



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

NEWSBRIEF

www.crcpd.org

A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

February 2013

Message from Chairperson Earl Fordham, CHP



Greetings all,

Last month I ask if the *Newsbrief* articles would be more interesting in a blog (or other) format. I got several responses expressing concern about the time needed to stay current with a blog and whether the technology was the end or a means to the end. Instead of a continuous blog, one idea brought up was to survey the readers about topics they would like to see in the *Newsbrief*.

I think this is an excellent suggestion, and I solicit your input. Please send me (or Sue Smith at the OED) your suggested topics. I will engage the board to combine topics where appropriate and prioritize them for response/publication. Topical discussions will be published in the *Newsbrief*. While the composition of the board is broad, I expect many topics will need the expertise of our working group members.

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On a related topic, you have been very active promoting the CRCPD in the last several months. Many of us have new CRCPD members in our offices. I have been sending out “Welcome to CRCPD” emails encouraging our new members to talk to current members about their experiences on working groups and the importance of returning the Working Group Interest Form. They may be coming to you asking about working groups, what they do, and which ones they should get involved with. Please spend some time with our new members and let them know

how much fun active membership can be. Strong working groups are one pathway to getting to the annual meeting.



Greetings from Your Executive Director



Ruth E. McBurney, CHP

I have been introduced lately to the concept of “social capital,” which has added a new wrinkle in my gray matter—well, not really a new wrinkle, just an old one with a different name. Basically, one of the definitions of social capital (as opposed to “economic capital”) in recent usage is the value of networks and the power of community. This started me thinking more about the social capital that CRCPD continues to provide.

Although most state radiation control programs do not have the “economic capital” to establish guidance and control for new radiological issues on their own, through social networking in professional organizations such as CRCPD, strong valuable ties occur both within the organization (known as “bonding” ties to the sociologists) and through links with other organizations and agencies (known as “bridging” ties).

Some of the most recent examples of bonding and bridging activities that have taken place recently and are being planned for the future are listed below.

- In January, several CRCPD members participated in an Improvised Nuclear Device Workshop, sponsored by the Institute of Medicine and the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The workshop highlighted current planning efforts at the federal, state, and local level; challenges to the implementation of those plans; and gaps in planning efforts. Representatives at the local, state, and federal levels from accident and risk assessment, public health, healthcare systems, and emergency management were brought together at this meeting.

The primary focus was on planning for a large-scale influx and medical surge in the event of an improvised nuclear device attack and the numerous response challenges to neighboring communities after an IND detonation. CRCPD representatives highlighted efforts to recruit and train a cadre of volunteer radiation professionals that could assist in public health shelters and provide population monitoring. Information about the workshop and the outcome will be available in the near future.

Another IND tabletop exercise and workshop focusing on medical and public health issues, sponsored by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) is planned for March in conjunction with the →

Executive Director Greetings *(Continued)*

NCRP meeting in Bethesda, Maryland. Several state government representatives will be participating in this exercise.

- SCATR—New options for disposal of Class A sources at the Energy Solutions facility at Clive, Utah, and Class B and C sources at the Waste Control Specialists facility in Texas have brought about opportunities for CRCPD outreach with the states and low-level waste compacts. We are continuing to encourage state programs to notify their licensees of these initiatives. More information on the SCATR program activities can be found on the CRCPD website at:

<http://www.crcpd.org/StateServices/SCATR.aspx>

- Through the National Alliance for Radiation Readiness, a tabletop exercise for passenger screening for radiation is being planned at a major international airport in April and will involve representatives from Customs and Border Protection, public health, and radiological health programs. The purpose of the exercise is to allow local, state, and federal partners to identify key activities associated with passenger screening at an airport following a radiological exposure in another country.

Of course, our best networking opportunity to cover many areas of radiation protection is coming up in May at the National Conference on Radiation Control in Portland, Oregon. Many exciting technical sessions and additional training sessions are being planned. Check out the website for registration information and the latest information on the training, technical sessions, and social program at: <http://www.crcpd.org/2013AnnualMeeting/>, and make plans to attend. We hope to see you there!

The true value of the organization comes from the interaction of our state agency volunteers and federal partners to address key issues. Whether it be during presentations at the National Conference, working group meetings to produce consistent guidance, suggested state regulations and model procedures, or face-to-face discussions and webinars, we are building social capital for the benefit of all of us.



Bill House Joins CRCPD Staff

By Ruth McBurney, CRCPD
Executive Director



The Office of Executive Director is pleased to announce the hiring of William B. (Bill) House as SCATR Program Technical Assistant. For the year 2013, Bill will be responsible for arranging collections in the Source Collection and Threat Reduction Program (SCATR), and working with state programs, low-level waste compacts, brokers, and facilities in that effort. He will be working with Russ Meyer to maximize the number of source collections in the coming year. Bill will be telecommuting from his home in South Carolina, but will be reachable by e-mail at bhouse@crcpd.org and by telephone at (803) 530-2821.

Mr. House brings over 36 years of experience in environmental and regulatory affairs in the nuclear industry to the position. His responsibilities have included management of radioactive material licensing and regulatory compliance programs and development and implementation of radiation protection programs for the Barnwell Disposal Site and numerous other facilities. He also managed the licensing and permitting of the first commercial mixed waste processing facility in South Carolina.

Bill is a familiar person at CRCPD. For many years, he has been an advisor to the CRCPD E-5 Radioactive Waste Committee and has represented Energy Solutions at many CRCPD annual meetings. We now welcome Bill as the newest member of our OED team.



EPA Press Release

January 14, 2013

Reduce Lung Cancer Risk in 2013 by Testing Your Home for Radon Gas

Elevated radon levels found in roughly 1 in 15 homes nationwide

WASHINGTON – As part of National Radon Action Month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today steps the public can take to test, fix and save a life from dangerous radon gas.

Test Your Home for Radon Gas *(Continued)*

“Testing for radon is one of the easiest and smartest things people can do to protect their homes and families from this serious health risk,” said Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation. “Addressing high radon levels greatly reduces exposure to the second leading cause of lung cancer.”

Radon occurs naturally from the decay of uranium in the soil and can accumulate to dangerous levels inside the home. Elevated levels of the colorless, odorless gas are the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

Elevated levels of this health hazard in homes, schools, workplaces, and other buildings can be prevented through these simple steps:

- **Test:** All buildings with or without basements should be tested for radon. Affordable Do-It-Yourself radon test kits are available online and at home improvement and hardware stores, or a qualified radon tester can be hired.
- **Fix:** EPA recommends taking action to fix radon levels at or above 4 picoCuries per Liter (pCi/L) and contacting a qualified radon-reduction contractor.
- **Save a Life:** 21,000 Americans die from radon related lung cancer each year, but by addressing elevated levels, you can help prevent lung cancer while creating a healthier home and community.

EPA continues to work with federal, state and local partners on the Federal Radon Action Plan to educate the public about the dangers of radon exposure.

More on how to test, find a qualified radon professional, obtain a test kit or contact your state radon office: <http://www.epa.gov/radon> or call 1-800-SOS-RADON

More information on the Federal Radon Action Plan: http://www.epa.gov/radon/action_plan.html

Radon Public Service Announcements (PSAs): http://www.epa.gov/radon/media_campaigns.html



News about the 45th National Conference on Radiation Control

The 45th National Conference on Radiation Control will be held at the Red Lion on the River, 909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, Oregon, May 20 – 23, 2013.



View from the Columbia River

This year's theme is "Protecting Public Health in a Changing Environment."

For all the latest information about the conference, go to <http://www.crcpd.org/2013AnnualMeeting>

Online registration is available; go to <https://crcpd.portal.daxko.com> to register online.



CRCPD Working Group Activities



Update from the G-2 Committee on Ionizing Measurements

By Bob Lommler (IL), Chair of G-2 Committee on Ionizing Measurements

The G-2 committee's efforts to reaccredit the South Carolina and Illinois laboratories have been negatively affected by the requirement for state radiation instrument calibration laboratories to do more with fewer resources and by the constantly changing regulations. The committee is working on a test inspection of the South Carolina DHEC laboratory in the fall of 2013 to test the changes to accreditation guidelines, inspection criteria, and inspection checklists. The committee expects to expand the scope of the program by adding certain Homeland Security instruments to the current health physics and x-ray instruments calibrated at these laboratories and by allowing automation of some operations to save manpower and increase productivity.



DO YOU HAVE UNWANTED RADIOACTIVE SOURCES?



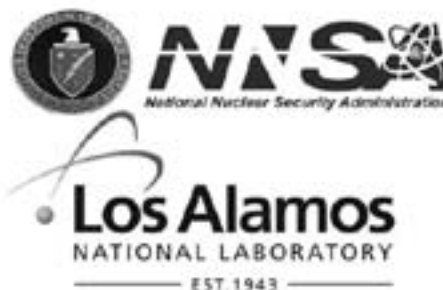
The Off-Site Source Recovery Project (OSRP) is sponsored by the National Nuclear Security Administration's Global Threat Reduction Initiative to eliminate excess, unwanted, abandoned, or orphan radioactive sealed sources from the environment that pose a potential risk to national security, health, and/or safety.

Licensees should register all excess and unwanted radioactive sealed sources with OSRP for recovery consideration.

For more information, please visit the OSRP website – osrp.lanl.gov.

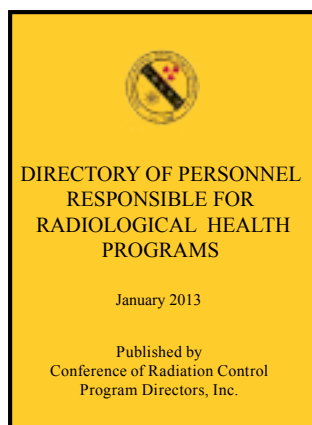
Off-Site Source Recovery Project
Los Alamos National Laboratory
PO Box 1663, MS E539
Los Alamos, NM 87545

(877) 676-1749 • osrp.lanl.gov



Directory Now Available

By Sue Smith, Executive Office
Manager



The 2013 *CRCPD Directory of Personnel Responsible for Radiological Health Programs* is available for purchase at the cost of \$55.00 each.



CRCPD Publications Manager Retiring

By Ruth McBurney, CRCPD
Executive Director



After serving 22 years with CRCPD's Office of Executive Director, our publications manager, Lin Carigan, is retiring, effective March 31, 2013. We truly appreciate all that Lin has done in assuring that our publications, including the *Newsbrief* as well as technical and informational documents published by CRCPD, are their most accurate. Lin brought

great editing skills to the position and worked well with authors in communicating at the appropriate level.

Lin also assisted the Mammography Committee in coordination of mammography training that was held in 1993, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012, in conjunction with the National Conference on Radiation Control, and in other committee activities. Shanna Farish wrote, "As current chairman of the Mammography Committee, I have a great sadness in my heart that Lin Carigan is retiring. I have known Lin for just about 20 years. She was our back bone through the "Mammography Working Group," which worked on the final regulations. The members definitely did all of the talking, but when it was done and over who knew what was said--it was Lin. She kept track of everything. I thought she was the greatest then, but now on the Mammography Committee, I realize I did not even come close to understanding the potential of that woman!"

Shanna also remarked on Lin's mammography training coordination, "Attending the training programs, everything is in place and taken care of. But, being part of the planning for the programs is a different story. All members do their parts, but it is Lin Carigan that put everything together and made the programs successful. Lin Carigan's retirement is a great loss for the Mammography Committee. No one will ever be able to replace her commitment and expertise to the committee."

Over the years, the Mammography Committee (including Lin) has received Meritorious Service and Outstanding Achievement awards for the mammography training. Twice during her time with CRCPD, she received the Charles M. Hardin Award for Exemplary Performance, given to a member of the Office of Executive Director →

Lin Carigan Retiring

(Continued)

staff who has made significant contributions, beyond normal expectations, that furthered the goals and objectives of CRCPD.

In Lin's words, "I have worked with some really great people, I have gotten to travel to a number of really nice places, and I was given opportunities to extend the scope of my skills." However, after 22 years, she is looking forward to spending more time with her horses, cats, dogs, and family. We wish her the very best for the next phase of her life and congratulate her on retirement from CRCPD.



CRCPD Board of Directors

Board position	Name	State	Work Phone	E-mail address
Chairperson	Earl Fordham, CHP.....	Washington	509/946-0234.....	earl.fordham@doh.wa.gov
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The Newsbrief is written to address the needs of all radiation control program personnel. Readers are encouraged to contribute newsworthy or informative items for the Newsbrief, with neither charges nor stipends for the items that are selected. News of state radiation control programs is especially sought.

Articles should be sent to CRCPD, Attn: Sue Smith, 1030 Burlington Lane, Suite 4B, Frankfort, KY 40601 (fax: 502/227-7862; email: <ssmith@crcpd.org>. The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month before an issue is to be published.

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