



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

April 16, 1993

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

EPA-SAB-RAC-COM-93-001

The Honorable Carol M. Browner
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Radon Mitigation Research: Preliminary Finding

Dear Ms. Browner:

The Radon Science Initiative Subcommittee of the Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Radiation Advisory Committee met on February 16-17, 1993 to initiate discussion of radon research activities and needs of importance to the EPA. The Subcommittee identified three broad areas of concern in the radon field for which additional research is needed:

1. Radon exposure and risk assessment
2. Radon risk control/reduction/mitigation strategies
3. Radon risk communication

The Subcommittee strongly believes that a credible radon research program requires that all three of these areas be addressed by EPA or other agencies. We believe this is particularly true because of the recommendations set out in the SAB document *Reducing Risk: Setting Priorities and Strategies for Environmental Protection*, which a) argues that resources should be allocated on the basis of opportunities for the greatest risk reduction and b) concludes that radon is among the environmental problems posing the most significant health risk. In this regard, the Subcommittee is concerned that funding within the Office of Research and Development for additional research on mitigation of radon risk appears to have been reduced to zero. This action would create a void in further radon mitigation research that would not be not easily filled by current or planned research activities in other agencies. Both soil and drinking water sources are included.

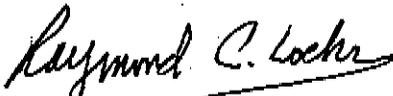


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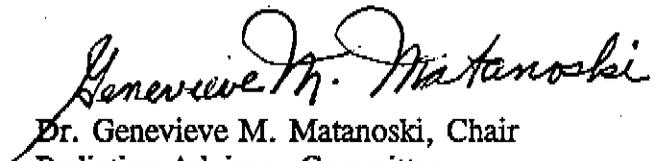
Although the Radon Science Initiative Subcommittee will not develop an initial report until later in 1993, it is clear at this point that the report will include a strong recommendation that research is needed in all three of these major radon research areas. The decision to discontinue funding by the Agency for radon control research would, in addition to terminating efforts with substantial risk reduction potential, effectively disperse the expertise developed within the Agency.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with these preliminary findings, and we look forward to your reply. Our full, final report will address these issues in greater detail along with other issues of concern identified by the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Dr. Raymond C. Loehr, Chair
Executive Committee
Science Advisory Board



Dr. Genevieve M. Matanoski, Chair
Radiation Advisory Committee
Science Advisory Board



Dr. Richard G. Sextro, Chair
Radon Science Initiative Subcommittee
Radiation Advisory Committee
Science Advisory Board