#### **Case Studies**

Two and Three Story Multifamily Mitigation

Merritt Gantt: True Air Technologies Radon Measurement and Mitigation Specialists

## **Buildings SUCK**



The goal of (Active Soil Depressurizaiton )mitigation is to create suction on the foundation that is slightly greater than that of the building.

## Mitigation is more than just Poking and Hoping







#### The Process:

- Gather Building Information
  Diagnostics/Pilot Study
  The Design
  The Installation
  The Results
- 6. Post Mitigation Documentation (OM and M)



## Gather Building Information:

- During this phase of the project, we are seeking to gather as much information about the building(s) as possible.
- Some of the information includes:
  - Radon Test Reports
  - Foundation Type or Types
  - Building Plans (specifically foundation view)
  - Any other relevant information about the building(s)
- All of the information collected during this phase will help in the system design.

# Diagnostics/Pilot Study:

- Diagnostics/Pilot Study is a physical investigation of the building(s) of concern.
- During this process we are seeking to assess and confirm radon system design strategies.
- It may involve some or all of the following: creating a floor plan, measuring radon concentration, measuring pressure field extension (PFE), assessing the footings or other structural characteristics of the building, assessing the concrete with GPR, etc.

# The Design:

- After building information has been gathered and a diagnostics/pilot study has been conducted, you are ready to design.
- The design illustrates to the customer/lender/inspector the scope of the work and how it will impact the building being mitigated.
- Include as much detail as possible.



• Execute the plan/design that you have created.



#### The Results:

• Re-test and verify low radon levels.



## Post Mitigation Documentation:

- The Operations Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OM and M) is a formal document that documents all of the processes and results throughout the mitigation process.
- It includes any test results, building information, permits, notices, design drawings, etc. (It is the culmination of your work)
- It can be as simple as a few pages or very complex.



# 1. Gather Building Information

- Seventy Seven Units to Be Mitigated
- Five Different Floor Plans
- Two Stories
- Slab on Grade???
- HVAC Controlled By Each Individual Unit
- No Building Plans
- Large Maintenance Team, No Knowledge of the Buildings



## 2. Diagnostics/Pilot Study

- We requested to perform diagnostics/pilot study in at least one ground floor unit.
- Unit 200 was the only accessible ground floor unit.
- We started by drawing a floor plan of the Unit 200.
- Unit 200 floor plan only represented 3 of 74 units.



## 2. Diagnostics/Pilot Study

- Prior to conducting PFE a floor scanner was used to identify any items in or below the slab that could be damaged during drilling through the slab.
- This building was not constructed with post tension slab.



## 2. Diagnostics/Pilot Study

- A rotary hammer was used to drill 1/4" PFE test points through the slab at various points in one unit.
- A shop vacuum was used to create suction on one test point while measuring PFE at another.
- A micromanometer was used to measure the pressure differential (suction) in Pa.



## 2. Diagnostics/Pilot Study Findings

- There was adequate PFE.
- The suction point could be located anywhere.
- Routing pipe could be difficult due to the complex layouts of the buildings/units.



## 2. Diagnostics/Pilot Study Findings

- Where do you route pipe?
- Should the system go on the inside of the unit or should they be installed on the outside?
  - How do you know?





## 2. Diagnostics/Pilot Study Round 2

- We requested to perform a site analysis and foundation excavation.
- We had the property located (811 dig) and explored different pipe routing options.





## 2. Diagnostics/Pilot Study Round 2

#### We Found:

- The building(s) had large footings around the perimeter of the building(s).
- Coring from the exterior of the building was not an option.



- There were five different floor plans.
- Each floorplan had to illustrate the approximate location of the radon mitigation system.











Interior portions of vent pipe should be cased out with drywall to hide the pipe and preserve the aesthetics of the unit. True Air Technologies not responsible for casing out the drywall.



- The county would not approve the permit unless an engineer stamped the drawings for approval.
- Had to meet with the county officials and use the standard to explain what we were doing.
- Drawings, illustrations, and diagnostics data was crucial in getting the permits approved.

 Prior to coring suction ground penetrating radar (GPR) was used to identify any items in or below the slab that could be damaged during drilling through the slab.



- Let the problems begin!
- The first suction pit cored, we hit a water line that was missed during GPR.
- The building(s) were wood framed structures with 1-2" of concrete parged over top the second floor sub-floor.





- We cored the first suction pit and found 1-2" of sand under the slab.
- We removed approximately 20-25 gallons of sand from the suction pit.
- We used a Fantech PFEDK fan kit to measure PFE.
- The fan indicated low pit pressure (lots of cfm of air) and little to no suction at our test point.
- Why couldn't we achieve PFE??
- Should we just get a bigger fan (maybe a commercial grade fan)???

- There was a bathroom adjacent the closet where the suction pit was located.
- We cut the drywall open exposing the underside of the tub.
- The concrete was cut out underneath the tub and a large exposed earthen void existed.
- We cut and sealed under every tub in every single unit.





- The vent piping had to be routed through and around many obstacles.
- Some of the upper floors did not align with the lower floors and adjustments had to be made throughout the entire installation.









- The sub-slab media was different in every single unit.
- Some units had 2" of sand while other units had 18" of sand.
- Some units had no sand at all and were built upon compact clay soil.
- How could we know if these systems were going to work or not since nothing was similar?

- During the installation of the suction pits, air flow was measured with a Fantech PFEDK test fan.
- Per unit, A test point was drilled through the floor at a remote location.
- A micromanometer was used to measure PFE (the amount of suction) at the test point.
- The type and size of the fan was determined based upon PFE.



- Knowing PFE helped ensure that our systems were going to work.
- All of the pre-mitigation PFE data was recorded and used in the final OM and M.

|      |               |            |       | Point    |          | Point              |                 |
|------|---------------|------------|-------|----------|----------|--------------------|-----------------|
|      |               |            |       | Pressure | 004      | Pressure           |                 |
|      |               |            | Pit   | 02 9.8   | RPM      | (@ RPM<br>Adjusted | Tort Point      |
| Unit | Suggester     | l Fan Tyne | ("WC) | Ratio    | Adjusted | Ratio              | Location        |
| 182  | Juggester     |            | (110) | -10.85   |          | -10.85             | Kitchen Counter |
| 102  |               |            | 4.55  | -10.00   | 0.0      | 10.85              | Far Bight Come  |
| 306  |               | #          | 43    | -18 Pa   | 9.8      | -18Pa              | Far Right Come  |
| 333  | 4 cm/ 3.80°   |            | 4.6   | -16 Pa   | 9.8      | -16 Pa             | up              |
| 337  | 44 cfm/ 1.0*  | RP145      | 3.9"  | -51.3 Pa | 5        | -16.0 Pa           | LRC             |
| 343  | 85 cfm/ 3.8"  | RP145      | 3.9"  | -7.5 Pa  | 9.8      | -7.5 Pa            | UD              |
| 345  | 4 cfm/ 3.89*  | EE         | 4.6"  | -12.1 Pa | 9.8      | -12.1 Pa           | Bedroom Come    |
| 351  | 148 cfm/ 3.33 | RP145      | 3.3"  | -4.5 Pa  | 9.8      | -4.5 Pa            | LRC             |
| 353  | 4 cfm/ 3.89"  | E          | 4.6"  | -2.1 Pa  | 9.8      | -2.1 Pa            | UD              |
| 357  | 168 cfm/ 3.18 | RP145      | 3.1*  | -6.0 Pa  | 9.8      | -6.0 Pa            | LRC             |
| 359  | 132 dm/ 1.72  | EE         | 3.0"  | -15.8 Pa | 7        | -10.8 Pa           | LRC             |
| 361  | 316 cfm/ 2.44 | RP145      | 1.8"  | -4.0 Pa  | 9.8      | -4.0 Pa            | LRC             |
| 367  | 75 cfm/ 2.19* | RP145      | 3.8"  | -11.9 Pa | 7        | -7.5 Pa            | UD              |
| 369  | 4 cfm/ 3.89*  | EE         | 4.4"  | -5.2 Pa  | 9.8      | -5.2 Pa            | UD              |
| 373  | 161 cfm/ 0.77 | RP145      | 2.0"  | -16.0 Pa | 5        | -6.2 Pa            | up              |
| 381  | 4 cfm/ 3.89*  | EE         | 4.7   | -4.0 Pa  | 9.8      | -4.0 Pa            | LRC             |
| 383  | 42 cfm/ 2.04" | RP145      | 4.1*  | -8.0 Pa  | 7        | -4.3 Pa            | LRC             |
| 385  | 120 cfm/ 0.51 | RP145      | 2.2"  | -37.9 Pa | 4        | -9.2 Pa            | LRC             |
| 389  | 2 cfm/ 1.08"  | RP145      | 4.4*  | -40.6 Pa | 5        | -11.1 Pa           | UD              |
| 391  | 2 cm/ 1.08*   | RP145      | 4.4*  | -20.1 Pa | 5        | -5.8 Pa            | LRC             |
| 393  | 187 cfm/ 1.58 | RP145      | 2.4"  | -10.3 Pa | 7        | -4.5 Pa            | LRC             |
| 399  | 3 cfm/ 2.11*  | RP145      | 4.6"  | -10.6 Pa | 7        | -4.0 Pa            | UD              |
| 401  | 2 cfm/ 1.08*  | RP145      | 4.4"  | -17.3 Pa | 5        | -4.7 Pa            | UD              |

- After the fans were determined and ordered, a local electrician installed the electrical receptacles for each fan.
- There were no house panels.
- Electricity had to be pulled from the individual units.
- The electrical costs were calculated using the fans wattage and each tenant was prorated for the additional electricity.
- This was documented in the OM and M.

| Electrical Costs |                          |              |    |        |    |                |          |    |                    |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|----|--------|----|----------------|----------|----|--------------------|
| Unit             | Fan Used                 | Watts        | м  | onthly | ۱  | rearly<br>Cost | Breaker  | P  | rorate Pe<br>Month |
| 469              | 12 cfm/ 1.10" RP145      | 39           | 5  | 3.70   | 5  | 44.41          | Unit 470 |    | Unit 474           |
| 473              | 40 cfm/ 0.6% BP145       | 43           | 5  | 4.08   | 5  | 48.97          | Unit 474 | •  | 81                 |
| 479              | 40 cfm/ 0.63" RP145      | 49           | s  | 4.65   | 5  | 55.80          | Unit 480 | Ť  | Unit 480           |
| 481              | 133 dbs/0.81' RP145      | 42           | 5  | 3.99   | 5  | 47.83          | Unit 482 | •  | 8.6                |
| 483              | 169 cfm/ 0.77 RP145      | 65           | 5  | 6.17   | 5  | 74.02          | Unit 484 | Ť  | Unit 482           |
| 487              | 23 cfm/ 1.54" RP145      | 42           | 5  | 3.99   | 5  | 47.83          | Unit 480 | •  | 7.9                |
| 489              | 160 cfm/ 1.65' RP145     | 42           | 5  | 3.99   | 5  | 47.83          | Unit 482 | Ť  | Unit 484           |
| 497              | 97 cfm/ 0.88" RP145      | 42           | \$ | 3.99   | \$ | 47.83          | Unit 506 | \$ | 6.1                |
| 501              | 2 cfm/ 0.69" RP145       | 39           | 5  | 3.70   | \$ | 44.41          | Unit 502 |    | Unit 502           |
| 505              | 22 cfm/ 1.06" RP145      | 42           | \$ | 3.99   | \$ | 47.83          | Unit 506 | \$ | 3.7                |
| 507              | 176 cm/ 1.61' RP145      | 59           | \$ | 5.60   | ş  | 67.19          | Unit 508 |    | Unit 506           |
| 513              | 4 cfm/ 3.89" EE          | 104          | \$ | 9.87   | ş  | 118.44         | Unit 514 | \$ | 7.9                |
| 523              | 148 cfm/ 0.797 RP145     | 63           | \$ | 5.98   | \$ | 71.74          | Unit 524 |    | Unit 514           |
| 527              | 45 cfm/ 1.47" RP145      | 47           | \$ | 4.46   | ş  | 53.52          | Unit 526 | \$ | 9.8                |
| 529              | 103 cfm/ 0.88' RP145     | 39           | \$ | 3.70   | ş  | 44.41          | Unit 530 |    | Unit 508           |
| 533              | 11 cm/ 0.69" RP145       | 40           | \$ | 3.80   | \$ | 45.55          | Unit 526 | \$ | 5.6                |
| 535              | 7 cfm/ 0.7* RP145        | 42           | \$ | 3.99   | ş  | 47.83          | Unit 526 |    | Unit 554           |
| 537              | 177 dm/ 1.38' RP145      | 39           | \$ | 3.70   | ş  | 44.41          | Unit 530 | \$ | 5.8                |
| 541              | 2 cfm/ 1.55" RP145       | 38           | \$ | 3.61   | \$ | 43.27          | Unit 552 |    | Unit 552           |
| 545              | 53 cfm/ 0.61" RP145      | 62           | \$ | 5.88   | ş  | 70.61          | Unit 554 | \$ | 13.6               |
| 547              | 54 cfm/ 0.81" RP145      | 44           | ş  | 4.18   | ş  | 50.11          | Unit 548 |    | Unit 548           |
| 551              | 4 cfm/ 3.89" EE          | 106          | \$ | 10.06  | ş  | 120.71         | Unit 552 | \$ | 41                 |
| 555              | 45 cfm/ 0.82" RP145      | 45           | \$ | 4.27   | ş  | 51.25          | Unit 564 |    | Unit 530           |
| Annual           | Cost = Watts/1000*8760hr | s*0.13\$/kWh |    | 444.99 |    | 1 995 94       |          |    |                    |

- Once the electrical work was completed, the fans were installed in the attic spaces.
- The u-tube manometers were set in the attic space near the fan and the system label.



- The system alarm (RadonAway RSA1) was set on the vent pipe, in the ground floor unit, toward the ceiling.
- The attics were extremely difficult to access.



- During the fan installations, I tripped and went through the ceiling.
- Cost time and money to fix.







- Three of the units had very unique layouts and had to be installed from the exterior.
- Where do you route the pipe to ensure it is compliant?











#### 5. The Results

Success! All Units Were Lowered below 2.0 pCi/L

|                                     | greenville 9 R | ALIAN specialist   |                    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                     |                |                    | Radon Testing Repo |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 10, Unit 357                   | 779967         | 1.3 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 10, Unit 359                   | 779947         | 0.6 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 10, Unit 361<br>Oct 25-27,2022 | 779965         | 0.4 pCi/L          |                    |
| Bidg 11, Unit 367                   | 779968         | 0.6 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 11, Unit 369                   | 779975         | 0.5 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 11, Unit 373                   | 779972         | 0.5 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 11, Unit 381                   | 779976         | 0.8 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 11, Unit 383                   | 779966         | 0.7 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Building 11, Unit 385               | 779945         | INVALID            | Door open          |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    | · · ·              |
| Bidg 11,Unit 385                    | 779990         | 0.4 pCi/L          |                    |
| Nov 21-23,2022 Retest               |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 12, Unit 391                   | 780003         | 0.6 pCi/L          | 0.6 pCi/L          |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      | 780004         | 0.5 pCi/L          |                    |
| Bidg 12, Unit 393                   | 780001         | 0.7 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 12, Unit 399                   | 779974         | 0.5 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 12, Unit 401                   | 779949         | 0.7 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 13, Unit 403                   | 779950         | INVALID            | Hole in ceiling    |
| Oct 25-27,2022                      |                |                    | -                  |
| Bidg 13, Unit 403                   | 779992         | 0.9 pCi/L          |                    |
| Nov 21-23.2022 Retest               |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 13, Unit 405                   | 779997         | 1.0 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-28,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 13, Unit 409                   | 772001         | 0.9 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-28,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 13, Unit 415                   | 779973         | 0.6 pCi/L          |                    |
| Oct 25-28,2022                      |                |                    |                    |
| Bidg 14, Unit 419                   | 779954         | 1.0 pCi/L          | 1.1 pCi/L          |
|                                     | Greenville R   | adon Specialist    |                    |
|                                     | 504 D Boyd Ave | . Simpsonville, SC |                    |

| Greenville Radon Specialist    |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 4 D Boyd Ave. Simpsonville, SC |  |
| 864-416-1721                   |  |
| Confidential Information       |  |
|                                |  |



|                       |            |   | Radon Testing Report |
|-----------------------|------------|---|----------------------|
| Oct 25-28,2022        | 779955     | 1.1 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Bidg 14, Unit 421     | 779948     | 0.8 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-28,2022        |            |   |                      |
| Bidg 14, Unit 425     | 779952     | 0.9 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-28,2022        |            |   |                      |
| Bidg 14, Unit 427     | Not Tested | COVID                                   |                      |
| Oct 25-27,2022        |            |   |                      |
| Bidg 14, Unit 427     | 780026     | 0.7pCi/L                                |                      |
| Nov 21-23,2022 Retest |            | 1 C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C |                      |
| Bidg 14, Unit 429     | 772005     | 0.7 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-28,2022        |            | 1.1.1                                   |                      |
| Bidg 14, Unit 431     | 779953     | INVALID                                 | Canister was moved   |
| Oct 25-28,2022        |            |   |                      |
| Bidg 14, Unit 431     | 779987     | 1.1 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Nov 21-23,2022 Retest |            | 1.1                                     |                      |
| Bidg 14, Unit 433     | 771967     | 0.4 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-28,2022        |            | 1.1                                     |                      |
| Bidg 15, Unit 435     | 771998     | 0.4 pCi/L                               | 0.4 pCi/L            |
| Oct 25-27,2022        | 771997     | 0.4 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Bidg 15, Unit 437     | 772000     | INVALID                                 | Fan on, no a/c       |
| Oct 25-27,2022        |            |   |                      |
| Bidg 15, Unit 437     | 779989     | 0.5 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Nov 21-23,2022 Retest |            |   |                      |
| Bidg 15, Unit 439     | 771945     | INVALID                                 | Fan on               |
| Oct 25-27,2022        |            |   |                      |
| Bidg 15, Unit 439     | 779991     | 0.9 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Nov 21-23,2022        |            |   |                      |
| Bidg 15, Unit 441     | 768497     | 0.4 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-27,2022        |            | 1.1.1                                   |                      |
| Bidg 15, Unit 443     | 771944     | 0.5 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-27,2022        |            |   |                      |
| Bidg 15, Unit 445     | 771926     | 0.8 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-27,2022        |            | 1.1                                     |                      |
| Bidg 15, Unit 447     | 771999     | 0.6 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-27,2022        |            | 1.1                                     |                      |
| Bidg 15, Unit 449     | 768524     | 0.7 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-27,2022        |            | 1.1                                     |                      |
| Bidg 16, Unit 451     | 769910     | 0.8 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-27,2022        |            |   |                      |
| Bidg 16, Unit 457     | 771946     | 1.0 pCi/L                               |                      |
| Oct 25-27,2022        |            |   |                      |
|                       |            |   |                      |

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## 6. Post Mitigation Documentation A.K.A OM and M

- All of the documents and data collected throughout the installation process were used in formulating the final OM&M packet.
- The OM&M was very large because the project was very large.



#### 7. The Results Continued

- What about these units?
- A month after we completed the project, the lender requested that the following units be tested as well.

| Building | Unit |  |  |
|----------|------|--|--|
| 3        | 194  |  |  |
| 13       | 417  |  |  |
| 21       | 553  |  |  |

- They were originally tested.
- All parties involved had missed these units in the original proposal/bid.

#### 7. The Results Continued

 Thankfully, some inadvertant collateral mitigation existed and the radon was lowered in these units as well.

| Building | Unit |  |  |
|----------|------|--|--|
| 3        | 194  |  |  |
| 13       | 417  |  |  |
| 21       | 553  |  |  |

#### 7. What We Learned

- It pays to double check. Double check EVERYTHING...the units to be mitigated, your processes, etc.
- If your not getting PFE, you are possibly leaking air somewhere.
  Find the leak(s) and seal it (Under the tub showers)
- Nothing was built similarly in these apartments. We had to get creative and find solutions to work around the obstacles presented. (We also got good at repairing drywall)
- Slow down and take your time so that you do not make costly mistakes (like falling through a ceiling)



#### **Contact Information:**



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