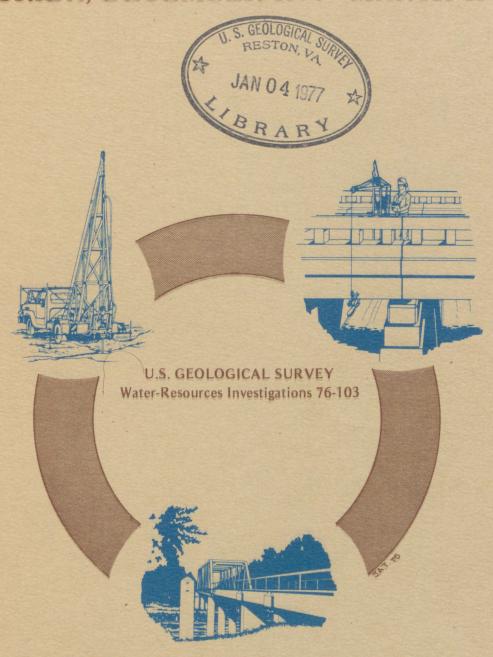
RECONNAISSANCE WATER SAMPLING FOR

RADIUM - 226 IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN (200) FLORIDA, DECEMBER 1974 - MARCH 1976

WRi No.76-103



Prepared in cooperation with SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT and

FLORIDA STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

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RADIUM-226 IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN

FLORIDA, DECEMBER 1974-MARCH 1976

by

G. A. Irwin and C. B. Hutchinson

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Water-Resources Investigations 76-103

Prepared in cooperation with

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

and

FLORIDA STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

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# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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# RECONNAISSANCE WATER SAMPLING FOR RADIUM-226 IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN FLORIDA, DECEMBER 1974-MARCH 1976

By G. A. Irwin and C. B. Hutchinson

#### ABSTRACT

Analyses of 115 water samples collected from December 1974 through March 1976 in eight Florida Counties indicated that 22 samples (19 percent) had radium-226 activities equal to or in excess of 3 picocuries per liter, the concentration limit recommended for drinking water by the U.S. Public Health Service. The maximum radium-226 activity was 90 picocuries per liter in water from a shallow well in Polk County.

The sampling reconnaissance was generally limited to areas of active phosphate mining and areas of undisturbed phosphate deposits. Because of this it is not known if high radium-226 activities are also present elsewhere in the State where there are no phosphate deposits.

### INTRODUCTION

According to EPA (Environmental Protection Agency, 1974), radium-226 activities of some waters in Polk County exceed the drinking water limit of 3 piC/1 (picocuries per liter) recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service (U.S. Public Health Service, 1962). The report concluded that the high activities of radium-226 might be the result of phosphate mining operations and suggested that additional studies be made.

As a result of the EPA report (1974), Governor Reuben O'D. Askew requested that a Task Force of Federal, State, and local agencies be formed to conduct a second reconnaissance study. The Task Force was composed mainly of representatives from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Suwannee River Water Management District, the Florida State Department of Environmental Regulation and the U.S. Geological Survey. This cooperative reconnaissance water sampling was conducted by these agencies from December 1974 through March 1976.

Water samples were collected for radium-226 analysis at selected sites in Hamilton, Suwannee, Columbia, Hillsborough, Polk, Hardee, Manatee, and DeSoto Counties (fig. 1). Samples were collected mainly in areas of active and potential phosphate mining. The primary emphasis of the reconnaissance was to sample ground water from the shallow sand



FIGURE 1.--Areas selected for analysis of radium-226 in water.

aquifer and from both the upper and lower parts of the artesian Floridan aquifer. Some surface-water samples were collected, mainly in the Peace River drainage basin in southwest Florida. In all, 115 water samples were analyzed for radium-226.

#### **METHODS**

Water samples collected during this reconnaissance were analyzed by the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver, Colorado, using the Radon emanation analytical method (Thatcher and others, written commun., 1976). Although the same analytical method was used to analyze for the radium-226 in all samples, two different preanalysis sample treatments were used. Seventy-nine of the samples were filtered through a 0.45 micrometer membrane in the laboratory and analyzed with no additional treatment. Thirty-six of the samples were acidified prior to analysis with 10 milliliters of 6-normal nitric acid per gallon of sample. After acidification the samples were mixed, digested at room temperature for 24 hours, then filtered through a 0.45 micrometer membrane, for subsequent analysis. This preanalysis treatment (acidification and filtration), requested by the Department of Environmental Regulation, is not a technique endorsed by the U.S. Geological Survey.

## RESULTS

Radium-226 analyses of 79 untreated, filtered, unacidified ground-and surface-water samples collected in Polk, Hillsborough, DeSoto, Manatee, and Hardee Counties are listed in table 1. The minimum activity detected was 0.05 piC/1 in a U.S. Geological Survey monitor well in the shallow-sand aquifer in northern Hardee County. The maximum activity was 90 piC/1, occurring in a water sample collected in March 1976 from a shallow well in Polk County. A sample collected in February 1976 from this same well had a radium-226 activity of 22 piC/1.

Radium-226 activity exceeding 3 piC/1 was detected in water from all aquifers from wells ranging in depth from 17 to 2,788 ft (7 to 850 m). Radium-226 activity was less than 3 piC/1 in all surface-water samples, except a sample from a slime pit.

Of the 77 sites sampled for radium-226 in central Florida, water from 16 sites (21 percent) did not meet the drinking water standards of the U.S. Public Health Service. Water from the shallow-sand aquifer had both the highest and lowest radium-226 activities, and water from 6 of 44 sites (14 percent) exceeded 3 piC/1. Water from 5 of the 18 wells (28 percent) tapping the upper part of the Floridan aquifer, and from 1 of 11 wells (9 percent) tapping the lower part of the Floridan aquifer

Table 1.--Summary of radium-226 data from selected sites in Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee, and Hillsborough

Counties, December 1974-March 1976. (Filtered, unacidified water samples.)

Symbols have been omitted from the latitude and longitude coordinates. Latitude 274504 should read 27°45'04" and longitude 814656 should read 81°46'56".

Latitude	Longitude		Well Total (feet)	Depth Casing (feet)	Date of Collection	Radium 226 (PiC/1)	Aquifer2/	Remarks
274504	81'4656	Polk		e River 1/ Meade	12/06/74	0.12		
275219	821241	Hillsboroug		ia River <u>l</u> / Lithia	do.	.06		
275158	821357	do.		a Springs <u>l</u> / Lithia	do.	.68		
271303	815037	DeSoto	320	141	12/20/74	7.9	UF	Municipal supply for the city of Arcadia.
272954	814930	Hardee	220	84	12/03/74	1.5	UF	Near future phosphate mining area.
272954	814930	do.	35	21	do.	. 20	SA	Do.
273001	820816	Manatee	1225	750	01/29/75	4.7	LF	Do.
273002	820817	do,	195	130	do.	.54	LF	Do.
273008	820816	do.	30	20	do.	.20	SA	Do.
273008	820817	do.	650	500	do.	1.4	LF	Do.
273516	814628	Hardee	17	12	03/12/75	.24	SA	USGS monitor well

<sup>1/</sup> Duplicate Samples (See Table 3).

<sup>2/</sup> See page 10 for explanation

Table 1.--Summary of radium-226 data from selected sites in Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee, and
Hillsborough Counties, December 1974-March 1976. (Filtered, unacidified water samples.)--Continued

Latitude	Longitude	Tot County (fe		Depth Casing (feet)	Date of Collection	Radium 226 (PiC/1)	Aquifer 2	/ Remarks
273528	813448	Hardee	17	12	03/12/75	0.20	SA	USGS monitor well
273532	814024	do.	26	21	02/27/75	.05	SA	Do. Domestic well
273540	815216	do.	17	12	02/25/75	.20	SA	Near silve pic (S-1)
273541	820203	do.	18	13)	02/25/75	1.9	SA	Water Do. in Bartow area
273659	815639	do.	23	18	02/26/75	20	SA	Near a Do. Pic (S-1)
273846	820320	Manatee	18	8	02/25/75	.20	SA	bic (2 Do.
273847	813946	Po1k	51	46	03/12/75	.20	UF	Agricu po. el - citrus processiug near silme
274925	815913	do.	24	21)	12/04/74	.26	SA	Sand mine tailings
274942	815315	do.	22	17	02/26/75	.64	SA	USGS monitor well
275006	821442	Hillsborough	31	26	03/17/75	.20	SA	Do.
275020	813830	Po1k	21	16	03/19/75	.20	SA	CTON McDo.
275110	820255	Hillsborough	17	12	03/11/75	4.5	SA	Do. Water level observa-
275121	815034	Polk		me Pit (S-1)	01/08/75	Radium 52 226 (FiG/1)	Aquafer	Pit filled with water and clay by-products
275129	820104	do.	80	eo eo	12/10/74	1.5	UF	Domestic well

<sup>2/</sup> See page 10 for explanation

5

Table 1.-Summary of radium-226 data from selected sites in Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee, and Hillsborough Counties, December 1974-March 1976. (Filtered, unacidified water samples.)--Continued

S12ISI Latitude	87203v Longitude	County	Well Total (feet)	Depth Casing (feet)	Date Of Of Collection	Radium 226 (PiC/1)	Aquifer 2	Pit filled with wate was broducts
273710	- 820255	Hillsborous		(1992)	CO3/43475	(140,5,1)		
275143	815044	Polk	700	272	12/04/74	1.6	LF	Water level observa- tion well
								cion weil
275145	815044	do sporons	145	63	12/12/74	.37	UF	Do
275211	815101	do.	(a)	(a)	12/13/74	.58	UF	Near slime pit (S-1)
275216	815101	do.	(a)	(a)	12/ qo 74	1.5	UF	Sand mi Do tailings
275220	814830	do.	772	196	12/05/74	.79	LF	Agricultural - citru
								processing near slim
								pit (S-1)
275221	814946	do.	(a)	(a)	01/08/75	14 50	UF	Near slime pit (S-1)
275308	815007	do.	(a)	(a)	12/12/74	.96	UF	Water well in Bartow
								area
275337	815233	do.	(a)	(a)	01/08/75	6.0	UF	Near slime pit (S-1)
275406	813745	do.	200	99	02/13/76	7.3	UF	Domestic well
275400	013/43	Hardee	200	TS	02/15/70		277	
275408	815957	do.	2,788	2,775	12/04/74	19	(a)	Monitor well at a
								chemical waste
273008								injection site

<sup>2/ (</sup>a) See page 10 for explanation. Mell Debut

Table 1.--Summary of radium-226 data from selected sites in Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee, and
Hillsborough Counties, December 1974-March 1976. (Filtered, unacidified water samples.)--Continued

				11 Depth	Date	Radium		
Latitude	Longitude	County	Total (feet		of Collection	226 (PiC/1)	Aquif	er 2/ Remarks
273937	815159	Polk	23	20	12/03/74	4.4	SA	Completed in phosphate
273937	815159	do.	do do	. do.	03/03/76	5.7	SA	
273950	814922	do •	22	17	02/26/75	.20	SA	USGS monitor well
274004	815330	bolldo.	(8) 23	(8) 18	12/05/Jqo	.54	SA	Domestic wel Dordicating
274033	820536	Hillsbor	ough 11	TA 11	12/10/74	1.5	SA	Domestic well
274043	813733	Polk	32	27	03/12/75	581.4	SA SA	USGS monitor well
274132 274132	814143 814143	do.	27 do	do. 22	02/27/75 03/13/76	22 90	SA SA	Do. Do.
274154	815729	do.	27	22	02/25/75	.20	SA	Old draigant Do. ell
274155	815732	do.	302	280	12/13/74	.14	LF	Observation well
274159	815645	do.	1007 60	Tivi(a)	12/05/74	3.4	SA	Adjacent property mined for phosphate
274216	820847	Hillsboro	ough 22		02/26/75	.20	SA	USGS monitor well
274217	821442	do.	22	17	03/17/75	. 29	SA	
274336	820336		ofal 17		03/11/75	.20	SA	

<sup>2/ (</sup>a) See page 10 for explanation

Table 1.--Summary of radium-226 data from selected sites in Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee, and Hillsborough Counties, December 1974-March 1976. (Filtered, unacidified water samples.)--Continued

Latitude			Wel otal feet)	epth Casing (feet)	Date of Collection	Radium 226 (PiC/1)	Aquife	2/	
274400	820708	Hillsborough		246 <u>1</u> /	12/10/74	0.06	LF		Observation well in future phosphate mining area
274400	820708	do. 98	160	114 1/	do. 02/44	.24	UF		
274400	813552	Polk	20	15 \$80)	03/19/75	.20	SA		USGS monitor well
274438	814456	do.	122	84	12/10/75	.26	UF		Old irrigation well
274451	815316	do.	27	22	03/11/75	.20	SA		USGS monitor well
274505	814903	do.	23	18 55	02/25/75	.32	SA		pic Do. 1Do.
274536	815938	do.	16	11 34)	02/25/75	.28	SA		USGS Do onte or well?
274544	821442	Hillsborough	22	17 II)	02/25/75	.32	SA		Dome Dorc well Barr
274612	815035 330	Polk	(a)	(a) <sup>18</sup>	12/05/74	5.3 24	SA		Domestic well indication high Ra-226 in May 1974
274622	814141	do.	27	22	03/19/75	.20	SA		USGS monitor well
274712	815347	do.	803	284	12/02/74	1.5	LF		Industrial well
274729	814435	qo.	39	34	03/19/75	7.7	SA		USGS monitor well
274731	820323	do.	15	10		2.0 550	SA		Do . Remarks
274748	815855	do	200	87	12/12/74	4.5	UF		Observation well in future mining area

974-March 1976. (Filtered, unacidified water samples.) -- Continued

<sup>1/</sup> Duplicate sample (See Table 3)

<sup>2/ (</sup>a) See page 10 for explanation

Table 1.--Summary of radium-226 data from selected sites in Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee, and Hillsborough Counties, December 1974-March 1976. (Filtered, unacidified water samples.)--Continued

Latitude	Longitude	County	Well Total (feet)	Depth Casing (feet)	Date of Collection	Radium 226 (PiC/1)	Aquifer 2/	Remarks
274804	815857	Polk	17	22	02/25/75	0.09	SA	USGS monitor well
274902	820057	do.	289	20 to 52	12/13/74	1.2	SA/UF	Recharge - Connector well
274912	814906	do.	31	21	02/26/75	.46	SA	USGS monitor well
274914	814607	do.	31	21	02/25/75	1.8	SA	Do.
274925	814902	do.	39	37	12/04/74	.23	SA	Observation well - scree set in mine tailings
275408	815957	do.	1,348	1,270	12/04/74	1.2	LF	Monitor well at a chemical waste injection site
275514	820732	Hillsborou	gh 23	18	03/11/75	.20	SA	USGS monitor well
275542	814642	Polk	173	84	12/11/74	.72	LF	Domestic well
275644	815519	do.	37	32	02/13/76	.64	SA	USGS monitor well
275711	820329	Hillsborou	igh 60	39	03/05/76	1.6	UF	Old irrigation well
275717	815805	Polk	95	53	12/04/74	.61	SA	Domestic well
275736	814049	do.	22	17 .	03/18/75	2.2	SA	USGS monitor well
275754	815658	do.	120	77	12/04/75	.16	UF	Domestic well

<sup>2/</sup> (a) See page 10 for explanation

Table 1.--Summary of radium-226 data from selected sites in Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee, and
Hillsborough Counties, December 1974-March 1976. (Filtered, unacidified water samples.)--Continued

					130		Depth		Date	Radium			
Latitude	Lo	ngitude	cues	County		eet)	Casing (feet)	Ge <u>(5,3</u> )	of Collection	226 (PiC/1)	Ag	uife	r 2/ Remarks
275918		820719		Hillsboro	ugh	22	17		02/25/75	0.94		SA	USGS monitor well
275948	8203	815821		Polk		(a)	30 (a)		12/04/75	.13		LF	Domestic well
280334		815448		do•		58	31		03/04/76	1.2		UF	USGS monitor well

<sup>2/</sup> Aquifer: SA, Shallow-sand aquifer; UF, Upper part of the Floridan aquifer; LF Lower part of the Floridan aquifer.

<sup>(</sup>a) Unknown.

exceeded the U.S. Public Health standard. Water from a slime pit and from a monitor well 2,788 feet (850 m) deep located at a chemical waste injection site had radium-226 activities of 25 and 19 piC/1 respectively.

The high radium-226 activities which were detected during this reconnaissance were in waters from areas of phosphate mining and phosphate deposits. Because the sampling was limited to such phosphate areas, it is not known if high radium-226 activities are also present elsewhere in the State.

Additionally it should be noted, that the 3 piC/l limit is being reviewed (1976) by EPA and a radium-226 level is not given in the latest revision of the Interim Safe Drinking Water Act (EPA, 1975).

The analyses of the 36 acidified samples, 21 ground-water and 15 surface-water, are listed in table 2. The minimum activity detected was 0.09 piC/1 in a 151-ft (46 m) well in Hamilton County. The maximum activity was 20 piC/1 in water from a 160-ft (49 m) well that taps the upper part of the Floridan aquifer in Hillsborough County. In five (24 percent) ground-water samples and 1 (7 percent) surface-water sample, the radium-226 activity equaled or exceeded 3 piC/1.

The 13 surface-water samples collected in the Peace River drainage basin had a mean radium-226 activity of 0.94 piC/1, and a standard deviation of 0.91 piC/1. The minimum activity detected was 0.10 piC/1 in the Manatee River at State Road 64 and the maximum was 3.6 piC/1 in Little Charlie Creek at State Road 664A in Hardee County. Little Charlie Creek was the only stream sampled during the reconnaissance that had an activity exceeding 3 piC/1.

Five sites were sampled for duplicate analysis with one set of samples receiving no treatment and one set of samples receiving preanalysis acidification (table 3). Little difference in the radium-226 activity was observed between the unacidified and acidified samples in four of the duplicates. However, in one sample, (well in upper part Floridan aquifer Hillsborough County) the activity was much higher in the acidified sample. Particulate material in this sample is the probable source of the additional radium-226. Radium-226 would be dissolved from or desorbed from particulate material as a result of the acidification.

Table 2.--Summary of radium-226 data from selected sites in Suwannee.

Columbia, Hamilton, Polk, DeSoto, Hillsborough, Hardee, and
Manatee Counties Florida, December 1974 - March 1976.

(Filtered, acidified with 10 millilitres of 6 normal nitric acid per gallon of water sample.)

	Locatio	on	a of 2.15and	Well Total		Date of	Radium-226
T	R	S	County	(feet)	(feet)	Collection	piC/1
2S	13E		Suwannee	290	180	12/10/74	0.47
25	15E	15	do. hork	143	126	a do.	.63
35	17E	21	Columbia	110	108	12/13/74	1.0
18	17E	33		180	141	ob and send of the	1.4
25	16E	30	do.	80	74	do.	1.9
3S	16E	1	do.	120	84	are of the 3	.65
15	15E	2		in are	a of	12/16/74	2.5
18	13E	2	do.	Petrole	um Corp.	<u>l</u> / do.	5.3
18	14E	23	do.	150	103		3.0
1N	14E	8	do.	151	99	do. 0b22	.09
2N	13E	36	do.	151	128	A Judo.	1.2
2N	13E	23	do•	130	80	Creek at Strong only.ob eam	.55
1N	13E	2	do.	171	135	do.	13
2N	13E		do.	130	115	do. do.	. 21
1N	14E		do.	180	130	do. sed	0 01.1
2N	18E		Columbia	260	181	do.	1 kup . 83
27S	26E	28	Po1k			01/03/75	1.8
26S	27E	7	do•	500	land along	do.	1.0
28S	25E	11	do•	362	80	do.	1.6
27S	27E	4	do•	430	100	01/04/75	.99

<sup>1/</sup> Slime pits

Table 2.--Summary of radium-226 data from selected sites in Suwannee,

Columbia, Hamilton, Polk, Desoto, Hillsborough, Hardee, and

Manatee Counties Florida, December 1974 - March 1976.

(Filtered, acidified with 10 millimetres of 6 normal nitric acid per gallon of water sample.)--Continued

Т	Location R	S	County	Total	Depth Casing (feet)	Date of Collection	Radium-226
28S	26E	28	Polk	312	100	01/06/75	3.8
28S	26E	28	do.	Lake Wa	ter	01/06/75	1.1
37S	24E	26	DeSoto	Peace R Arcadia		12/06/74	1.5
30S	21E	17	Hillsborough		sps.2/	erreduced on	.80
30s	26E	4	Polk	nr. Lit Lake Ga nr Altu	rfield	12/11/74	.36
30S	21E	16	Hillsborough	Alafia Lithia	R. at $\frac{2}{}$	12/05/74	.53
32S	25E	2	Polk	Bowlegs SR 657	Cr at	g PPE seu relició s	1.2
32S	22E	4	Hillsborough	160	1142/	12/10/74	20
31S	25E	26	Polk	Peace F	River <u>2</u> /	12/06/74	.58
35S	21E	34	Manatee	Manatee SR-64	e R. at	-	.10
33S	24E	13	Hardee	Payne (	Cr at e Hill Rd	12/09/74	.32
32S	22E	4	Hillsborough	826	246 2	2/ 12/10/74	.14
33S	25E	24	Hardee		Charlie SR-664A	ULATEO <del>T</del>	3.6
34S	25E	22	do.	Peace l Zolpho		12/06/74	.51
298	26E	34	Polk		Cr Draina nr Alturu	ge 12/11/74 s	.34
30S	25E	2.2	do.	Six Mi	le Creek	12/10/74	1.3
2/	Duplicate	e Sam	ple (See Table	3).			

Table 3.--Results of radium-226 analyses of split samples using two different pre-analysis procedures.

Description of the sampling site	Untreated sample	Acidified sample	d 388 88
	(Concentrations	in Picocuries	per litre)
Lithia Springs nr Lithia	0.68	0.80	
Alafia River at Lithia	.06	.53	
Peace River near Fort Meade	leitraD solad	.58	
the Floridan aquifer in			
Hillsborough Co., 160 ft deep	.24	20	
Well in the lower part of the Floridan aquifer in Hillsborough Co., 826 ft			
deep AT ADDAS 1	.06	11090 .14	

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

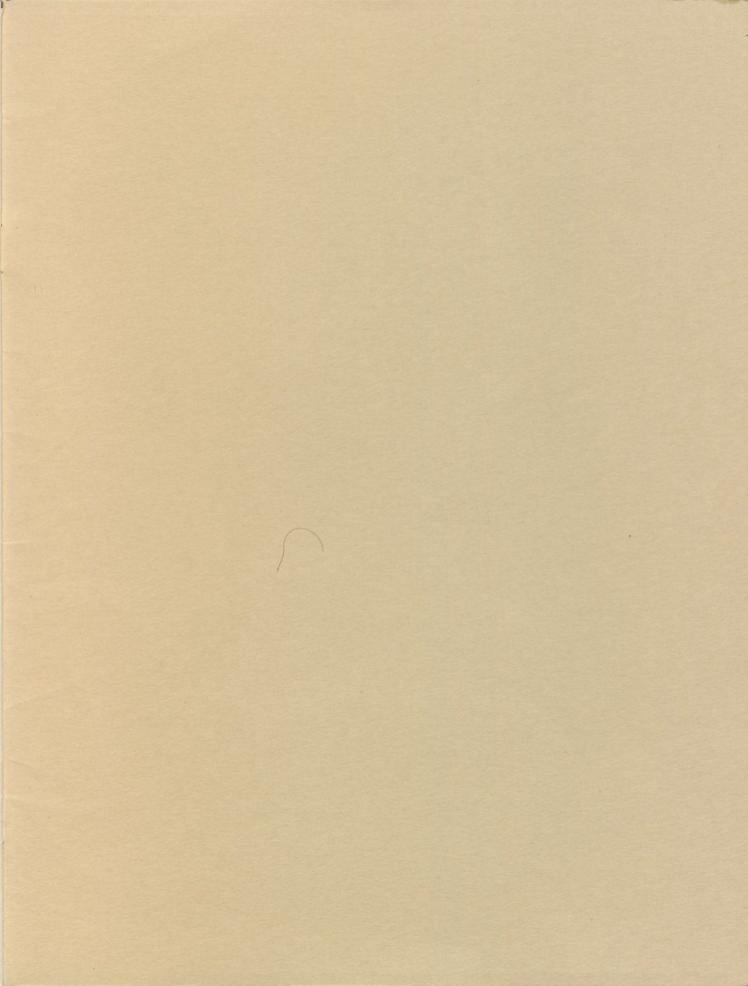
Of the 115 samples analyzed, 22 had a radium-226 activity equal to or exceeding 3 piC/1. Fourteen of the samples were from Polk County, three were from Hamilton County, two were from Hillsborough County and one each from DeSoto, Manatee, and Hardee Counties. Radium activities exceeding 3 piC/1 were detected in water wells ranging from 17 to 2,788 ft (7 to 850 m) in depth. An activity of 90 piC/1 detected in a shallow well in Polk County was the highest radium-226 level measured during the reconnaissance. The lowest radium-226 level was 0.05 piC/1 measured in a U.S. Geological Survey monitor well in the shallow-sand aquifer in northern Hardee County. Little Charlie Creek at State Road 664A had a radium-226 activity of 3.6 piC/1 and was the only surface-water site that had a radium-226 activity exceeding 3 piC/1, except for the slime pits in Polk and Hamilton Counties.

The results of this study indicate that in some waters associated with phosphate mining or phosphate ores high radium activities are present. However the sampling was limited to the phosphate area and, based on these data, it is not known if high activities are present in waters in other parts of Florida.

A statewide program for monitoring radium-226 levels in ground water should be established. A monitoring program is particularly necessary in those areas where there is a possibility of radium-226 contamination in domestic water supplies.

## REFERENCES CITED

- Environmental Protection Agency, 1974, Report on Radiological Pollution from Phosphate Rock Mining and Milling: National Field Investigations Center Denver, Denver, Colorado, 29 p.
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- U.S. Public Health Service, 1962, Drinking Water Standards, 1962: Pub. 956, 61 p.





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