

## Home buyer's project #3—Radon

### Purpose

This project will acquaint you with the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

### Assignment

Like all of the home buyer's projects, this one should be completed in two steps. First, you need to answer the following questions so that you can assess the potential hazard.

- What is radon gas, how does it form, and how does it enter a dwelling?
- What geologic factors increase the risk of radon gas being present?
- How can you determine if radon gas is present if you believe there is a risk?
- What can you do to limit the buildup of radon gas in your home?

Second, you need to determine if homes at the four addresses listed below are potentially at risk from radon gas incursion using bedrock geologic maps and what you have learned about radon gas. Bedrock geologic maps show what kind of rocks are present beneath the Earth's surface in the map area. For this project we will use maps available online through the Maine Geological Survey. You can search Maine Geological Survey publications available online at: <http://mapserver.maine.gov/conservation/mgs/mgsmaster.php>, and you can download bedrock geologic maps that cover each of these areas at:

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/pubs/online/bedrock.htm> For our purposes you need to use map scales of 1:100,000 or larger. You will have to do a bit of detective work to determine which map(s) cover each of the homes. Let me know if you need help finding and interpreting these maps.

- A. 110 Munnick Point Road, Lyman, ME
- B. 40 Hancock Street, Bar Harbor, ME
- C. 3000 McFarland Shore Road, Bristol, ME
- D. 24 Rockpoint, Mount Desert, ME

### What to turn in

750–800-word paper that integrates your results. See "Notes on what I expect for the home buyer's projects" for detailed instructions.