

**Radon Data Exchange
Initial Planning Meeting**
Friday December 17, 2010
1:00-2:30 EST

Draft Meeting Notes

Participants:

Pat Gardner, Robert Lewis, Jorge Laguna, Aimee Morrow, James Kelly, Kelli Steward, Bob Haskins, Derry Stover, Sara Morgan, Kris Schwartz, Rick Welke, Summer Sepulveda, Mike Brennan, Patsy Brooks, Michael Compher, George Brozowski, Peggy Bagnoli, Lou Witt, Jack Hughes, Brian Hanson, Gloria Linnertz, Florence Tansy Cua-Christman, Steve Tucker, Jack Barnette, Josh Miller, Clark Eldridge

Welcome and Overview:

Peggy Bagnoli, USEPA, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the call. She and Lou Witt, USEPA, provided an overview of the initiative, which, they explained, intended to launch a partnership between EPA HQ, States, EPA Regions, and other Radon practitioners to use data more effectively and efficiently toward radon risk reduction. The initiative is meant to connect with on-going efforts at tracking radon data in States, Regions, and industry, and to provide a structure around a long standing need for more useful data management.

Stacie Smith, a USEPA contractor and facilitator for the call, provided an overview of the agenda, and reiterated the goals for the call, which are to:

- provide an overview of Radon Data Exchange Initiative
- agree on the purpose of the effort and need to share radon data
- outline a path forward to (1) approve the Radon Data Exchange Charter, (2) identify common data elements, and (3) recruit states to test and roll out radon data exchange.

Developing a Shared Purpose

The call was then opened to participants to share their perspectives on their needs for shared data and the potential benefits for the field.

- Education for the public: there is very little accurate, local information on radon risks, and this could show people how close to home radon really is, to motivate them to test
- Tool for comparability across states, to focus on areas needing attention
- Help to target resources where needed
- If have this data here, you could compare it easily and find any problems.
- Make reporting easier for regulated industry operating in multiple states
- US EPA map is being used, so it ought to be updated
- Allows for advances in how we can handle data. Can compare tests year by year to see if they are going up, see if radon levels are increasing, and others. This provides an ability to turn data into information to make decisions better than ever, and to make the data easily usable

- Makes national data available: for example, if an engineering firm needs to collect national data. For Legislative purposes, or Environmental Reviews
- New codes are coming out which reference the EPA Map for decisions on whether to require testing, RRNC, etc – need more accurate source for information for those decisions
- Can allow for more specific, local data
- Data for annual reports: Standardize way of reporting, benefit businesses who are reporting to multiple states. Benefits EPA in terms of time needed to sort through data
- Focus limited resources on areas with greatest risk
- Gathered once at national level, frees people up to do other radon tasks
- If we collect sufficient data, people who could comp up with info we didn't even know was available
- Link to existing initiatives, provide guidance from a national level to save States time in creating their own databases
- Needs to incorporating into other state tracking needs
- An avenue for getting data that is needed in a simple and timely manner – for example, I needed data on radon levels on mobile homes, couldn't get it
- So valuable to present the facts for advocacy purposes, get the public and politicals more on board with education, national attention
- Laboratories very enthusiastic about a standard way and place to report the data. Not 50 data streams; generated nationally
 - But states have specific requirements, regulated states have to collect more and may not be able to share it all
- Would be great if labs submit the same data to every state
- EPA needs people to work smarter. Some states and orgs might benefit more.
- If we don't do something, someone else will. Some companies have their own maps, based only on the data from their 1 company. This is not an unbiased source, and we don't want that to become the standard people turn to.

Concerns

- Find out what people are looking for. Some huge problems figuring out how to do that, how standardized, how good the data is, where it is coming from. So many variables, a very large task. Needs to be easy and standard enough to be useful.
- Not sure what it buys us as a data-rich regulated state
- Raises a need for improved device protocols and making sure the devices work, so that we know that the data is accurate.
- Is the goal that all states have to participate? We have state regulations and mandates and invest in updating and using it. We haven't been asked what we collect. We don't want to have to change, don't want it to go to EPA first, want it to come to the State first.
- Need to figure out what everyone is collecting. We wouldn't expect everyone to collect everything we do.
- Draw from existing databases

- Suggest starting with laboratories and what they report
 - Yes, but need to figure out what we're asking them for!!
- Who will be holding the data, and what will the privacy be? We have no privacy. EPA or a non-profit partner? Depends...2 types, restricted and unrestricted
- How individual state laws will be dealt with restricting data sharing?

Working Group Participation

Members of the Working Group should meet the following characteristics:

- Interested and enthusiastic
- Have data or developing databases
- Available for 2x month meetings
- Geographic and diversity representation
- Manageable total number of participants (under 20)

Next Steps:

- Compile feedback from this meeting, draft up a charter that clarifies the goals and objectives of the initiative.
- Send it to call participants for their review
- Determine the Working Group – let Peggy know if you want to participate
- Pick a date for the first Working Group meeting in mid-January
- Set up a Webinar demo with the Exchange Network so people can see how it might work. (the Exchange Network makes this very simple on the IT front).