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Radon Deposits in Nebraska

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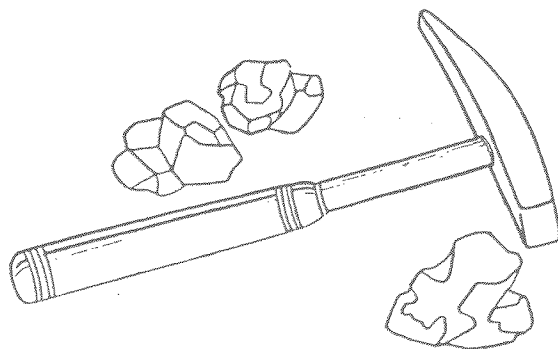
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NEBRASKA GEONOTES

RADON IN NEBRASKA

Raymond R. Burchett



NEBRASKA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Conservation and Survey Division
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Nebraska—Lincoln



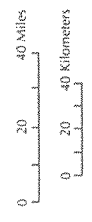
October 1991





AVERAGE INDOOR RADON
Picrocuries per liter (pci/L)

- Less than 2
- 2.0 to 2.9
- 3.0 to 3.9
- 4.0 to 4.9
- 5.0 to 6.9
- Greater than 7



AVERAGE INDOOR RADON BY COUNTY IN NEBRASKA 1990

Source of data: Nebraska Department of Health

RADON IN NEBRASKA

Raymond R. Burchett

Natural radioactivity is part of our environment. It comes from rocks, soils, and the atmosphere. The natural radioactivity background in an area depends on the geologic conditions present. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas formed from the natural decay or breakdown of uranium in the soil. It may be found in relatively high concentrations in rocks and soils that contain uranium, but it cannot be seen, tasted, or smelled.

Radon is measured in units of picocuries per liter (pCi/L). A picocurie (pCi) is a unit of measurement of radioactivity equal to one trillionth of a curie.

Radon gas outdoors rapidly disperses into the atmosphere and is usually not considered hazardous. Indoors, radon may become trapped and accumulate to hazardous levels. Rocks and soils are primary sources of indoor radon. It usually enters a building with soil gas drawn in through the foundation. Currently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that radon levels indoors be no higher than 4 picocuries.

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