

RADON STATE DATA EXCHANGE WORKGROUP MEETING

APRIL 20, 2011 – 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM (EDT)

CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION: 1-866-299-3188; 202-343-9427

ON THE CALL:

Name	Organization
Bill Long	EPA
Peggy Bagnoli	EPA – Co-chair
Lou Witt	EPA – Alternate Co-Chair
Patricia Gardner	New Jersey
Anita Kopera	New Jersey
Herbert Roy	New Jersey
Jorge Laguna	Florida
Ellen Trevino	Texas
Mike Brennan	Washington
Henry Slack	Region 4

AGENDA

Introductions

Status - Where we are to date (Bill)

- The goal of the meeting is to get approval from the states to move forward.
- We've had demonstrated EPA's Exchange Network and CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. The demos were to give states a better sense of how data can be shared and used after collection.
- Realities:
 - With extreme budget cuts, there is no money or people to do a map. The shared database is an alternative approach of using shared resources that through time can produce rich, versatile data sets.
 - States don't have any resources either. Moving towards a shared database needs to be budget neutral and comparable to existing state databases.
 - Since we have not yet identified which network (EPA or CDC) to use, the only resource we're asking for is about 3 hours a month of state staff time to participate in the workgroup. The workgroup will create the schema (common data elements and data dictionary).
- We'll have a parallel track to identify the platform and the "where" the database will live.
- EPA and CDC both understand the states' fiscal constraints and want the least burdensome way to achieve the shared database. The intent is to have states share only the agreed upon data to "database" - wherever it may be housed.
- Benefits of a Shared Database:
 - Potential grant opportunities to help establish new databases for states or assist in pushing existing data to the shared database.
 - Provides ways to connect to other parts of the state that you may not have tapped into as a resource.
 - Create better and more accurate data set.
- EPA does not want to invest in this effort unless the states want to move forward and explore the possibilities of a shared radon database.

Open Discussion:

- Jorge Laguna (FL) is all for moving forward. He assumed that since a small group of states already provided the data they collect to EPA that the workgroup was well under way. He also mentioned that reporting to EPA is mandatory in order to get state grants, so the shared database is a logical progression.
- Mike Brennan (WA) wants a copy of the *Radon State Data Exchange (RSDX): Exploring the Sharing of Information* document e-mailed to all participants. He mentioned that his inclination is to move forward with CDC as the host for the RSDX since radon is more of a “health” risk than an “environmental” risk. Folks looking for information on lung cancer on CDC site, they can tie it to radon exposures. Mike also mentioned that the data can eventually be used to answer questions on uncertainties about radon and may require workgroup to revisit how information is collected.
- Pat Gardner (NJ) also voiced a strong opinion of moving towards posting the shared data on CDC website. She mentions that radon can be perfectly laid out in the categories already established by the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. She also mentions that CDC has a call for data twice a year that would be an easy and less burdensome approach for states.
- Ellen Trevion (TX) mentioned that she needs to get management buy-in and it would help to get a short one-pager or document that she can use to brief management. She also prefers to move forward using CDC resources. She also wants the group to consider the QA/QC process as we develop the shared database to ensure that there are checks on test kits and results.

Where do we go next: Are the states on board with this effort?

- All states on the call agreed to explore the possibilities of developing a shared database using CDC’s EPHTN as the foundation. The group also agreed to have biweekly conference calls/webinars starting May 4th from 2:00-3:30 EDT.
- Peggy Bagnoli (EPA) mentioned that CDC is having their annual EPHTN Content Workgroup meeting in NY next week. Missouri EPHTN submitted a proposal to already include “radon” as part of the national EPHTN. Greg Kearney (CDC) or Roger Gibson (MO EPHTN) can provide additional information at our May 4th meeting.

Next Steps:

- Peggy Bagnoli will send an invite for the bi-weekly meetings starting May 4th. The states listed below will be the primary contacts for the workgroup. Others who are interested should contact Peggy Bagnoli.

EPA Region 1	Connecticut	EPA Region 6	Texas	CDC
EPA Region 2	New Jersey	EPA Region 7	Iowa Kansas Missouri Nebraska	EPA HQ
EPA Region 3	Pennsylvania	EPA Region 8	Colorado	
EPA Region 4	Florida North Carolina South Carolina	EPA Region 9	Nevada	
EPA Region 5	Minnesota	EPA Region 10	Washington	

- States should contact their EPHTN counterparts and show support for Missouri EPHTN’s proposal of adding radon as a national indicator.
- States that collect data should send their data elements/fields to Peggy Bagnoli prior to May 4th.
- Peggy Bagnoli will send out a summary of the Radon State Data Exchange that states can use to brief their management.