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RADON POTENTIAL IN VENTURA COUNTY, 2006 UPDATE (1 plate, map scale 1:100,000)

by
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The Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey (DOC/CGS) has completed an update of the 1995 radon potential map and report for Ventura County, California. Zones in Ventura County where geologic conditions and available data suggest elevated indoor-radon levels will be more commonly encountered are indicated on this map. The map zones show high, moderate and low radon potential areas. The location, extent and classification of some radon zones shown on the 1995 Ventura County radon potential map have changed as the result of this update. These changes result from indoor-radon measurements made since 1995 and new information about radon and geologic units developed during the preparation of Special Report 182—Radon Potential In Southern Los Angeles County. Although the 2006 Ventura County Radon Potential Map shows areas where elevated indoor-radon levels are expected to be more common, the map cannot be used to determine the indoor radon level of a building. All radon zones contain some indoor-radon measurements above and some below the U.S. EPA recommended action level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/l). The only way to determine the indoor radon level of a building is by testing the building for radon, irrespective of the radon zone it occurs within.

The map radon potential zones was developed using indoor radon data from the Department of Health Services Radon Program, NURE project airborne radiometric data from the U.S. Geologic Survey, and existing geologic mapping. The process involved comparing indoor radon data and airborne radiometric data with geologic units in the Ventura County area using a geographic information system (GIS). With this approach, percentages of indoor-radon data at or above 4 picocuries per liter (e^{-} 4 pCi/l) were determined for the geologic units in Ventura County. Areas where airborne radiometric data equal or exceed 7.5 parts per million equivalent uranium (e^{-} 7.5 ppm eU) were also identified. Those geologic units with higher percentages of e^{-} 4 pCi/l test results and/or e^{-} 5 ppm eU measurements were used define locations of the high and moderate radon potential zones. The report accompanying the map provides detailed information about how the radon zones for the 2006 Ventura County Radon map were developed and their significance.

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