The 18th National Radon Training Conference was held September 14-17, 2008 at the Tuscany Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. There were 138 registrants for the three day conference, with attendees from 42 states, EPA, and partners from both EPA and coalitions. Critique sheets from the 18th National Radon Training Conference are being analyzed and will be used in planning the 19th National Radon Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

The first day was a joint meeting with the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST). Richard Guimond, Assistant Surgeon General and Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service (retired) and Vice President for Environmental Health and Safety, Carrier Corporation, was the keynote speaker. He was with EPA in the late 1980’s and was instrumental in developing the involvement of CRCPD with the radon issue.

The theme of this year’s Conference, “Radon Leaders Saving Lives,” was prevalent in presentations regarding RRNC (radon resistant new construction), radon risk communications, radon risk reduction, and sessions pertaining to Technology Update, Paths to Success, and the Web Portal.

A CD of the Proceedings of the Conference was sent to registered attendees of the Conference. Others can get a copy of the Proceedings by calling Amy Hall, 502/227-4543, Ext. 2225, or email ahall@crcpd.org. The cost is $25.
Greetings from Maine. There is nothing new or exciting to report from this corner of the country. Since returning from the National Radon Training Conference, where I shared information about some of our partnering activities, the radon prevention in new construction code, and a demonstration project at one of our fish hatcheries, things have been business as usual.

We have a few projects in process that might be worth sharing. One project is helping a Community College test and develop mitigation plans for all buildings on their campus. This college, on a former coastal defense military base, has about 20 buildings ranging in age from pre-Civil war to less than one year old, and ranging in size from single family dwellings (converted to offices) to 100+ room lab and lecture facilities.

Helping them develop the testing plan was interesting, and it was fun to be in some of the old granite military facilities that have been converted into parts of a thriving educational facility. Now that the heating season is upon us, we will soon be helping the college determine the effectiveness of mitigation work that took place over the summer, and planning follow-up testing in buildings that were screened during the spring as the weather turned warm.

Another project in process is a mitigation demonstration at a high school. This is another facility with several buildings, ranging from about 100 years old to less than 10 years old. This school was tested by a Maine licensed contractor, and they contacted us for guidance on addressing identified high radon areas. The school agreed to host a mitigation demonstration project, so we could provide a large-building training opportunity for many of our mitigators who only have single family residential experience.

Diagnostics and other investigations done during the design phase showed the building to be moderately difficult to mitigate. Fortunately, I had recently returned from participating in the Building Technical Capacity (BTC) training/project at Zephyr Cove school in Nevada, and the skills I had updated proved invaluable in moving this mitigation demonstration project forward.

The project was supposed to have been finished during the summer, but due to paperwork delays (it’s always fun to have contracts kicked back for total revision because new forms are required, no one knows about the new forms except the person who requires them, and the forms are not available yet-even from the person who requires them), the project did not begin until just before school started for the fall.
Maine Updates [Continued]

That caused things to be done more piecemeal than was planned, but the last parts of the many radon reduction systems were completed over the Veteran’s Day weekend. Post-mitigation testing is scheduled for next week, and we go in to inspect the final installations just before Thanksgiving. The best part is that residential mitigators had the opportunity to see what kind of issues are involved with large buildings and schools.

Sticking with the topic of schools, we recently had a situation where a group of parents was trying to use radon as a means to force their local Catholic schools’ consolidation into a different direction. This started as a normal “my child goes to a school with high radon, what does the school have to do to get it fixed?” Call.

The several follow-up calls from different parents, however, indicated that radon might not be the primary concern. Then we learned that some of the parents had not accurately portrayed our discussions with them as they discussed the situation with other parents and the Diocese responsible for the school. Fortunately we learned long ago to document every call and information request, and to include the questions asked of Maine radon staff and the responses given.

Due to this, we were able to set the record straight with other parents and the Diocese. The radon angle was finally defused when we helped the Diocese to contract the services of a Maine licensed radon mitigator with large building experience and connections to the local community. Something worth noting about this incident: a few of the parents had actually tested their own homes for radon. Unfortunately, at least one of them had home radon levels that were higher than at the school and did not plan to mitigate their home.....

Annual license renewal process

Since returning from the National Radon Training Conference, we have spent a big chunk of our time with our annual license renewal process. Even though we are only a small state (we only have about 130 licensed radon testing or mitigation companies and labs, around 200 licensed radon testers and mitigators), the renewals keep us busy for a solid month. We have just sent out notices to about 20 companies that did not renew, reminding them of all the laws they are breaking if they have done any radon work since their license expired on October 1. We’ve already gotten a few calls from people saying, “I lost my renewal application and forms, can you resend them?” And in a sign of the times, a handful of testers (who are also home inspectors) have told us they closed their companies.

If anyone is interested, we’re already having snowball fights up here. And the ski slopes are ready and waiting for you.
Suggested Regulations-Part R (Radon) Update

By Bob Stilwell (ME), Chair, SR-R Committee

Suggested Regulations-Part R (SR-R) is pleased to announce that the radon regulations have been finalized and released. All radiation program directors recently received a CD containing them, and they are available on the CRCPD web site, www.crcpd.org/publications. It has taken many years to add Part R to the rest of the Suggested State Regulations for Control of Radiation (SSRCR), and we hope states that are considering adopting radon regulations find this new addition to be useful.

Last summer, the SR-R committee was charged with reviewing and submitting comments on a public draft of the AARST Standards Consortium multi-family measurement protocols. We will soon be sending all radon programs a copy of those comments, so you will be aware of the items we identified for possible modification. Several states sent us their comments, and we included all of them in our discussions as we reviewed the document. Most of the comments we received from you were incorporated into our comments in some manner. Thank you to those states who shared their comments with us.

The SR-R committee is currently working on a few things, including an appendix on QA that will be added to Part R. Our plan is to have a draft of this ready for Peer Review by summer. If you have ideas about QA guidance that should be included in this appendix, please send them to me at bob.stilwell@maine.gov.

Pennsylvania Activities

By Michael Pyles (PA)

The Pennsylvania Radon Division has been working on three major projects over the past two years, all of which will come to fruition January 1, 2009.

These projects are Certification Regulation amendments that increase the certification fees, the creation of new fees, and the elimination of the application notarization requirement. These are explained in more detail as follows:

1. Streamline the Photo ID card process. The Radon Division’s Certification Section certifies contractors to perform radon-related activities in Pennsylvania such as radon testing, radon mitigation and radon laboratories. A critical part of that certification process is to issue Photo ID cards to the certified individuals and to the employees of a certified radon firm. These Photo ID cards are issued upon initial certification and reissued every two years when the certifications are...
Pennsylvania Activities [Continued]

renewed. The process we had been using was quite time-consuming and could be updated and streamlined through more of an automated system that would access our current radon Oracle database.

Working with Department’s Bureau of Information Technology, a new streamlined and efficient process for creating these Photo ID Cards was created and is currently in place. This new process has eliminated 4-5 steps from our clerical routine into a streamlined process that also now allows clients to submit proper photos electronically versus the submission of physical photos. These electronic photos can now also be stored on our Radon Database as well versus hard copies stored in their individual paper files.

2. The Radon Division receives radon testing and mitigation reports from approximately 400 certified radon testers and laboratories, and 100 certified mitigators. These radon service providers are required to report their radon testing and mitigation activities to the Department’s (DEP) radon division within 45 days of performing the service.

Currently, certified testers may submit testing reports to DEP via paper or via a file that is emailed or sent on hard media (compact disk) to DEP. The certified mitigators may only submit reports via paper. DEP receives a total of 40,000 paper reports each year. The Division’s clerical staff enters data submitted on each of these reports into the Radon Oracle Forms application database.

When the Division receives a file of testing reports, the report data is loaded into the database via an upload utility in the Radon Oracle Forms application. Although the file reduces data entry, the staff must verify the data and the file format prior to uploading the file. Often the staff must correct the data or the format before attempting to upload. The current upload utility does not verify the data and is prone to problems.

Over the past two years, the Radon Division staff and the Bureau of Information Technology have been developing an application to allow certified testers and mitigators to report via a web-based application on the Department’s Greenport (a computer-based web site). The web application provides the individual two reporting methods for both testing and mitigation reports. The individual will have the option to directly key the report data into a web page and submit that report to DEP. The web application will also allow the individual to upload and submit a file that contains report data rather than requiring the individual to key in the data for each report.

The web application will validate the report information prior to submission. That is, an individual will not be able to submit a report or an uploaded file of reports until all of the information passes the
Pennsylvania Activities [Continued]

Less staff time will be needed for validation checks. This will result in DEP receiving a higher quality of data and will allow the program staff to spend less time on quality assurance and data entry. There are at least 15 automatic filters or quality control and validation checks incorporated into this application.

Division staff must review each report that is submitted via the Greenport application utilizing a customized screen that allows the staff to accept, reject, or return a report. One of the reasons the project took time to develop was because of the limited staff, but mostly because of the address correction feature that was requested.

The Radon Division is DEP’s first web-based application to require this capability. Address correction isn’t something that we could simply build. It requires access to a third party address correction product. We ended up having a couple of different options, one of which involved using a product supported by the Office of Administration (OA). We pursued the OA option, which took some time, but ultimately decided that it wasn’t the better option.

We chose to use a product that we purchased on our own. We very likely will want to include address correction in future GreenPort applications, as well as other internal and external applications. Therefore, we needed to spend some time with the product to understand how it works and then come up with an architecture so that it can be easily accessed by our other applications in the future. All of this was new ground for us and involved various IT teams. We ended up building a generic web service to interact with the address correction product and then added an interface to it for the radon web application.

For security purposes, each client will log in to the GreenPort application with a user name, a unique password, and private PIN.

This new web-based reporting application has gone through numerous internal Beta tests and is currently being Beta tested in the field with a select group of users. The application will be going live January 1, 2009.

3. Radon Certification Fees have been revamped and increased. This is the first increase in fees since 1991. A summary of these fee increases is as follows:

**Fee Changes Effective January 1, 2009**

*New Radon Certification Fee Schedule*

Testing Individual .....................$350 every two years
Pennsylvania Activities

New Radon Certification Fee Schedule

Testing Firm $700 every two years (first testing employee is free)
Testing Employee $100 each (first employee is free) ¹
Primary Testing Device Listing $100 every two years ²
Mitigation Individual $300 every two years
Mitigation Firm $700 every two years
Laboratory Individual $400 every two years
Laboratory Firm $750 every two years
Course Provider $375 every two years ³
Late 45-Day Reporting $100 ⁴
Late Application Renewal $100 ⁵

¹ Employees may be added at any time. This fee is due for each testing firm employee (except the first employee) at the time that employee is added and then again each time the testing firm certification is renewed.

² Primary radon testers shall submit the Primary Testing Device fee as specified in the Radon Certification Fee Schedule for each TYPE of device they place/retrieve, read, and analyze. The two types of primary devices are electrets and continuous monitors. The $100 fee for electrets covers short term and/or long term and any number of electrets. The $100 fee for continuous monitors covers any and all manufacturers’ models (Sun Nuclear, Pylon, Femto Tech etc.) and any number of continuous monitors.

³ A person approved by the Department to provide initial or continuing, or both, education courses shall submit the Course Provider fee as specified in this schedule.

⁴ Anyone not submitting the required 45-day testing and/or mitigation reporting within 90 days of the completion of the testing and/or mitigation activity (or if no activities have been performed during this period, informing the Department of same in writing) will be subject to the late 45-Day Reporting Fee as specified in this schedule.

⁵ Any renewal certification application that is postmarked after the previous certification’s expiration date will be considered late and charged the late application renewal fee. All applications are either renewal or initial. A renewal application is defined as any application postmarked less than one year after the previous certification expiration date; all other applications are initial applications.

These new fees will apply to you if:
• For initial applications, your applications are postmarked on or after January 1, 2009.
• For renewal applications, your applications expire on or after January 1, 2009.
Pennsylvania Activities [Continued]

Reporting Requirements

45-Day Reporting Changes
- 45-day reporting is required for all primary testers, mitigators, and laboratories.

New Web Based Reporting
- The GreenPort computer based web site will allow you to submit and track your 45-day reporting electronically.
- Everyone required to submit 45-day reporting will have an enclosed letter containing a personal identification number and detailed instructions to allow access to the new web-based GreenPort system.
- Primary testers and laboratories will have two options for submitting reporting: either submitting each report individually or uploading a TXT (comma delimited text) or CSV file of many reports at once. (The final uploaded version of your data must be in TXT or CSV. If using another format you must Save As one of these two formats.)
  - Mitigators will only have the option to report by entering one report at a time.
  - Reporting via this web-based method will be mandatory January 1, 2010.

Paper Reporting

Effective January 1, 2009
- All paper reporting must be submitted on the DEP reporting form that can be accessed at our web site, www.depweb.state.pa.us, or in the Pennsylvania Radon Certification Forms and Information Booklet.
  - In the past, other versions were permitted, but after January 1, 2009 no other forms will be acceptable.

Effective January 1, 2010
- No paper reporting will be allowed.
- All reporting must be submitted via DEP’s web-based GreenPort.

Testers and laboratories have two options for reporting
Mitigators send one report at a time

CRCPD: A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection
www.crcpd.org
The Kansas Radon Program is located within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Radiation Control Program. The program includes a contract and partnership with the Kansas State University Engineering Extension. In the early 1990’s, KDHE tried unsuccessfully for several years in a row to get legislation passed in the Kansas legislature that would require the certification of radon contractors in Kansas. At that time the state legislators were not willing to consider radon a serious health issue in the state, and the real estate lobby was very strongly against any such type of legislation. It was a very disheartening and exhausting process for those involved, including Bruce Snead of Kansas State University and Kim Steves of KDHE.

During the fall of 2007, Kim Steves was approached by a Senator from Emporia, Kansas, named Jim Barnett. Senator Barnett was a practicing physician in Emporia. One of his patients had recently been diagnosed with lung cancer and sadly passed away. This lady, a homemaker who made quilts in her basement, had never smoked. When her house was tested for radon, her basement tested at 27 pCi/l. Because of this event, Senator Barnett became interested in obtaining more information about radon. As he became educated, he developed strong feelings about the need for radon legislation in Kansas.

Specific goals for a Kansas radon law were set. The goals were that more citizens would be informed of the radon risks in Kansas, and more radon tests would be performed. Homes will be fixed when radon tests show elevated levels because the owners have been informed of the risks. The contractors in Kansas performing radon tests and mitigation will follow protocols and standards.

Under the guidance and direction of Senator Barnett, the Kansas Radon Program began working with the State Revisor of Statutes office to develop radon legislation for the 2008 legislative session.

The initial legislation that was drafted included three main goals:

1) All home buyers would be provided a warning on radon along with information and a recommendation to test (effective six months after the law goes into effect).

2) All contractors who perform radon measurement and/or mitigation services in Kansas will be certified (effective one year after the law goes into effect).

3) Mandatory radon testing of homes during residential real estate transactions would be required beginning in the year 2011.
Kansas Legislative Successes [Continued]

Senator Barnett scheduled a press release and introduced the bill early in February 2008. Not surprisingly, this bill received a lot of attention, especially from the real estate industry.

During Committee hearings, the Kansas Radon Program was able to gather a wide range of proponents to testify in support of the radon bill. These supporters included radon program staff, a realtor who had past experience as a radon contractor, a local physician-oncologist, radon contractors, radon trainers, and citizens with an interest. There was also a strong lobby testifying against the bill which was led by the Kansas Association of Realtors.

Ironically, the Kansas Association of Realtors supported the portion of the bill that dealt with the certification of radon contractors – a 180 degree change from the legislative experiences of the early 1990’s. They were, however, strongly against anything that had an impact on their residential real estate transactions.

After testifying and lobbying, the bill was modified by a Senate Committee to include the provisions for certification of radon contractors, and a radon warning statement that would be required to be included as a paragraph on every residential real estate contract in Kansas. Mandatory radon testing during residential real estate transactions was removed from the bill. The Kansas Association of Realtors declared themselves to be satisfied and supportive of this modified bill.

When the radon bill got to the House of Representatives, the House Committee voted to table the bill for the session. It is believed that this action had little to do with concerns about the radon bill itself, and much to do with other ongoing political issues between the state legislature and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment surrounding the permitting of a coal plant in western Kansas. The disappointed Kansas Radon Program believed the radon legislative effort was over for the 2008 session.

After the radon bill was tabled, Senator Barnett stepped to the plate again, and proved himself to be a true radon hero by using his political influence to convince the Senate to attach the radon bill in the revised form that had previously passed the Senate into a bill dealing with the licensing of real estate appraisers that had already passed the House. This action sent the bill to a conference committee made up of Senators and Representatives. During the conference committee, the portion of the bill dealing with certification of radon contractors was stricken from
Kansas Legislative Successes in 2008 [Continued]

Signed into law (unfortunately this was most likely due to political conflict with KDHE over the coal plant). The bill passed out of conference committee with the requirement for a radon warning statement to be included in all residential real estate contracts intact. It passed both houses and was signed into law by the Governor on May 18, 2008.

Regional real estate associations are using new required language. This new law will go into effect July 1, 2009. Many regional real estate associations have already begun using the new required language on their contracts. The Kansas Radon Program is offering radon training with CEU’s to Realtors across the state, and it is proving to be a very popular course.

Home buyers will be supplied with a warning statement about radon. The Kansas Radon Program considers this a great success. Kansas now has a law that will ensure that every time a residential real estate transaction occurs in the state, the home buyer will be provided with a warning statement about radon in Kansas, a recommendation to test, and a resource to obtain additional information.

There is no right way or wrong way to get legislation. The lessons we learned during this very exciting and exhausting process were that there is no right way or wrong way to get this accomplished. Find a champion and let him/her legislate. Find experts outside the state radon program to provide information. Find someone who can lobby – state employees cannot lobby and that puts us at a disadvantage with a powerful real estate lobby. (This is an area where a local AARST chapter in Kansas could have really helped.) Be prepared to spend many long hours at numerous meetings. And finally, be prepared to compromise – if you can’t win, do not lose.

Region 7 Radon Stakeholders Meeting
By Kim Steves (KS)

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The Third Annual Region 7 EPA/State Radon Stakeholders Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas. This meeting is being held at no cost for all those that have a stake in protecting the public from unnecessary exposure to radon in their homes, schools and businesses.

It is the intent of EPA Region 7 and its partners (the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and AARST [American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists]), to bring interested stakeholders together to discuss common issues, provide insight into the future, understand the issues from other perspectives, share, educate and network.
Do you want to help your community step out on the green side of living and building healthier? EPA has developed a new media campaign, Living Healthy and Green, to educate Americans about the ease to test for radon and to build new homes radon-resistant. The new campaign features Fuad Reveiz, a home builder and former professional football player, who builds his new homes radon-resistant and encourages others to do the same.

Since radon enters a home from the ground up, living healthy and green starts from the ground up. And, these unique public service announcements (PSAs) help remind Americans that a big part of “living green” starts in their home with breathing cleaner, healthier indoor air.

Contact media outlets in your area and ask them to use the Living Healthy and Green TV, radio and print ads during January, National Radon Action Month, and in the months to follow. This step will help kick radon out of your community and thereby improve home air quality, helping to preserve families’ well-being indoors and out.

This media campaign is available in multiple mediums in English and Spanish. Plus, there are seven different music formats for every type of radio station. Every campaign element can be viewed, heard and ordered free online at www.epapsa.com
In Memoriam: David S. Chase, Ph.D.

By Dennis P. O’Dowd, Administrator, Radiological Health Section
NH DHHS - Division of Public Health Services

I am saddened to report to you the death of our friend and colleague, David Chase, Ph.D., who died of an apparent heart attack in his sleep on November 24th. He was 60 years old.

Dave began his career in radiological health as an Emergency Response Planner with the New Hampshire Bureau of Radiological Health 17 years ago. Within a very short time, he was promoted to the position of Supervisor of the Bureau’s Radon Program, and continued to manage the program through various organizational changes when it was ultimately moved from New Hampshire’s Public Health Division to the Air Resources Division a few years ago.

Under his tenure as Radon Program Supervisor, he not only brought New Hampshire’s radon program up to EPA and the state’s radiation control program standards, but under his guidance, New Hampshire’s radon program received national recognition from the CRCPD during its annual meeting in May 1994.

Since that time, Dave continued to bring excellence to New Hampshire’s radon program, while bringing his high level of expertise to several national and international organizations, including most recently serving as a working group member of the World Health Organization’s Global Standards for Radon Measurement and Mitigation, and in an advisory capacity with the National Ground Water Association and National Environmental Health Association.

With regard to CRCPD activities specifically, Dave served as Chair of the Committee on Radon (E-25) from September 1994 through October 1997, providing advice to EPA on radon policy issues. While in that position, he also served as a member of the National Radon Continuing Education Design Team, as well as the National Program for Accrediting and Administering Radon Continuing Education Programs.

Dave was passionate about his work on radon issues and cared deeply about his colleagues, about the natural world and about helping others. He was always willing to extend himself, often volunteering to work with school and community groups. We will miss him, his gentle manner, his good humor, and his dedication to public service.
We Lose a Friend
By Bob Stilwell, Maine Radon Program

Dave Chase, radon contact for New Hampshire for 17 years, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 24. He was 60 years old.

Dave was passionate about his work on radon issues and cared deeply about his colleagues, about the natural world, and about helping others. He was always willing to extend himself in a professional or personal capacity, and spent many hours volunteering for different reasons with school and community groups.

Over the years, Dave brought his knowledge and expertise to many varied groups and organizations addressing radon and radiation issues. For example, he served as chair of the CRCPD E-25 Radon Committee; was actively involved with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) radionuclide working group, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) radon proficiency program, and the World Health Organization's radon efforts; and was an advisor to the National Ground Water Association. Dave’s ideas and analysis of situations were valued by these and other groups.

There are many things that can be said about Dave, but most important of all is that Dave was always your friend. No matter what he was working on or who he was working with, he always made time to keep in touch with his many friends; old friends and new friends and soon to be friends. Agree or disagree, still your friend. For this, most of all, Dave will be missed.

Goodbye, my friend.
### CRCPD Board of Directors

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