PA Radon Program
Denise Bleiler, Supervisor
Bureau of Radiation Protection

EPA Region III Stakeholder Meeting
June 25, 2019
• **Program Manager – Bob Lewis**
  - Gail Ramsey
  - MT- vacancy
  - Summer Intern- John

• **Certification Section**
  - Maria Coons - Supervisor
  - Jamie Ruminski
  - Vacancy

• **Monitoring Section**
  - Denise Bleiler - Supervisor
  - Ryan Fox
  - Vacancy
• **SERO inspectors**  ~ 5 inspectors
  – Kathy King
  – Bethany Piper
  – Tori Parker
  – John Kime
  – Dennis Kutz
  – Serena Groff
  – Ben Jenkins

• **SWRO inspectors**
  – Alyssa Oskin
  – Brandi Kautz
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cert Type Desc</th>
<th>Radon Cert Id COUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TESTING INDIVIDUAL</td>
<td>484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MITIGATION INDIVIDUAL</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABORATORY INDIVIDUAL</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABORATORY FIRM</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>TESTING FIRM</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>MITIGATION FIRM</td>
<td>55</td>
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</table>

June 6, 2019
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>Number of Tests per distinct address-Homes</th>
<th>Number of Mitigations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>82,039</td>
<td>13,145</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>84,402</td>
<td>13,299</td>
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</table>

- all locations (basement, first floor, etc.)
- all house types
- all measurement devices
• NRAM – PSA, Social media, U-tube mitigation,  
  – PSATS article
• Mason-Dixon Community Fair – Dec 2018
• Berks Co (Nov 2018) and Lehigh County (March 2019)  
  RE&B Symposium
• Home Show – Feb-March 2019
• Lehigh Valley Aging Expo – April 2019
• Events with DOH  
  – LCS event – March 2019  
  – PA Cancer Conference – April 2019  
  – Lung Expo – May 2019 - SWRO
PA Radon Division - ongoing projects

• Newborn and Remedial
• DOH / ALA / CAB-PCC
• Performance Evaluations
• DATA
  • Power BI
  • Application-Cleansing-Warehouse-Delivery
  • Jen Gumert – Radon App
American Lung Association (ALA) – Targeted Surveys

- Targeted counties with few results (2011 - 2014)
- Targeted Municipalities with areas of over 100 pCi/L (2014 - present)

- Included schools in 2017 – successful
  - Paul Houle School’s Course
    » 13 School Districts
    » Distributed 4298 test kits

- This year – Letter offered test kit through ALAFREEKIT link on their web
2019 ALA Targeted Survey Participants

LINK to free test kits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Date responded</th>
<th>Date letter went out</th>
<th>Number addresses on spreadsheet</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bald Eagle TWP</td>
<td>Clinton Co</td>
<td>11-29-2018</td>
<td>1-18-2019</td>
<td>768</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin Park Borough</td>
<td>Allegheny Co</td>
<td>1-25-2019</td>
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<td>5235</td>
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<td>Fairview TWP</td>
<td>Luzerne Co</td>
<td>2-22-2019</td>
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<td>1690 Hold by ALA, IT issue resolved</td>
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<td>Penn TWP</td>
<td>Berks Co</td>
<td>1-17-2019</td>
<td>1-30-2019</td>
<td>791</td>
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<tr>
<td>White TWP</td>
<td>Indiana Co</td>
<td>1-24-2019</td>
<td>Newsletter ~ end of March MAY</td>
<td>? 6,025 ? Permission for Newsletter</td>
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<td>Scott TWP</td>
<td>Columbia Co</td>
<td>2-26-2019</td>
<td>3-11-2019</td>
<td>1929</td>
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10,413 letters sent + one newsletter

~ 35 – 40 % participation
• CAB/PCC- Dec 2018 – working on new Ca Control Plan
  – Increase number of radon mitigations
    • GOAL 4 – Lung Cancer Reduction
**Goal 4: Prevent Lung Cancer from Environmental Exposure**

**Tobacco Cessation Strategies**

1. Advocate for smoking cessation as part of employee orientation. *PSE*
2. Integrate current cessation aid/resources and assisted referrals (text to quit, online quit coach, websites) into cessation programming.
3. Promote multi-component interventions that include counseling and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) in the adult population, including older adults and cancer survivors.
4. Reduce client out of pocket expenses by securing comprehensive cessation coverage for private/public insurance and Medicaid. *PSE*
5. Increase tobacco cessation by educating providers on all quit smoking products.

**Radon Abatement Strategies**

1. Increase awareness of the effects of radon as it relates to lung cancer.
2. Promote proven techniques to reduce exposure to radon by seeking sponsors to fund low-income radon mitigation and testing. *PSE*
3. Increase community access to radon testing by developing local programs to test and mitigate low income housing through private and public partnerships and home inspection agencies.
4. Reduce exposure to radon in new or existing construction by embedding radon risk reduction in state and local building codes. *PSE*
5. Increase the capacity of health care providers and staff to ask about radon testing in the patient’s home and provide educational and testing resources. *PSE*
6. Increase testing in non-real estate transactions by promoting radon awareness to medical, public health and childcare communities.
Nate Burden – proposed pilot plan

**MOVES** for Radon EJ (Environmental Justice) Cancer Reduction: Allegheny County- Homewood and Wilkinsburg Communities

Minority-low Income Operational Viable Economic Solutions for Radon EJ Cancer Reduction

Testing to take place – early JULY 2019

(CCI challenges) funding timeline
• Partners:
  • PA AARST - Nate Burden – Chapter President
  • PA DOH – Joanna Stoms – CDC **workplan goal** to increase number of mitigation systems installed by 200 for 2018-2019 (connection with PA Cancer Control Plan GOALS)
  • CCI – Conservation Consultants, Inc, Alison Steele – identify communities in need
  • CR3 – Citizen’s for Radioactive Radon Reduction, Jackie Nixon – Outreach
  • PA DEP – Denise Bleiler - Industry support – value added participation- CE credit for participation
Reducing the Risk from Radon:  
Information and Interventions

A Guide for Health Care Providers

Link to doc on PA LIVEHealthy website
• Re-entrainment Study – Contract with Brad Turk
  What affect does ground level exhaust have on re-entrainment back into the building?

• Advantages of ground level exhaust
  • Less visual impact
  • Greater operating efficiency and effectiveness
  • Increased fan operating life
  • Lower cost for installation
  • Less risk to installer than when installing tall pipes
PA Radon Division - Re-entrainment

- 10 Homes selected in Harrisburg area
- Systems installed by 2 local mitigators
- Data collection, analysis, and entry every 2 weeks by radon staff - very time consuming
• Open House – March 2019
  – 25 people attend
  – New mitigator – Integra, Tony Domingues
  – Discuss ambient monitors
    • May 2019 – placed 17 ambient OSL and AT around neighborhood
  – 3 new homes built
Update of Chapter 240 Radon Certification Regulations

- Final January 24, 2019

- First major update since 1991.

- Codify items that were previously incorporated by reference.

- Staff working on updating Cert booklet, inspection checklists

- New hardcopy Regulations sent out May 2019
– For PA study- Capstone/ Masters work with student from University of Penn-- placed duplicate Radonova (ATD) and duplicate Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) detectors in 62 PA counties, mostly in state parks.

– 55 State Parks- Due Dec. 2018

– 19 PA DEP staff and/or friends- Due Dec. 2018

– Report to Follow- still in progress
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