
Call to Action
**Reducing Radon Risk
in America**

December 9, 2011

Reducing Radon Risk in America

- The Federal Action Plan – a basic foundation for nation-wide progress
- Adoption of radon resistant construction requirements for Zones 1 and 2
- Policies/programs for testing & mitigation of existing single & multi-family
- Financing resources for measurement & mitigation
- Radon education & primary prevention of radon exposure.
- Adequate Funding for programs, standards, policies

Radon in America: 2011

- U.S. lung cancer mortality from radon in homes = 21,000 deaths annually
 - *Radon increasingly a risk management issue*
- *World Health Organization's 2009 radon risk assessment complements earlier U.S. National Academy of Science radon risk assessment*
- U.S. Action Level = 4.0 pCi/L
 - WHO Reference Level = 2.7 pCi/L

24 Years After the IRRA Passage: Voluntary Program Successes

- Mitigated 1 million homes over 20 years
- 2 million new homes with some form of control system
 - 650 lives per year saved (2006 statistic)
- 2011 Federal Action Plan – Ambitious Goals
 - 10 Million Homes To Be Mitigated
 - 6,000 lives saved Annually

2011 - Radon Infrastructure in America

- **Technical, Regulatory, Standards and Certification Programs Exist**
 - 46 states (CRCPD), Indian Nations, territories
 - ___ States have Licensing
 - AARST Standards Consortium – ANSI & ASTM
 - Certification through NEHA – NRPP, NRSB
 - Home Inspector Associations
- **Policy & Public Education efforts:**
 - ALA, AARST, ASHI, CanSAR, CRCPD, NEHA, NCHH, and additional stakeholders

Breaking News: 2013 Budget Impacts

- EPA's State Indoor Radon Grant program may be eliminated and some regional support may be reduced
- EPA National Staffing, Public Information, Standards Development and Federal Plan Coordination are unaffected at this time.

Break Out – Current State of Radon

- Resource Providers: Ruth McBurney, Peter Hendrick, Carolyn Allen, Rick Miklich
- Your Reactions
- Facilitator: Janice Nolen
 - Interests
 - Obstacles
 - Questions

The New Federal Action Plan

- Nine Federal Agencies involved
 - Led by EPA
 - With USDA, DOD, DOE, DOI, GSA, HHS, HUD and VA
 - Eliminate preventable radon induced lung cancer 2011 – based upon current 4 pCi/L action level
 - Advance *Healthy People 2020* Radon Goals
 - Mitigate 30% of 9.2 M homes with high radon
 - Build 100% of homes in high risk areas with RRNC.

Highlighting 3 Agency Initiatives for Radon Risk Reduction

- US Dept of Agriculture
- Housing and Urban Development
- Dept of Energy – Weatherization Programs

The New Federal Action Plan: USDA (1:2)

■ Address Finance

- USDA will develop working agreements with nonprofits that can assist 504 home repair grantees and loan recipients in **funding mitigation efforts whenever Rn is found ≥ 4 pCi/L**
- USDA will educate Rural Housing Guarantee Program lenders and State Housing Finance Authorities about Rn risks and **encourage the testing of Zones 1 and 2 existing homes**
- USDA will leverage financing through renovation/repair programs and essential community programs to **test and mitigate radon in schools and daycare facilities**

The New Federal Action Plan: DOE

■ Build Demand

- DOE will finish Rn study as part of the National Evaluation to determine whether the WAP impacts Rn levels in homes
- DOE will test various remediation protocols to determine what level of effort is required when Rn is discovered in a home or when the level rises after WAP services are delivered
- DOE will add healthy homes curriculum to WAP training requirements that includes Rn identification and remediation protocols
- DOE will include training, described above, as part of DOE's routine health and safety training such that every worker in the WAP network will be trained over the next 2 years

The New Federal Action Plan: HUD (1:2)

■ Demonstrate

- HUD will incorporate Rn testing and mitigation into as many agency programs as possible to include public and other assisted housing
- HUD will prepare a plan within the next 18 months to collect Rn test results as part of its ongoing inspection protocol of public and assisted housing as the first step in conducting a baseline study of its housing stock

The New Federal Action Plan: HUD (2:2)

■ Address Finance

- HUD's Power Saver Loan Program will make Rn mitigation an explicitly eligible/allowable expense within the 25% non-energy related set-aside

■ Build Demand

- HUD's Healthy Homes Production Program grantees will check for sources of radiation, such as from Rn, as required by HUD's Healthy Homes Rating Tool.
 - Mitigation is required for high Rn levels

Break Out – Federal Section Programs

- Resource People In Room: Peter Hendrick, Jane Malone, Bill Long
- Your Reactions
- Facilitator: Carolyn Allen
 - Interests
 - Obstacles
 - Questions

Radon Resistant New Construction & Model Codes (Jane Malone)

- International Residential Code – 2013
 - RRNC Standards and Codes for Zones 1 & 2
 - NCHH proposed requiring Appendix F or ASTM in 2010
 - Allies will propose AARST's RRNC 2.0 in 2013
 - 2 issues: enforceability; mandate vs. optional
- International Building Code - 2012
 - Opportunity: schools, multi-family, other buildings
 - IBC Hearing 4/29-5/6 Dallas; Comments due 8/1/; Final Action Hearing 10/24-28 Portland OR
- ~~LEED, IgCC~~

Radon Building Codes and Standards

- Resources in Room: Jane Malone, Carolyn Allen, Scott Hendrick,
- Your Reactions
- Facilitator: Jane Malone
 - Interests
 - Obstacles
 - Questions

New Programs and Policies for Testing and Mitigation

- New Solutions that work for Testing and Mitigation
 - In the New Plan
 - RRNC Codes
 - Weatherization
 - Multi-Family
 - Two States
 - Illinois – Radon Awareness Results
 - Maine – Radon and Rental Housing

Illinois Radon Awareness Act

Enhanced Voluntary Approach

- Legislation for Notification Not Disclosure
 - Disclosure inhibited radon risk reduction
- Early Radon Awareness through Notification of Buyer
 - Allows Buyer to Make Decision – protects sale
 - Informed Consent
- Enhanced Voluntary Notification System
 - Supported by Builders, Real Estate
 - Beginning in 2009 – During a Housing Downturn
Increased Testing and Mitigation by 28 %

Maine – Regulated Approach

- Mandatory radon testing in all rental housing by 2013
 - –If results are ≥ 4 pCi/L, must mitigate
- ANSI Multi-family Testing Standard
- Radon Resistant New Construction
 - ASTM 1465 Adopted As Code by Legislature

Radon Education

A Call for New Outreach Efforts

■ Agencies Involved:

□ USDA, DOI, VA, EPA, HUD

- EPA, HUD, USDA, and HHS will collaborate on an interagency Rn outreach initiative that builds on existing campaigns addressing home-based risks and or healthy homes
- EPA, HUD and USDA will **engage the philanthropic community to support Rn risk reduction** EPA and Treasury will work together to **facilitate the deductibility of Rn testing/mitigation costs within Health Spending Accounts**

The New Federal Action Plan: HHS

- **Demonstrate**
 - HHS will work to **increase Rn awareness among states participating in the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program** (CDC Division of Cancer Prevention and Control)
 - HHS and EPA will **explore including Rn in environmental health tracking** (CDC's National Center for Environmental Health)
 - HHS will **update the current Toxicological Profile for Radon** (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry)
- **Address Finance** (none specified)
- **Build Demand** (none specified)

Sample New Program and Polices

- Resource People In Room: Scott Hendrick, NCSL, Gloria Linnertz, Peter Hendrick, Tobie Bernstein
- Your Reactions
- Facilitator: Peter Hendrick
 - Interests
 - Obstacles
 - Questions

Call to Action Information

- Seeking to inform non-government organizations & businesses
 - **Goal—to reduce radon in housing in the US through policies and programs**
- Ripe opportunities to make change
 - Federal Radon Action Plan
 - President's Cancer Panel Report
 - WHO Handbook on Radon +

Engaging Call to Action Stakeholders

- **National Level Initiatives**
 - Partnering with Business & Affordable Housing Stakeholders
 - Federal program – creative program partnering
- **State, Tribal, Local Level Alliances**
 - Support initiatives for RRNC and notification awareness with Business, Regional, State & Local Stakeholders
 - Program/Policy Initiatives/ Codes
 - State Legislative Initiatives
- **Action-Oriented Network of Allies**
 - All interests invited
 - Information and Coordinated Activities

New Paradigms for Solutions

- The Federal Action Plan – a basic foundation for nation-wide progress
- Adoption of radon resistant construction requirements for Zones 1 and 2
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- ~~Adequate Funding for programs, standards, policies~~

Wrap Up – Radon Call To Action's 6 Principals

- Want Commitments Are Possible ?
- What Obstacles Exist ?
- What Additional Steps Can We Take ?

Call to Action Information: www.radonleaders.org