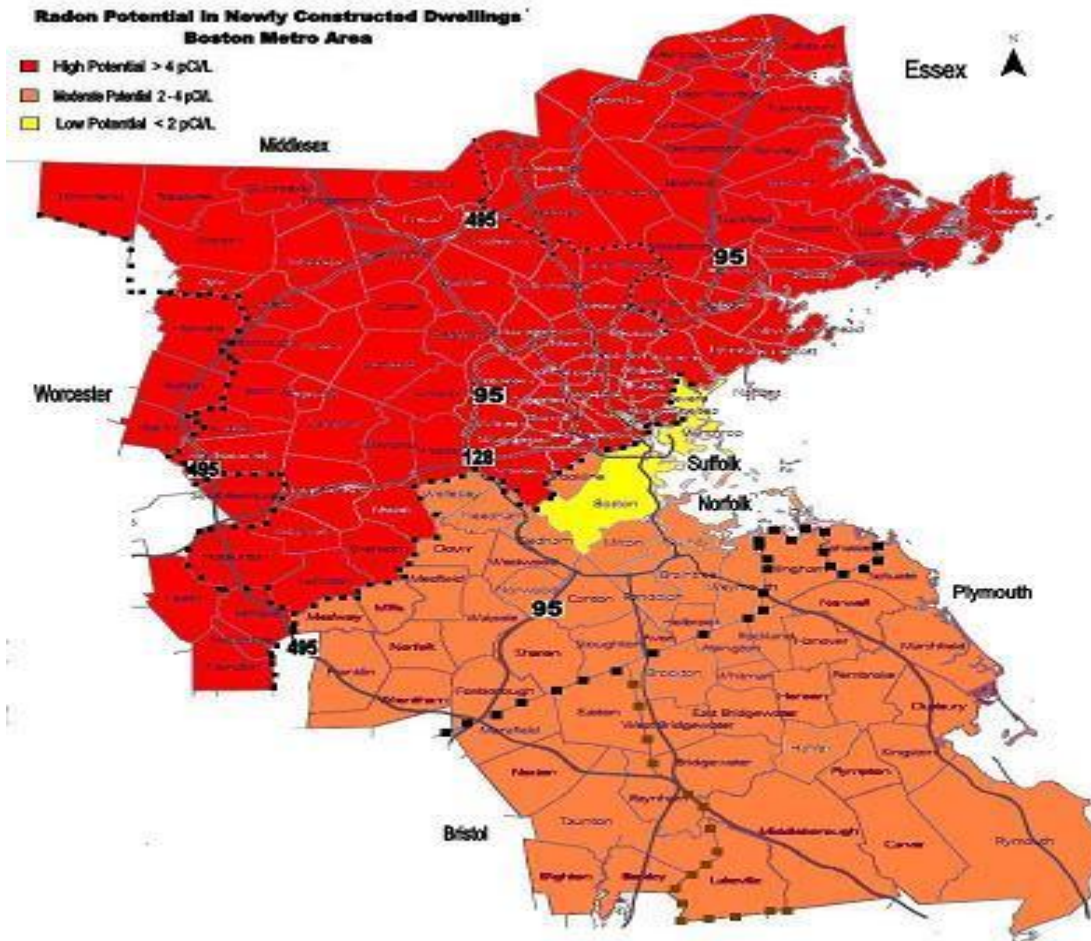
January was designated as National Radon Action Month. For Massachusetts, the January data of The Radon Information Center (URL <http://www.radon.com>) Air Check™ showed radon level of 3.8 pCi/L average, determined from a total of 25238 tests conducted . 75% of the results showed < 4 pCi/L. EPA advocates action to be taken for radon levels > 4pCi/L. 18% of the results are in the range 4 to < 10 pCi/L, which means that one in 5 households, action needs to be taken. 5% of the results are in the range 10 to < 20 pCi/L; 2% of the results are in the range 20 to < 50 pCi/L ; 0.3% of the results are in the range 50 to < 100 pCi/L; 0.1% in the range 100 and above. From this data, it is clear that one in four homes in Massachusetts is above EPA action level, contrary to the general conception that there is no radon problem in Massachusetts.

The radon potential map of Massachusetts provided by EPA shows the radon zones of the 14 counties of Massachusetts.



More than 125,000 newly dwellings in and around Boston metro area were constructed recently. (Ref: MIT-CRE)

A partial map of the radon potential of the newly constructed dwelling areas in and around metro Boston, with routes 128, 95 and 495 as boundaries, is shown below.



It is not clear how many newly constructed dwellings are radon resistant; and how many people in Massachusetts are actually aware of radon potential in their area.

So for the radon action month, this is why Dr. P. Ila gave a course entitled ‘Radon research in multi disciplines’, discussing the recent research in geology, planetary science, radiation biology, radiation health physics and medicine; in January 17-25, 2007, during the Independent Activities Period, IAP 2007 at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. The course was well received.

The NORM Group encourages every body be aware of health effects of radon and test their homes.

References:

- 1) <http://www.radon.com>

2) EPA map of radon potential in Massachusetts
<http://www.epa.gov/radon/zonemap/massachusetts.htm>

3) MIT Center for Real Estate (MIT-CRE)
Ref: <http://web.mit.edu/cre/research/hai/land-use.html>

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