



NEWSBRIEF

December 2005

A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

Message From Debra McBaugh, Chair



A Big Thank You from Your Chair!

Here at the quieter time of the work year, I want to talk about something important to me and to CRCPD. And that is YOU, our membership. Since the *NEWSBRIEF* is the only time I can communicate with all of you, I want to use it to thank you for your willingness to help CRCPD be the highly respected organization it is. In the past few months, many, many requests have come from federal agencies asking for a CRCPD member to be involved. We put out the requests for volunteers and you stepped up! We had more volunteers than we could use – very nice for us, perhaps a disappointment for you.

But whether you were chosen this time or not, please accept my heartfelt thanks. And those of you who, through my error, have not been contacted personally, please accept my apologies and accept these more public thanks. Throughout this busy time, I tried to keep a table of requests and volunteers, but both the requests and volunteers came in fast and furiously and I am sure I missed telling some of you how much I appreciated your volunteering.

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Chair's message

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Because so many competent people came forward, many times it was hard to select the final person. Once again I had proof of the most valuable characteristic of CRCPD; we are made up of highly qualified members who are willing to give of their time and energy.

Thank you, Thank you!
What a wonderful group of people you are!!

(For those of you who missed the emails, the topics included security of material, the Energy bill wherein NRC is given authority over NARM, DNDO/DHS workshops (Domestic Nuclear Detection Office/Dept. of Homeland Security), and Customs and Borders protection ANSI 42.40 (regarding x-rays used for monitoring.)

Think thoroughly, Speak thoughtfully, Decide slowly.



**ATHOMIC
INTERACTIONS**

By Thom Kerr (OED)
Executive Director



**Athomic Interactions #5:
My Year-End Holiday Bag**

Hello, all!

As 2005 winds to a close and the holiday season is upon us, it is always a good time to reflect on where we have been and where we are going. So this column is a mixed bag of goodies in that spirit.

“Skin that’n, Pilgrim, an’ I’ll get ye another!”

In keeping with my established tradition, I would like to share with you information on the “live grizzlies” that I am trying to skin right now or in the near future. Last time, I told you we were implementing a more complete project management system to assist us in planning and performing CRCPD’s work. That is going well so far. We have established new time-reporting methods, moved to a bi-weekly pay system, and are now gathering further data and information to move toward developing a realistic and effective long-range business plan.

We have gone through some huge changes organizationally over the last few months. The OED staff members have been particularly good through this time of rapid change. They had to deal with the change in the Executive Director (and getting used to my quirks,

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which, thankfully, are few), the reorganization of the OED to a functional matrix system, the retirement of Pat Gorman, the two big health crises that we had with Lin Carigan and Bruce Hirschler, the addition of Ed Lohr as Technical Support Officer (and getting used to his quirks, which, unfortunately, are not as few as mine), and all of the changes associated with the new project management system. I thank them for their patience and forbearance and willingness to change—I know that it is really not easy and they are handling it quite well. The staff members in the basement offices (variously referred to as “the dungeon” or “the people under the stairs”) also had to put up with a complete change of the carpet last week. Whew! Moving stuff around was tough, but it sure looks (and smells) better and the safety hazards (holes and torn seams) are now gone.

“...an’ another big’un!”

Last time I also told you that CRCPD is under considerable financial pressure for the coming year and that we have several initiatives in process to help alleviate the situation. We are in the final stages (keep your collective fingers crossed) of negotiations for at least two large new projects. While I cannot yet discuss the details, I will say that I am very excited about both. Hopefully, I will be able to announce them formally in our next issue.

Even so, it will continue to be a challenging year in 2006, but, with your assistance and patience, I believe that CRCPD will emerge stronger than ever and much better poised to continue to grow into the future.

“...an’ another!”

The 16th Annual National Radon Meeting, which was moved from New Orleans because of damage to the Hyatt from Hurricane Katrina, has been rescheduled for Kansas City, Missouri, on September 17-20, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center. We anticipate that attendance will be significantly higher than last year because of our active outreach to other national organizations involved in radon health issues; there may even be a follow-up to the Radon Summit held in Washington, DC on December 2, 2005 at that conference, which could involve about 10-15 large national organizations such as the Alliance for Healthy Homes, the American Lung Association, the Environmental Law Institute, the National Safety Council, and others.

By the way, if you are not actively involved in the radon field, there is a lot

ATHOMIC INTERACTIONS

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of top-quality work going on—if you have not recently read the research, you should. The linkage between lung cancer (particularly in people who have never smoked) and radon exposure at even relatively low levels has now been quite firmly established—the current scientific literature provides overwhelming and persuasive evidence. For more information, you should routinely visit the CRCPD website and browse the *Radon Bulletin*, which is updated regularly. I must admit that when I came to this issue, I was something of a skeptic—but, in my own defense, I will say I was an ignorant skeptic. However, after a careful consideration of the evidence from multiple scientific sources, I am now a more knowledgeable convert. My house has been tested (and will be regularly from now on)—has yours? Here at the OED offices in Frankfort, Kentucky, we also tested and, because of the high concentrations in the dungeon—I mean, basement offices—we ended up installing two radon mitigation systems. We are continuing long-term testing to ensure that we have an effective mitigation. As radiation control professionals, we should all take an active interest in this very important area—it is one in which we can make a real and immediate difference in people’s health risks.

Live grizzlies everywhere, but ...

...I’ve probably gone on long enough for this time. So, to be politically correct, take your choice of the following closings:

- ***Happy Holidays***
- ***Happy Kwanzaa***
- ***Season’s Greetings***
- ***Merry Christmas***
- ***Happy Hanukkah***
- ***Delightful Days-Off***
- ***Go, Seahawks!***



E-25 Committee on Radon meets

By Adrian Howe (NV),
Chairperson

The E-25 Committee met on November 15–16, 2005 in Louisville, KY. The committee discussed possible meeting sites in response to the cancelled contract for the 2006 National Radon Meeting in New Orleans because of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The committee decided on two potential sites that were researched by OED. The finalist for the site of the 16th National Radon Meeting is Kansas City, MO. The meeting will be held September 17-20, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center.

The committee reviewed critique sheets from the 15th National Radon meeting to determine participants’ needs, potential topics, and speakers.

E-25 Committee on Radon meets

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The first day of the national meeting was planned with John Mallon and Peter Hendricks, American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) representatives as that day is a joint day. AARST emphasized the need for a joint session on social marketing and, because social marketing is always a priority with state participants, potential papers and speakers were selected. In addition, the first day will include speakers and topics of interest to both groups of participants, including Environmental Protection Agency updates, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention radon efforts, Public Service Announcement (PSA) development, and National Council of State Legislatures outreach among others.

The committee discussed groupings of potential topics and speakers and developed the next two days of the agenda to include National Environmental Health Association/Radon Proficiency Program (NEHA/RPP) implications to state programs, difficult mitigation, device calibration, leaking fans, early radon program history, tribal programs, comprehensive state programs, and actions to achieve action training. Assignments were given to committee members to contact potential speakers.

The committee further discussed the need to encourage EPA to drop the Radon Mitigation Standard (RMS) that is due to expire in March 2006 and was retained when EPA adopted ASTM E2121. The RMS does not address many issues of mitigation and in some cases, is in disagreement with the ASTM E2121. The committee will check on current activities of EPA in this area and if necessary draft a letter encouraging the use of only ASTM E2121. It is hoped that this will address much confusion in the mitigation industry and among state programs.

The committee briefly discussed EPA's model state program initiative with discussion meant to provide advise to EPA and clarifications of intent provided by EPA.

See you all in Kansas City.



CIRMS meeting summary

October 24-26 2005

By Charles Ditmer (SC)

This was the first Council On Ionizing Radiation Measurements and Standards (CIRMS) meeting I have attended. The meeting was held at the six hundred acre National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) facility in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The meeting consisted of plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and student presentations. The breakout sessions involved presentations and discussions on Industrial Applications, Medical Applications, and Radiation Protection. The purpose of each

CIRMS meeting

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breakout presentation was to identify future measurements and standards needs to implement new technology. If the presenter is successful in identifying a priority need that justifies using the limited resources of CIRMS and NIST, then CIRMS adopts it as a Measurement Program Description (MPD) for expedited implementation. If CIRMS determines the need is not a priority, then the presenter must use less expedited paths, up to ten years in length, to obtain the measurement or standard they need.

With so many interesting topics in each session it was difficult to choose just one session. I focused on the Medical Applications and Radiation Protection sessions at the meeting. I did attend one industrial presentation, which was quite informative.

The CIRMS meeting is an international meeting. I was fortunate to briefly meet and share information with representatives from Brazil, Mexico, Great Britain, and Sweden. It was interesting to learn that some of the scientific issues that they have are similar to those issues we face in the United States.

In summation, the presentations and discussions in this meeting were very informative and useful. The meeting facilities were excellent and the \$230.00 registration fee was certainly reasonable.

Observations of Sessions and Presentations

While at this meeting I made several contacts. Mark Murphy and Daniel Sisk both work for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and are very dedicated and knowledgeable in the calibration field. I also met with Dr. Charles Miller. Dr. Miller is a Branch Chief with the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention.

One of the highlights of this meeting was the student presentations. Eric Burgett is from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Nuclear Engineering Department. Mr. Burgett's presentation was Radionuclide Identification Using Plastic Scintillators.

For a summary of the topics presented and additional information, please visit the CIRMS website at www.cirms.org.

**National Radon Summit**

By Thom Kerr (OED),
Executive Director

On December 2, 2005, I had the pleasure of attending the National Radon Summit sponsored by the Alliance for Healthy Homes with assistance by the EPA Office of Radiation and Indoor Air. There were over 40 attendees from many national organizations with varying levels of interest and a wide variety of expertise in radon issues. Other attending organizations included the American

National Radon Summit

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Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists, the American Lung Association, the Environmental Law Institute, the Children's Health Network, the National Safety Council, Habitat for Humanity International, the American Public Health Association, and the National Radon Safety Board among others.

Morning presentations included the state of the science in radon issues, communicating risk and changing behavior, and perspectives on current public policy on radon. We were also honored with the attendance of Bill Werhum, the new EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation. Although he is fairly new in his job, he gave a very concise and informative overview and his perspective on the radon issue. Clearly, he is very knowledgeable about radon and is very committed to finding ways to reduce radon exposure and increase the public's knowledge and understanding of the issue.

The afternoon sessions were small group breakouts on various aspects of public policy such as identifying and motivating target audiences, crafting and delivering effective messages, and affecting state and local policies. Later, the small groups came back together to report and the main group tried to determine common themes and elements for developing a national strategy and securing commitment to the goals of reducing lung cancer deaths by reducing radon exposures.

There was a great deal of interest in continuing the good work started here; it certainly helped to raise the awareness of radon issues with some groups that do not normally or routinely deal with them. At the conclusion, we talked about possible future meetings and I offered the National Radon Meeting in September 2006 as a natural place to convene again to discuss progress in the meantime.



Name	Effective Date of Retirement
Yvonne Herman	10/31/05
Paul Lohaus, NRC	10/31/05
Harlan Keaton (FL)	11/30/05
Ray Dielman (FL)	11/30/05

On behalf of the CRCPD membership, we extend a special thanks for your involvement in the CRCPD.



CRCPD Board of Directors

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Member-at-Large.....	Jay Hyland.....	Maine	207/287-5677	jay.hyland@maine.gov
Member-at-Large.....	Tommy Cardwell.....	Texas.....	512/834-6688 X 2036	thomas.cardwell@dshs.state.tx.us

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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: Curt Hopkins, 205 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601 (fax: 502/227-4928; e-mail: <chopkins@crcpd.org>. The deadline for contributions is the fifteenth of the month before an issue is to be published.

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