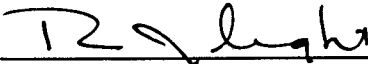
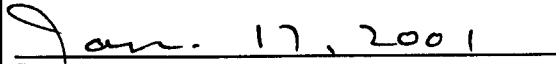


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE  
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

<b>INTERPRETATION</b>		
Interpretation Date:	January 17, 2001	File No.:
Building Code Edition:	B.C. Building Code 1998	<b>98 - 0013</b>
Subject:	Soil gas control system	
Keywords:	Sub-floor depressurization; soil gas barrier; soil gas mitigation system	
Building Code Reference(s):	9.13.8.; A-9.13.8.; 9.32.4.	Page 1 of 1
<p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>(1) Can soil gas control be met with compliance to either one of Article 9.13.8.1. "Soil Gas Barriers" <u>or</u> Article 9.13.8.2. "Providing for Sub-Floor Depressurization"?</p> <p>(2) Do passive vents installed from the granular fill below a slab (i.e., through the polyethylene soil gas barrier) and vented through the roof comply with Subsection 9.13.8. "Soil Gas Control in Floors"?</p>		
<p><b>Interpretation:</b></p> <p>(1) Yes, for a single <i>dwelling unit</i>.</p> <p>Sentence 9.13.8.2.(1) and Appendix A-9.13.8.2. clearly indicates that Article 9.13.8.2. providing for a sub-floor depressurization system is an alternative to the installation of a soil gas barrier for a <i>building</i> containing <u>only</u> a single <i>dwelling unit</i>. The objective is to provide a positive pressure difference across the soil/space interface (i.e., such that the pressure in the house is higher than in the sub-slab soil gas, so that soil gas will not leak into the house). This can be achieved with a sub-slab depressurization system. Sub-floor depressurization systems are not an option for buildings containing more than a single <i>dwelling unit</i>.</p> <p>Note that where a soil gas barrier to achieve <i>soil</i> gas control (for example, buildings containing multiple <i>dwelling units</i>) per Article 9.13.8.1., the soil gas barrier is considered to be a soil gas mitigation system as referred to in 9.32.4.1.</p> <p>(2) No.</p> <p>Referring to Sentence 9.13.8.2.(10) and Appendix A-9.13.8.2. where required (i.e., based on excessive Radon gas concentration levels, exceeding 800Bq/m<sup>3</sup>) the sub-slab depressurization system is required to be vented by an exhaust fan and the vent pipe is required to be insulated through unheated spaces. Passive venting is not an option.</p>		
 R.J. Light, Committee Chair		 Date