DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20852

DATE: March 10, 2003

TO: To the Record

FROM: Director
Division of Facilities Planning and Construction

SUBJECT: Health Facilities Advisory Committee
4-1.3 Decision No. 41

4-1.3 DECISION NO. 41

**Issue:**

Radon gas is present in all soils to varying degrees; amounts cannot accurately be predicted from site to site. Radon is carcinogenic in higher concentrations. The EPA "action level" is 4 pCi/L. Since it is easier and cheaper to build in protection during construction than to correct after a building is completed, criteria for incorporating mitigation actions in initial construction should be defined.

**Decision:**

The design and construction of all new buildings, including quarters, will take into consideration the control and potential mitigation of radon, regardless of the risk zone, in accordance with the IHS Technical Handbook Section 21-2.4, Radon Control and Mitigation, attached.

**References:**

A/E Guide, Appendix G.

This standard will also be incorporated into the latest version of the IHS Health Facilities Architect/Engineer Guide.

José F. Cuzme, P.E.
Chairman, HFAC Committee