Lowering **RADON** Levels in Your Home

Radon Gas is odorless, tasteless, and invisible. Long term exposure to elevated levels of radon gas can lead to lung cancer. You can verify your exposure to Radon Gas by using an EPA rated test kit. Radon comes from decaying uranium in the soil, water, and rocks, such as granite, shale, phosphate, and pitchblende.

**Radon Control Basics**–

- Any home may have a radon gas problem; the only way to know if the home has an elevated radon level is to test for radon.
- If you are planning to buy a home, have the home tested for radon.
- Install radon-resistant construction when building a new home.
- EPA encourages mitigation where the radon gas level is above 4 pCi/L.
- Always retest radon levels before deciding if it is necessary to mitigate for radon.
- Elevated radon gas levels can be mitigated (lowered) by an EPA trained and certified radon mitigation professional.
- If radon gas level is highly elevated, consider having the well water tested for radon.

**Radon Testing Basics**–

- Radon gas enters the home through cracks in basement floors and foundation walls; cracks around service pipes; sump pump holes; and in some cases well water.
- Short term test kits take 4-7 days to test for radon. Close all windows and outside doors 12 hours prior to and during testing. Open doors only during routine entries and exits.
- Test in the lowest lived in area of the home (but not bathroom or kitchen), away from ventilation, drafts, high heat, and moisture, and in a spot that is at least 20”-48” off the floor, so that the kit will not be disturbed.
- If the reading is 4 pCi/L or higher, test a second time to determine whether the average radon gas level is above 4 pCi/L.
- Short term test kits can cost between $17-$25. Discounts are available through special programs. Call either your local, regional or state Department of Health or your county’s Cooperative Extension Office for information on radon testing.

**Radon Mitigation Basics**–

- Seal cracks in basement walls/floor with polyurethane caulking compound.
- In elevated radon gas situations, a sub-slab depressurization system removes radon gas from below the basement concrete floor before it enters the home.
- Seal all joints in furnace ducts to prevent house depressurization which pulls radon into the home.