

U.S. Federal Radon Action Plan: Current and Proposed Initiatives

Agency	Current Rn Actions	Federal Rn Action Plan
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) ^{1,2}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA agreement/support for Cooperative Extension Service (CES) Healthy Homes outreach, poster contest, Rn action week, etc. • Developed Rn guidance for federal land managers, specifically <i>Rehabilitating Affordable Rural Housing</i>^{3,4} 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate (none specified) • Address Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA will develop working agreements with nonprofits that can assist 504 home repair grantees and loan recipients in funding mitigation efforts whenever Rn is found at ≥ 4 pCi/L action level • USDA will educate Rural Housing Guarantee Program lenders and State Housing Finance Authorities about Rn risks and encourage the testing of Zones 1 and 2 existing homes • USDA will leverage financing through renovation/repair programs and essential community programs to test and mitigate radon in schools and daycare facilities • Build Demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES will focus testing outreach on new and existing Rural Housing financed properties • USDA will educate multifamily housing developers about Rn risks and what construction mitigation strategies can be used when Rn is found • USDA will promote Rn testing and mitigation through Rural Development's Housing and Community Facilities Programs
U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) ⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOD currently has an active program to test housing stock, and to mitigate if levels are found to be at or above the EPA 4 pCi/L Rn action level • The DOD <i>Unified Facilities Guide Specifications</i>⁶ address Rn testing and mitigation. Rn testing and mitigation are also incorporated into three sets of active DOD building criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate (none specified) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOD will develop a communications campaign to educate all personnel – living both on and off base – about the health risks associated with radon exposure and solutions to address these risks • Address Finance (none specified) • Build Demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOD will review and update, as appropriate, the Unified Facility Criteria to reflect current standards for Rn measurement, mitigation, and Rn-resistant new construction for low rise buildings (e.g., multifamily, schools, daycare facilities) • DOD will identify the universe of low-rise buildings in EPA Zone 1 areas and, for those buildings not previously addressed, develop a testing and mitigation plan for those at or above the EPA's 4 pCi/L action level

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² Rural Development contact: (unknown)

³ Cannot locate a USDA publication by this title

⁴ EPA's *Protecting People and Families from Radon* claims USDA also developed *A Guide for Financing Radon Mitigation to Reduce Exposure in Existing Housing* but this appears to be a [document developed by the Alliance for Healthy Homes](#) under an EPA Cooperative Agreement

⁵ DOD contact unknown

⁶ For more information, see www.wbdg.org/ccb/DOD/UFC/ufc_4_740_14.pdf

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<p>U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)⁷</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting field study on weatherization and Rn levels in homes through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)⁸ • WAP’s new Program Guidance permits Weatherization crews to test for Rn⁹ • Rn measures are addressed in DOE’s “Workforce Guidelines for Home Energy Upgrades” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate (none specified) • Address Finance (none specified) • Build Demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOE will finish Rn study as part of the National Evaluation to determine whether the WAP impacts Rn levels in homes • DOE will test various remediation protocols to determine what level of effort is required when Rn is discovered in a home or when the level rises after WAP services are delivered • DOE will add healthy homes curriculum to WAP training requirements that includes Rn identification and remediation protocols • DOE will include training, described above, as part of DOE’s routine health and safety training such that every worker in the WAP network will be trained over the next 2 years
<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)¹⁰</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) co-authored the <i>Citizen’s Guide to Radon</i> with EPA • National Institutes of Health (NIH) have conducted Rn research, including occupational and residential research on the health effects of indoor Rn, and an updated analysis of miner Rn exposure data • NIH contributed to the National Academy of Sciences’ Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR), Reports IV and VI and participated in the North American Residential Radon pooling study • NIH gave testimony on Rn health risk to the President’s Cancer Panel • The Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) issued a “National Health Advisory on Radon” in 2005, and included Rn in its 2009 “Call to Action to Promote Healthy Homes” • OSG coordinated with EPA on public service announcements highlighting the Surgeon General’s 2005 advisory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHS will work to increase Rn awareness among states participating in the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (CDC Division of Cancer Prevention and Control) • HHS and EPA will explore including Rn in environmental health tracking (CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health) • HHS will update the current Toxicological Profile for Radon (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) • Address Finance (none specified) • Build Demand (none specified)

⁷ DOE WAP contact: (unknown)

⁸ The overall WAP evaluation, of which Rn is a small part, is described at weatherization.ornl.gov/evaluation_nr.shtml Follow and search for radon to see more details.

⁹ WJA believes this guidance is found in www.waptac.org/data/files/website_docs/government/guidance/2011/wpn_11-6.pdf

¹⁰ HHS contact: (unknown)

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<p>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)¹¹</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUD incorporated Rn into its healthy homes strategic plan, <i>Leading Our Nation to Healthier Homes</i>. HUD's Office of Healthy Homes is seeking increased collaboration with other HUD offices that oversee housing assistance and mortgage programs to promote Rn testing and mitigation. • A Radon and Mold Release Agreement (HUD-9548-E) is required in all sales contracts for HUD-acquired single family properties • A HUD form, discussing Rn and home inspections (HUD-92564-CN), is required¹² to be provided by mortgagees to prospective homebuyers at first contact for all new transactions involving single family FHA mortgage insurance on existing property • HUD Section 203(k) mortgage financing program is HUD's primary tool for rehabilitating and improving single family homes (allows) home buyers to finance purchase and repair or improvement of a home using a single mortgage loan; reducing Rn levels in a home can be financed¹³ through the Section 203(k) program) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUD will incorporate Rn testing and mitigation into as many agency programs as possible to include public and other assisted housing • HUD will prepare a plan within the next 18 months to collect Rn test results as part of its ongoing inspection protocol of public and assisted housing as the first step in conducting a baseline study of its housing stock • Address Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUD's Power Saver Loan Program¹⁴ will make Rn mitigation an explicitly eligible/allowable expense within the 25% non-energy related set-aside • Build Demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUD's Healthy Homes Production Program grantees will check for sources of radiation, such as from Rn, as required by HUD's Healthy Homes Rating Tool. Mitigation is required for high Rn levels
<p>U.S. Department of Interior (DOI)¹⁵</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a Rn policy for measurement and mitigation for owned or leased buildings and non-public water sources • The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a Hazard Communication Program which provides a framework for providing health and safety information and training for special emphasis programs, including Rn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOI will send a message on the hazards of Rn to its approximately 70,000 employees • Address Finance (none specified) • Build Demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOI, through the National Park Service, will test approximately 5,000 residential units for Rn • DOI, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, will test approximately 3,500 residential units and 500 schools, and will work with Tribes to increase awareness of the Rn risk
<p>U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)¹⁶</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VA Home Loan Guaranty program tends to be guided by HUD policy on Rn testing and mitigation • VA is reviewing its real estate valuation/appraisal procedures to account for Rn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate (none specified) • Address Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) will promote Rn testing and mitigation through a comprehensive disclosure of the Rn health risk to borrowers • VA will explore providing a radon mitigation cost set-aside through its Home Loan Guarantee program • Build Demand (none specified)

¹¹ HUD contact: (unknown)

¹² Since circa 2004

¹³ Circa 1992 research by NJ indicated that there is little demand for mitigation loans although the fact that FHA 203(k) financing is available may indirectly help to increase the acceptability of mitigation in the lending community (WA)

¹⁴ Pilot program under Federal housing Administration (FHA); \$25,000 per creditworthy homeowner, 5 to 7%, 20 years

¹⁵ DOI WAP contact: (unknown); DOI has had a long history of testing DOI owned or leased facilities for Rn and published the results of their Rn efforts (unlike many other federal agencies)

¹⁶ VA contact: (unknown)

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<p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)¹⁷</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA provides the scientific foundation on Rn, and facilitates the development of technical guidance, protocols and standards needed for risk reduction • EPA provides \$8 million in radon grants to states and tribes each year to fund state-wide Rn risk reduction programs • EPA supports outreach and education campaigns, as well as partnerships with states, tribes, NGOs and the Rn services industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA, HUD, USDA, and HHS will collaborate on an interagency Rn outreach initiative that builds on existing campaigns addressing home-based risks and or healthy homes • EPA, HUD and USDA will engage the philanthropic community to support Rn risk reduction in the context of their support for local healthy homes programs • EPA and Treasury will work together to facilitate the deductibility of Rn testing/mitigation costs within Health Spending Accounts • Address Finance (none specified) • Build Demand (none specified)
<p>U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)¹⁸</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSA conducts Rn testing in all of its leased and new-owned buildings. If levels are found to be at or above the EPA Rn action level of 4 pCi/L during testing, the property must be mitigated and retested following the mitigation¹⁹ • Rn services are included in two GSA Schedules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate (none specified) • Address Finance (none specified) • Build Demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSA will explore testing for Rn and mitigating high levels in childcare facilities through the Federal Real Property Program • GSA will promote professional Rn services to federal tenants

¹⁷ EPA staff contact: Katrin Kral Kral.Katrin@epamail.epa.gov 202-343-9454

¹⁸ GSA contact: (unknown)

¹⁹ GSA has had an active Rn testing and mitigation program since 1989 but unfortunately not much of this work has been published.