



Ivan Rivera, Manager -3M Valley Plant Engineering (at right) explains the Radon Test Kits to Susan Walling and David Ammerman, 3M Valley employees.

3M Valley to provide free radon test kits

In an effort to assist residents in addressing radon concerns, 3M Valley will provide free radon test kits to the 3M employees as well as Valley community residents.

The kits, which were developed by the Nebraska Radon Program, will include a test cartridge with a self-addressed return envelope. Test results will be mailed back to the individuals directly from the analysis laboratory. The program will run from February 15-28. Valley residents can pick up their free test kit at the Valley City Hall.

Nebraska radon levels rank third highest in the United States. Dodge

and Douglas Counties are two of the highest in the state, according to Mark Versch, Nebraska Health and Human Services Radon Program.

Radon Facts

- Radon is an odorless and invisible gas that is harmful to humans at elevated levels. It occurs naturally in the soil, produced by radioactive breakdown of uranium and radium.
- EPA and the Surgeon General recommend radon testing for all homes.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that as many as one in 15 homes across the U.S.

has elevated radon levels.

- Radon levels can vary considerably from house to house, even on the same street.
- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, responsible for 21,000 deaths every year.
- Annual radon levels of more than 4 pCi/L are considered elevated, and remediation is recommended.
- Test data through 2/2005 show that 60 percent of Dodge County and 49 percent of Douglas County had results over 4 pCi/L. Highest level test results were 37.5 pCi/L for Dodge County and 148.1 for Douglas County.