

April 23, 2016

Please pass on this update regarding mold and radon to all county employees and staff who have an interest. I apologize for not getting another notice out more quickly. In the last few days, the Commissioners time and mine have been devoted to setting in motion some of the steps explained below and dealing with a number of the issues involving the courthouse.

Alternate work site:

We are looking for and negotiating for an alternative work site for employees who are unable to work in the courthouse. This is currently the top priority. If it were possible to do so today, it would happen. We will do it as soon as we can negotiate and close on a lease. We are in those negotiations on a couple sites now and hope to have it completed by the first of the week. Once that is done, we will need to get the appropriate offices/employees moved in and established so work can begin.

One possible work space is the previous school administration office on South Main Street. We are negotiating on that now.

MOLD REMEDIATION PLAN

As many of you saw, Dr. Catt has recommended we first clean the duct work, then do the other remediation work. That recommendation came in to us too late for the three mold remediation companies to consider that aspect of the work in their initial visit to the courthouse. All three companies are scheduled to come back to the courthouse next week (the week of April 25) to consider that part of the work. We hope to have a plan and a quote from each of them after their visits next week.

Prosecutor's office/ other affected staff:

The current idea for the prosecutor's office and other affected employees is to move to alternative offices temporarily like I mentioned above. As it has been explained to me, that move may be very problematic for the Title IV-D office based on the computer access needs of that particular office. If that is the case, the other idea for the IV-D office is to move into what is now the public access room in the courthouse. It may be much easier and quicker to get the necessary computer line into that space as it is proximate to the computer line in the Clerk's office. Steve Sonnega has agreed his office will help us work through the complications with the Title IV-D computer access line.

Once the duct work is cleaned in the courthouse as per Dr. Catt's recommendations, the other remediation work will begin in the prosecutor's offices. The plan is to remove many of interior walls in Pros. Office and remove the mold. Walls should be removed at a minimum 1.5'

from where the wetness stops or to the end of any mold found. The office are will be sealed and the air will be blown out of building as work is being done.

The carpet will be removed.

Once the remediation work is complete, more testing will be done before reconstruction begins. This is being done to confirm the mold is remediated.

Other areas of the courthouse

Other areas of the courthouse will be remediated as well if they showed the need based on Dr. Catt's test results. These include but may not be limited to:

Bob Cline's office
Judge Hanson window
Sup. Ct. #3
Other areas as per Dr. Catt report.

RADON

The Company, Pro Inspections, LLC came in on Wednesday April 20 to inspect both buildings. Let me first say, the testing and analysis of radon is more complicated than I first imagined. Pro Inspections performed a detailed analysis of the floor plans of both the courthouse and 180 S. Main St. That analysis will be shipped to AEI Consultants which is a national firm that deals with Radon. This firm has locations across the country. AEI firm will put together specs on the testing plan and will give a quote to the County. I am being told to expect that quote by about the middle of next week (the week of April 25).

Once a quote is accepted, AEI will have Pro Inspections perform the test. Pro Inspections is acting essentially as a subcontractor for AEI. It could take up to two weeks before the actual testing begins. We certainly hope it will be done more quickly than that, but I want to be realistic about the timelines I announce.

The test itself will take 48 hours. The test results will then be overnighted to AEI and AEI will analyze the test. It could take up to seven days to get the test results. We will then get a recommendation about whether any remediation is needed. The results and the recommendation will address both the levels of radon and the work level radon.

On the issue work level radon, the EPA says acceptable levels of radon for a residential home is about 4 picocuries per liter (PC/L). The acceptable level is often higher in an office setting because less time is spent in the office setting compared to a home. The acceptable level in an office is determined based upon a calculation involving the radon levels and the amount of time in a week or month spent in the office.

Going forwardd, I will try to send at least one email a day out to keep people up to date on the progress of these matters. You can direct questions to me and I will try to answer them via these emails.

Thank you for your patience in this regard.

Rod Bray