



Radon in Alaska!

Protect Your Family from Radon

Radon is a gas that you can't **see**, **smell**, or **taste** — but it can be dangerous. It's the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.



Radon is in the ground naturally. But sometimes it gets into homes **through cracks in the floors or walls.**

Learn more about radon and how it can affect your health.

http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/brochure/profile_radon.htm

Though 'all natural', radon radiation is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Yet...

1. **Uranium** must be present (geologic influence)
2. **Porous soils** must be present (or bedrock exposed)
3. **Entry points** must be present for accumulation inside (construction influence)
4. **House ventilation** and inside **pressure** makes a difference (occupant influence)

THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW IF YOU HAVE A RADON PROBLEM IS TO TEST!

Short term kit- Use in closed up conditions 2-4 days exposure



Long term kit- Use in normal conditions 9-12 months exposure



Continuous kit- Use in normal conditions with continual exposure



Past radon testing in Alaska- All Residential

Research past testing in Alaska has occurred in:

- 1987-tested **38** homes in higher elevations of Fairbanks
- 1989-tested **1312** homes statewide
- 1996-1998- heating seasons tested **57** homes in Fairbanks
- 1991-2016- **3200** homes tested with year long kits in Alaska

1989 EPA Survey

Radon concentrations over the EPA action level:

State region	% of tests over EPA action level
Interior	18
Southcentral	13
Anchorage	4
Southeast	2
Northern/Western	2

ALASKA - EPA Map of Radon Zones

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/zonemap.html>

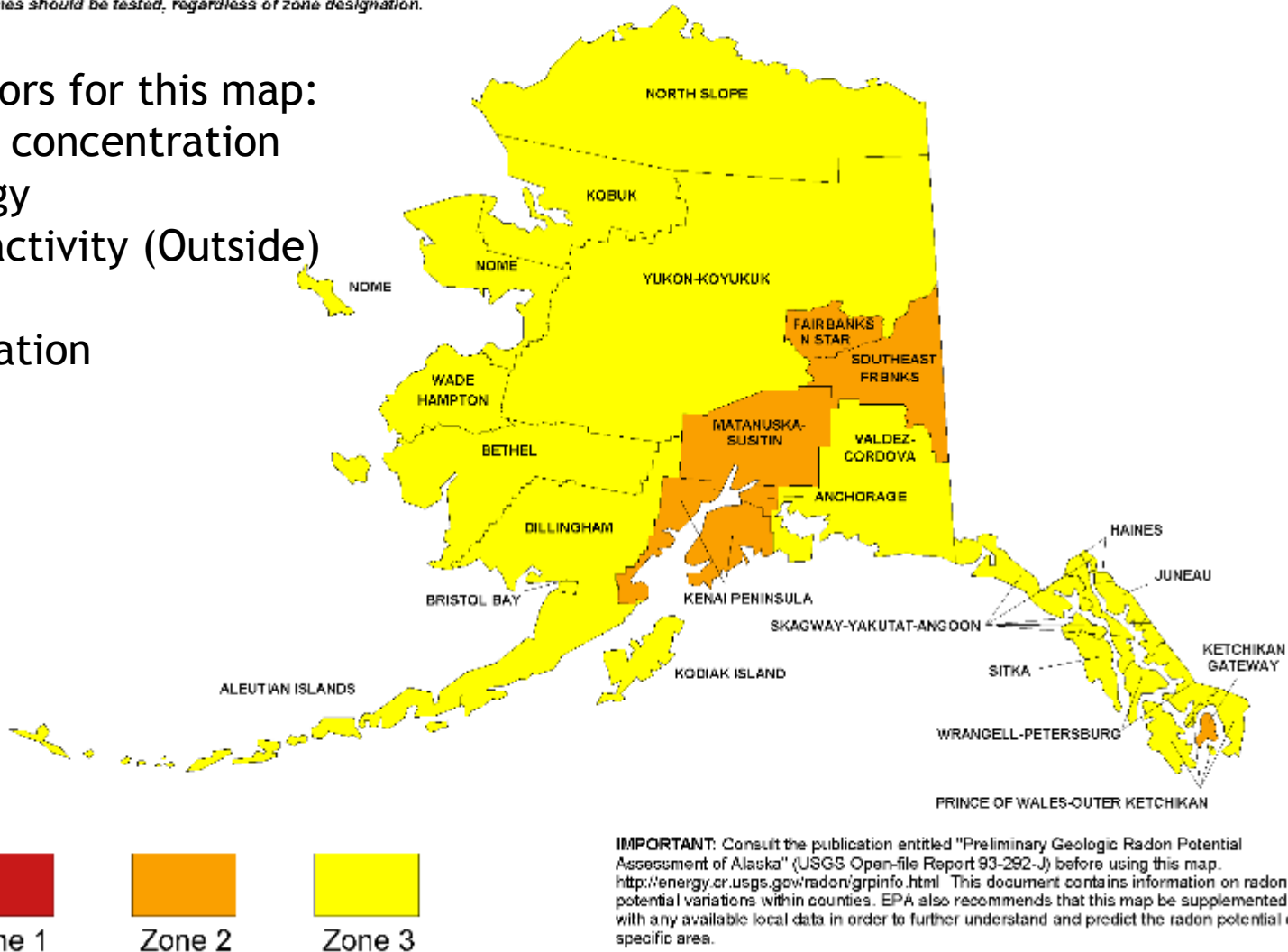
The purpose of this map is to assist National, State and local organizations to target their resources and to implement radon-resistant building codes.

This map is not intended to determine if a home in a given zone should be tested for radon. Homes with elevated levels of radon have been found in all three zones.

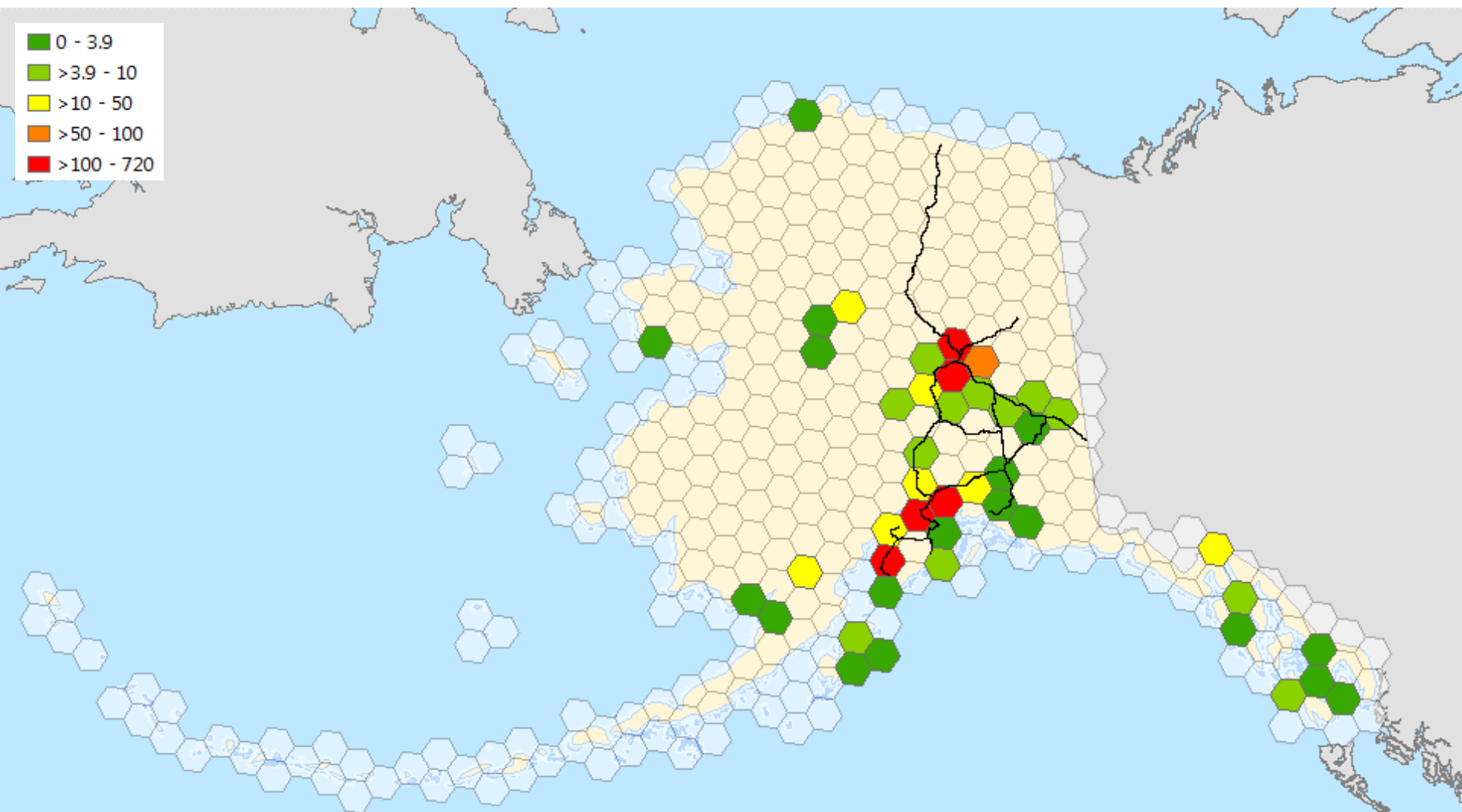
All homes should be tested, regardless of zone designation.

Five Factors for this map:

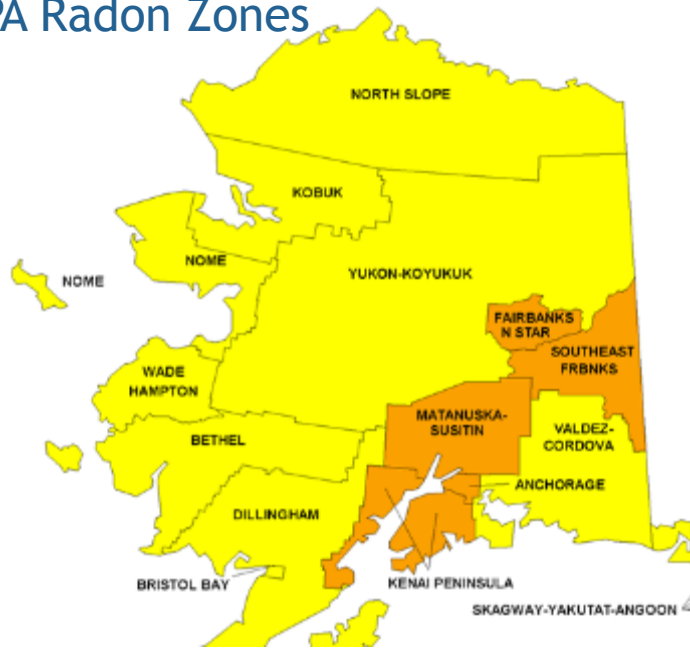
- Indoor concentration
- Geology
- Radioactivity (Outside)
- Soil
- Foundation



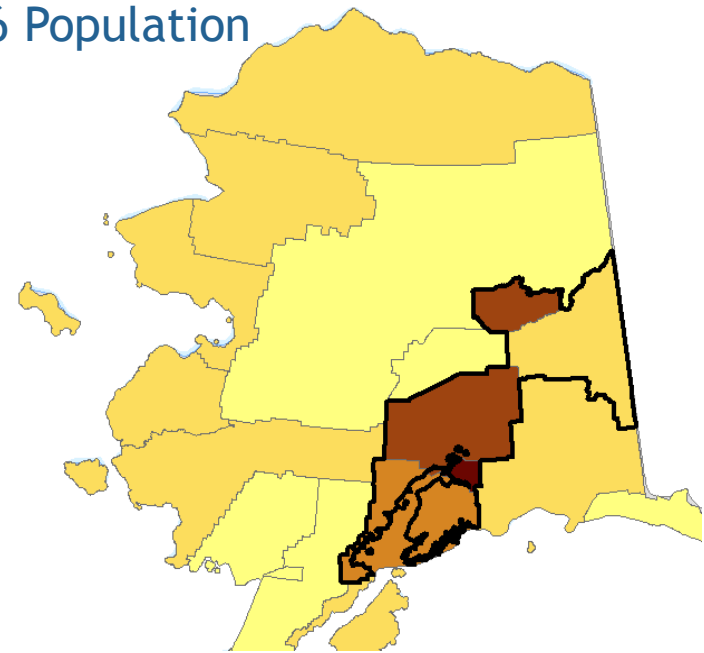
Hexagonal tiles represent radon data



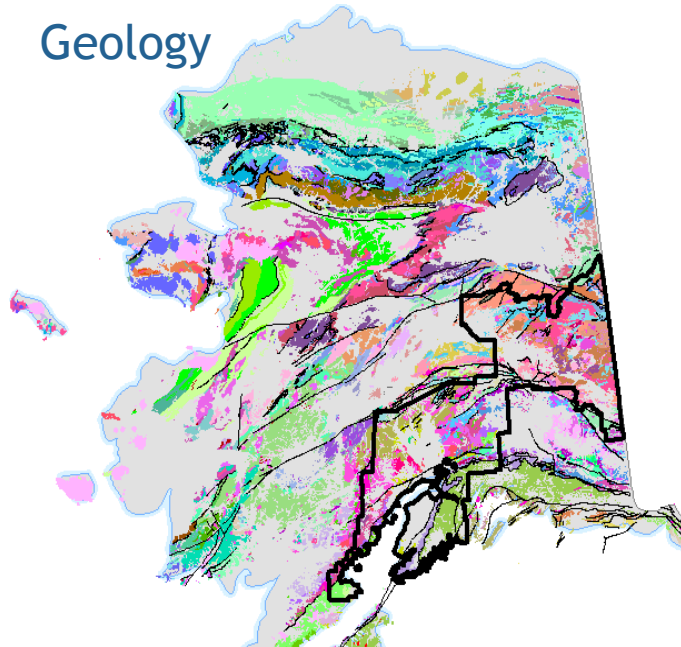
EPA Radon Zones



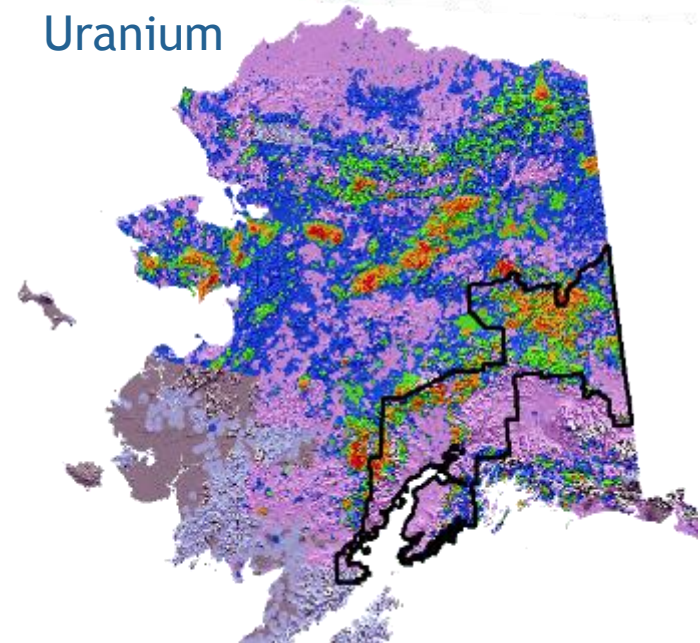
2016 Population



Geology



Uranium



Important to periodically test because of ground changes:

- Earthquakes,
- Flooded water levels,
- Seasons
- Possibly melting permafrost

(...also home changes such as skirting around pad/post,
cracks in cement floors/walls, or new fan system)

Work in process and future efforts

Problem- These maps do NOT tell where the highest levels of radon are in Alaska, as it can only be tested in existing buildings...for now.

Contact the Alaska Radon Hotline:

1 (800) 478-8324

dLeif Albertson, Bethel Extension office
School of Natural Resources and Extension
lalbertson@alaska.edu 907.543.4553

Art Nash, UAF Statewide office
School of Natural Resources and Extension
alnashjr@alaska.edu 907.474.6366