



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

NEWSBRIEF

www.crcpd.org

A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

December 2010

Message from Interim Chairperson Alice Rogers, PE



Dear Members:

I'll begin with wishing you and your families happy and safe holidays and good health and prosperity in the new year. 2011 is looking like it will be quite challenging for states.

I had the honor of representing CRCPD at a recent NRC-sponsored stakeholders meeting in Houston regarding possible adoption of the protection standards in ICRP Report No. 103. As you might imagine, the majority of the attendees were opposed to the adoption of the ICRP standards. This was a very preliminary step to NRC's rulemaking effort on this subject, and the entire process will take years to complete.

However you or your organization may feel about the ICRP's standards, it is so important that we comment, collectively and individually, absolutely every time there is an opportunity to do so.* On this particular topic, standards that NRC adopts will end up affecting not only the radioactive materials licensees, but in most states will also affect the radiation producing machine users as well, since in most states there is only one set of radiation protection standards, and those must be compatible with the NRC.

Other national rulemakings of interest that we must continue to comment on include the NRC's new Part 37 security requirements as well as changes to the radiological emergency response program at nuclear power plants in NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Rev. 1, Supplement 4.

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The Board will be planning the program for the annual meeting this week. The agenda is shaping up to be a great meeting. See you in Austin, Texas, in May!

*Editor's Note: NRC's Request for Comment was published in the September 27, 2010, issue of the Federal Register (Volume 75, Number 186).

Chairperson's Message *[Continued]*

Greetings from Your Executive Director



Ruth E. McBurney, CHP

A link to that notice is found at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-24137.pdf>. Send any comments you would like included in those from CRCPD to Robert Greger at Robert.Greger@cdph.ca.gov.



Like many busy people, as one year comes to a close, I usually purchase a new appointment calendar and mark the weeks that I know events are happening the following year. It looks like 2011 is already shaping up to be filled with many conferences and other events, with opportunities to network and learn how to handle the variety of issues on the plates of radiation control programs these days.

Check out the Calendar of Events on the CRCPD website—the events listed are linked to information and contacts on each of the conferences. An exciting conference on improving the connection and collaboration of radiological response and public health is being planned for March 21-24, 2011, in Atlanta. The title of the conference is “Bridging the Gaps: Public Health and Radiation Emergency Preparedness,” and is being planned by representatives from CDC and several public health organizations as well as CRCPD. See more information on this conference in the Save the Date article in this month’s *Newsbrief* and at the link on the Calendar of Events.

Since CRCPD provides liaisons to several other radiation-related organizations, we include the annual meetings of those organizations in our Calendar of Events as well. These include the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, the Health Physics Society, and the American Society for Radiation Oncology.

Another big event next year will be the National Conference on Radiation Control, which will be held in Austin, Texas, May 16-19, 2011. Since I am quite familiar with this city, I can state quite honestly that you will be pleased with the venue and all the things to do that Austin and the surrounding area have to offer in your spare time during the conference. Do mark your calendars for those dates.

The Technical Planning Committee is meeting in December to plan the agenda for the conference, which will not only include the latest healing arts, emergency response, homeland security,

Greetings from Your Executive Director

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environmental and regulatory topics, but also offer some great training courses. This year, a two-day training course on CT for inspectors, including hands-on training, will be offered right before the National Conference begins. Other training is also being planned as well, and the program is shaping up to be a great one.

In the coming year, we also will be heavily involved in several ongoing projects. Over the last several years, CRCPD has been gathering information from state programs regarding resources for emergency response, including trained staff, equipment, and laboratory capabilities. We plan to make the database of this information available for use by state programs as the need arises to share resources with other states for radiological preparedness capabilities.

CRCPD will continue to be involved in major national and international radiation issues, such as potential changes in basic radiation protection standards, and the rollout of the national Task Force on Source Security recommendations.

But as we come to the end of our 2010 calendar, it is time to pause and reflect on the accomplishments of this year. I am sure you can name a few in your program, as well as within CRCPD. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for the coming New Year.



Mini-Grant Announcement

By Jeggan Cole, CRCPD

Have you got a radon activity or partnership idea?

CRCPD will soon revive the mini-grant project, offering funds to a partner the state designates to receive from \$1,000 to \$5,000 dollars to conduct a radon project. The application process is a brief one page proposal. A completed report on the project outcome and expenditures is also a requirement at the project's completion. Checks are awarded directly to the partner applicant. Start thinking about this now if you plan to apply. The turnaround time will be brief.

A larger mini-grant project with a longer application period may also be announced later in the year. The mini-grants project is CRCPD's response to concerns voiced over the years by many state radon programs that have identified lack of staff, time and resources as key difficulties in running their state's radon

Mini-Grants

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CRCPD Working Group Activities



program and the difficulty of partnering with a local organization on a small innovative project because of the excessive paperwork required by their state accounting office.



SR-R Fall Activities

By Bob Stillwell, Chairperson (ME)

This fall, the Suggested Regulations-Part R (Radon) committee had two major activities. The first was in conjunction with the 20th National Radon Conference and Training in the middle of October. During the morning of the first day of that meeting, SR-R held a half-day of training on radon testing quality assurance. It was well received by the 20 or so people who attended. The training had been developed by the SR-R committee in the previous few months.

During the afternoon, all SR-R committee members and advisors who presented at the morning training assisted with Building Technical Capacity (BTC) training on radon fans and pipe flows. This was another successful endeavor.

In mid-November, the four members of SR-R met to review and draft comments on AARST RRNC 2.0, which had been released for public review just before the October radon conference. Many pages of notes were taken during the meeting, and several things discussed during the meeting needed follow up. After weeks of follow up and drafting of comments, the end result was that over 30 pages of comments covering 81 different items were submitted to the authors of RRNC 2.0.



Reducing Community Exposure to Radon: A Plan for Community Action

By Alicia Solice (CCAP-ERA)

Citizens for Clean Air in Pueblo for Education, Research, Action (CCAP-ERA) is a non-profit community organization whose mission is to protect the health and quality of life of residents of Southern Colorado. It works through paid staff, volunteers, community partnerships, and grant-funded projects to sponsor public education programs, data-gathering, and activities designed to reduce human exposure to toxic substances, primarily those present in air. It also strives to promote environmental justice among the diverse citizenry of Pueblo and Southern Colorado.

In 2006, CCAP-ERA received a Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Level I grant, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As a recipient of the CARE grant, CCAP-ERA was guided by the EPA through the CARE process, which involved first creating a broad-based community partnership of non-profit organizations, local government, small businesses, faith-based groups and neighborhood associations.

The next step was to identify the community's concerns, vulnerabilities, assets and needs for immediate action. A series of community educational sessions were held at the main library about each concern or issue that arose. Finally, the public was asked to rank, according to risk, all environmental concerns in order to determine the top issues needing to be addressed.

The data collected identified four indoor air quality topics as the most prominent public concerns: lead, mold, household hazardous waste/chemicals, and to the surprise of many in the organization, the number one concern among the residents of Southern Colorado was exposure to radon gas.

Under the cooperative agreement with the EPA, a coalition of 15 community entities was formed and called PuebloCAREs. This collaborative effort was used to address the four topics that had surfaced as community concerns. Through PuebloCAREs, a bilingual promotora (an indigenous community healthcare worker who links vulnerable Hispanic communities with vital healthcare services to facilitate lifestyle changes) was hired and became certified in residential radon measurement and mitigation.

The use of a promotora is ideal for low-income, minority and/or monolingual communities. A promotora should be someone who is educated on the topics of interest, familiar with, can identify with, and communicate well with the members of the communities to be educated, and can understand the overall resources and abilities

Reducing Community Exposure to Radon

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of the targeted neighborhood. As the project moved forward, education was coming to its capacity and a form of action was needed. Since testing and data analysis are not allowed under funds given or monitored by the EPA, a different route needed to be taken.

Funding given out by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) as the State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) was awarded to CCAP-ERA. This funding allowed for data collection, data analysis, mapping, and the purchase of radon test kits. With the aim of county wide data collection of radon test results, PuebloCAREs started out by raising awareness in a low-income minority neighborhood with defined boundary lines and a total of 200 occupied houses.

The targeted community was saturated with informational handouts, community presentations, and phone calls on the health effects of exposure to elevated levels of radon gas. Once a significant amount of test results were collected and elevated radon level were found in the neighborhood, a plan of action and a solution was needed in order to mitigate the homes.

Many homeowners were now aware of the risks of exposure to radon gas, but did not have the income to mitigate the problem. CCAP-ERA once again turned to funding given by CDPHE, this time using a combination of SIRG and Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funding, which comes from fines for local industrial permit violations.

This allowed for the mitigation of six homes to be used for teaching demonstrations for “Do-It-Yourself” radon mitigation classes that resulted in mitigation of an additional six homes. In 2008, CCAP-ERA was awarded a CARE Level II grant that is being used for the Pueblo Clean Indoor Air Initiative in a four-county area. PuebloCAREs, now with 20 community partners, continues to focus on radon, mold, lead, and HHW/chemicals.

In order to maintain momentum on radon gas exposure, education and testing, PuebloCAREs continued to offer free “Do-It-Yourself” radon mitigation classes along with free consultations with a radon professional for proper design and system installation. This combination allows for the homeowner to be educated on the radon, test his/her home, and where needed, take action at a fraction of the cost of hiring a mitigator to do the entire job. Homeowners may also request a free on-site

Reducing Community Exposure to Radon

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consultation with two certified residential mitigation providers, one of whom is our promotora, to assure proper design.

Throughout the entire growth of the CARE project, the keys to sustainability have been partnerships, educating the community at large, and gaining trust. Through public informational sessions, private staff meetings and training sessions, articles, free advertisements, or community events, CCAP-ERA has been able to reach over 5500 residents face-to-face.

Over 1200 homes have been tested and 220 mitigated as a direct result of our efforts. Radon awareness is alive and growing in Southern Colorado. Low-income communities are no longer left in the dark about environmental health hazards, because CCAP-ERA believes in social and environmental justice. Combining funds from different sources to achieve one goal has allowed this organization to chip away slowly at the devastating effects of a once unknown invisible killer.



Timely Renewal of Special Permits

By Russ Meyer, CHP,
CRCPD

Special Permit 11406 is currently under timely renewal and SP-10656 will expire on the last day of this year. Letters requesting renewal have been submitted to DOT in a timely fashion and both permits will be considered in timely renewal by DOT. Jim Williams of the DOT has advised that any authorizations issued while the permits are under timely renewal be accompanied by a copy of the appropriate letter requesting renewal.

A copy of the letters requesting renewal for SP-10656 and SP-11406 can be found on the CRCPD home page by selecting Radioactive Materials Services from the banner on the left hand side of the page and then Transportation from the drop down under that.

Please make sure a copy of the appropriate renewal request along with the authorization is given to the transporter of any shipment of materials being made under one of the Special Permits.



Save the Date for Bridging the Gaps Conference

The Bridging the Gaps: Public Health and Radiation Emergency Preparedness conference, sponsored by CDC and NAACHO, will be March 21 – 24, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Ravinia, in Atlanta, Georgia. The purpose of the conference is to prepare the public health and clinician workforce for radiological and nuclear terrorism. CRCPD representatives have been working with several public health and emergency management organizations as well as CDC and other federal agencies to develop a comprehensive program and resources for the conference. **The Registration Fee** for the conference is **\$250** if registered by February 25, 2011. To register, or for more information:

<http://www.cdcradiationconference.org/>



Our Wish for You in 2011

May peace break into your home and may thieves come to steal your debts.

May the pockets of your jeans become a magnet for \$100 bills.

May love stick to your face like Vaseline and may laughter assault your lips!

May happiness slap you across the face and may your tears be that of joy.

May the problems you had forget your home address!

In simple words . . .

May 2011 be the best year of your life!



CRCPD Board of Directors

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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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