



Radon Bulletin



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

August 2008

Comments on New Draft Radon Publication

William Bell (MA), Chairperson, E-25 Committee on Radon

EPA released subject draft document for review ⇒ On April 23rd, EPA released the subject draft document for review and comment by State radon officials and other interested parties. As the Chair of CRCPD's E-25 Committee on Radon, I am the point of contact for collection of comments from State representatives.

Short response time ⇒ The comment period for States was originally only 10 business days beginning with the simultaneous announcement of the comment period and distribution of the draft. States, taken by surprise, scrambled to access the document. More than a few States spent precious days just trying to get the document. The deadline for States was extended for an additional five business days.

22 States commented, totaling 125 pages, with over 700 comments ⇒ Despite the extended deadline, several States expressed dismay at the brevity of the comment period. Many States reported that they could not complete the kind of careful review the document deserved. Many were not able to complete their review of the document at all. In all, 22 States sent comments totaling some 125 pages with over 700 individual comments. Several States had more than one commenter. This magnitude of response in such a short time frame reflects the States' intense concern over this document.



19th National Radon Conference

Sue Smith (OED), Executive Office Manager

Meet me in St. Louis! ⇒ A contract has been signed with the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at Union Station for the 19th National Radon Conference, September 20-23, 2009.

This is a very nice hotel and I believe the attendees will enjoy it there. There seems to be a lot of things to do in St. Louis, Missouri.

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E-25 Committee on Radon Meets

William J. Bell (MA), Chair E-25, Committee on Radon

The E-25 Committee on Radon met in Manchester, New Hampshire, April 1-3, 2008. The main focus of the meeting was program development for the 18th National Radon Training Conference, which will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, September 14-17, 2008. The theme for the upcoming meeting will be "Growing Radon Leaders."

There was extensive discussion on a number of other pressing issues:

- New meeting evaluation adopted ⇒ • The committee reviewed options for a new meeting evaluation instrument proposed by E-25 Committee members Kim Steves (KS), Mike Pyles (PA), and Sara Morgan (NE). With some very minor modifications the committee adopted the new instrument. The chair thanked the task group for a job well done.
- Comment period may be short for draft of new EPA radon document ⇒ • There was discussion about EPA's plan to release a draft of a new radon document that combines the Citizen's Guide, the Home Buyers' & Sellers' Guide and the Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction into a single document of about 11 pages. The indications are that the comment period may be very short, so States need to be on guard. It was decided that a reality check on the adequacy of the brief comment period be made ASAP and more time requested if needed.
- Mini-grant program instructions and timetable revised ⇒ • The committee revised the instructions for the mini-grant program and set a new timetable for the program. Funds permitting, we plan to market the program at the National Radon Training Conference.
- Continuing education discussed ⇒ • Josh Kerber (OH) and Francesca Provenzano (CT) joined the meeting on the last day to discuss the continuing education sessions that will be held in connection with the National Radon Training Conference.



18th National Radon Training Conference

Sue Smith (OED), Executive Office Manager

Sept. 14-17, 2008 ⇒
Tuscany Suites
Las Vegas, Nevada



The 18th National Radon Training Conference will be held September 14-17, 2008 at the Tuscany Suites and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada; a block of rooms has been reserved in the name of the "CRCPD." The special room rate is \$108.00 single/double, plus 9% sales tax. Any additional persons in the room will be \$20.00 per person, per night, plus tax. These rates are also available three days prior to and three days after the 18th National Conference based on availability.

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18th National Radon Training Conference (Continued)

Make hotel reservation by August 12th ⇒ You must call the hotel directly at **877/887-2261** to make a reservation and guarantee your reservation with either a credit card or one night's deposit. If you need to cancel your reservation, you must call and cancel at least 24 hours prior to your arrival date or your deposit will be forfeited/credit card charged. NOTE: Guaranteed reservations are held for one night only – not for the entire stay. The cut-off date for making reservations is **August 12, 2008**.

Meeting information is on CRCPD Website ⇒ The agenda and general information about the Conference, registration forms, fees, etc., are on the CRCPD web site: www.crcpd.org/2008rnmmtg.asp. The Night Out will be Tuesday night, September 16, 2008, at the Imperial Place Car Collection. A buffet is included.



State News

Nebraska

Sarah Morgan (NE)

It's a very sloooow time in Nebraska! ⇒ It has been slow on the radon front in Nebraska lately; however, we keep plugging away with inspections, audits, presentations, and winding up the fiscal year with our mini-grant recipients. Perhaps the biggest accomplishment to report is that McCook, Nebraska, adopted Appendix F as part of their building code and will begin enforcing it.

We sent out the information on the Poster Contest, have re-summarized our database, and are in the process of generating new maps showing updated average radon levels per county/zip code, and will update the web site soon.

We have initiated regulation changes and those are in process. We are wrapping up an effort where we offered free inspections of recently installed mitigation systems, and received approximately 150 responses. Those inspections will be concluding soon.

Nothing very exciting, a lot of the daily grind, but it keeps us busy! Thanks. (Editor's note: It would be great to see what Sarah would be doing if she was 'busy!' Everyone should have such a slow program.)

New York

Jerry Collins (NY)

Packets provided to doctors' offices ⇒ Packets were prepared that included the U.S. EPA's "*Radon - A Physician's Guide*." This booklet contains information concerning radon and practical advice about radon testing and mitigation. Also included was "*Protect Your Family From Radon: A Guide for New York State Residents*," which is a compact pamphlet with information about radon in New York State, along with an application for a radon detector. As part of this project we supplied doctors' offices with copies of this pamphlet and asked them to make the information available to their patients.

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State News*(Continued)***New York** *(Continued)*

As a result of the mail-out to New York physicians:

- Results of the mailout ⇒
- A New York staff member was asked to speak to a local hospital family residency program (approximately 20 attendees including students, faculty, and administration); the director of the program indicated an interest in repeating this in the future.
 - Several participants in the program encountered elevated radon levels and have pursued mitigation.
 - One of the participants has encouraged the local school district to test as well.

Ohio Dept. of Health Training for Radon Industry

William Bell (MA), Chairperson, E-25 Committee on Radon

- Training session on radon testing and mitigation ⇒
- On the afternoon of April 11th, the Ohio Department of Health conducted a training session for radon professionals regarding radon testing and mitigation in schools. The topics were selected in anticipation of an increased interest in this area of practice resulting from the recent enactment of “Jared’s Law,” which requires comprehensive school health and safety programs in Ohio. I presented on the topic of radon mitigation in schools. Ohio offered CEU’s for licensees who attended.

Wyoming

Steve Melia (WY)

- NRPP would be excellent training for builders ⇒
- Wyoming is trying to get all seven community colleges to include the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) courses in their curriculum for their building and trades professions. I believe if people are going to learn how to build homes, etc., that NRPP would be excellent training for them and good service to customers regarding radon testing, mitigation and Radon Resistant New Construction. Hopefully this project will be successful.

**EPA Region 5 Radon Stakeholder’s Meeting**

William Bell (MA), Chairperson, E-25 Committee on Radon

The Regional Radon Stakeholder’s Meeting on April 10 and 11 was a day and a half meeting involving radon industry and some EPA and State officials.

- Intent to generate enthusiasm for the “Radon Leaders Saving Lives Campaign” ⇒
- The opening session was comprised of three related presentations. Susie Shimek of EPA, myself, and Bill Angell of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists each presented. The intent was to generate enthusiasm for the “Radon Leaders Saving Lives Campaign.” My presentation focused on CRCPD and State Program past and present

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Stakeholder's Meeting *(Continued)*

the State radon leaders' role, and on some general advice about achieving success. The session was well received.

Misunderstandings of radon testing and mitigation issues expressed ⇒ A few of the speakers later in the day demonstrated gross misunderstandings of radon testing and mitigation issues. One individual, an ECO-Realtor, urged radon testers and mitigators to take Real Estate agents to coffee, cut their prices to the bare minimum, and go easy on the technical details when dealing with the parties in a sale.

Questions reveal poor understanding of radon health effects ⇒ On Friday morning, April 10th, there were two interesting presentations by physicians, one from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the other a local oncologist. It was clear from the questions posed by the attendees that we still have problems from the Alzheimer's presentations at the National Radon Meeting in 2004. Radon industry folks have a poor understanding of radon health effects, it seems.

CEUs are a motivation ⇒ Ohio offered CEU's for licensees who attended; that seemed to be the main motivation for keeping people in the room.



Building Technical Capacity (BTC) - Gambier, Ohio

William Bell (MA), Chairperson, E-25 Committee on Radon

Re-visit of 2005 BTC project ⇒

On Saturday, April 12, I traveled to Gambier, Ohio, to the site of the BTC project house. I last visited this property in 2005. Assistance via telephone and email has continued in the interim. Since my last visit, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Radon Licensing Staff has made substantial improvements in their ability to monitor and evaluate the status of the three temporary radon systems which we left there in 2005.

They have upgraded their equipment and have become well organized and methodical in their work. ODH staff have identified, evaluated, and resolved a number of issues related to the temporary radon systems and have documented the systems' effectiveness. Now the need is to replace the temporary systems with permanent ones. The day was spent reviewing data collected, viewing the operation of the current configuration of the temporary systems, and examining the building for possible pipe routes for the permanent systems.

The next steps will involve selecting a route for the permanent systems and arranging for the installation and surveillance. The results of this demonstration/BTC project will be offered as a presentation at a future National Radon Training Conference.



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