

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

DIVISION OF RADIATION CONTROL STATE INDOOR RADON GRANT

FY 2009 GOALS - END OF YEAR REPORT

RC ANNUAL RADON GOAL:

Continue the fundamental activities regarding the EPA Radon Grant.

Measures:

1. Promote New Home Construction with Radon Resistant Technology.
 - a. Promote and distribute information about radon resistant building technology to builders throughout the State. Give a presentation at the 2009 Home Builders Annual Conference in March 26th – 28th 2009 in St. George Utah.

STATUS: *DEQ instructor educated home builders about radon resistant new construction (RRNC) by exhibiting information at the Park City 2008 Trade Show on November 8, 2008 and the St. George Utah Builders Conference, March 26-28, 2009.*

- b. Promote radon resistant building technology to Home Builders Associations throughout the State using the video produced by the Center for Environmental Research and Technology, Inc. and sponsored by CRCPD and US EPA.

STATUS: *DEQ placed a one-year advertisement about its Radon Resistant New Construction course on the Utah Home Builders Association's Web site: <http://utahhba.com/>. Course instruction includes PowerPoint slides produced by the Center for Environmental Research and Technology, Inc. (CERTI).*

- c. Conduct radon resistant education course for contractors/home builders at local chapter meetings regarding the implementation of radon resistant construction techniques in new homes.

STATUS: *DEQ instructor educated home builders and home inspectors about radon resistant new construction. A total of four classes were held with approximately 40 participants from Bonneville Chapter Home Inspectors and the Utah Valley Home Builders Association. To increase attendance for future classes, approval was obtained to add Contractor Continuing Education (CE) Core Credits (3) to the course.*

2. Support Disclosure, Testing and Mitigation in conjunction with Real Estate

Transfers.

- a. Training; conduct at least 10 courses of "Radon for the Real Estate Professional", put on by the Department of Environmental Quality for continuing education by the Department of Commerce, Division of Real Estate. Actively solicit real estate agents and brokers when the aforementioned call for advice/information regarding radon.

STATUS: *DEQ conducted four CE classes entitled, "Radon for the Real Estate Professional." Course instruction included a PowerPoint slides produced by CERTI. Classes were held in Salt Lake, Summit, and Utah counties. A total of 57 professionals participated.*

3. Develop coalitions with Local Governments, partner affiliates and other radon risk reduction leaders.
 - a. Continue working with the 12 Local Health Districts. Outreach activities range from, providing information packets on radon, distributing radon test kits, conducting radon presentations, and testing radon levels in schools. The UDRC will request and encourage an individual from local health districts that receive pass through monies to attend a radon training class, either the "Radon for the Real Estate Professional" or a measurement course.

STATUS: *DEQ continued its partnership with the Local Health Districts. Three districts received pass-through monies totaling \$2,000, which was used to disseminate approx. 250 radon test kits, provided radon information to callers, and to test one school. A new partnership was formed with the Huntsman Cancer Institute to assess radon awareness in Utah. Time and effort has gone into planning and developing a Radon Awareness Survey for FY2010.*

- b. Conduct outreach activities (to be determined) with the Utah Safety Council promoting radon awareness and radon testing during the month of January 2009.

STATUS: *DEQ collaborated with the Utah Safety Council to promote radon awareness and testing during the 2009 National Radon Action Month. The state's Radon Poster Contest drew in 138 entries from students, ages 9-14, from eight schools throughout Utah. The Utah Safety Council provided cash awards to be given to the three state radon poster contest winners and one school. The winning posters were entered into the National Radon Poster Contest.*

A press conference was held in Governor Huntsman's Office wherein he declared January 2009 as Radon Action Month and recognized the state Radon Poster Contest winners. The winning posters were posted on DEQ's Radon Web site: www.radon.utah.gov. During January, KODJ and KOSY radio stations promoted

the radon campaign, KSL-TV and KUTV News spotlighted the dangers of radon gas, and The Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News both carried news articles about Radon Action Month.

- c. Provide assistance when requested by tribal organizations throughout Utah (specifically, the Piute tribe and the Shoshone tribe).

STATUS: *No assistance was requested.*

- d. Continue partnership with Intermountain Health Care (IHC) newborn radon packet that started back in December 2003 (FY04).

STATUS: *DEQ continued its IHC newborn program by distributing coupons for free test kits via partnership with IHC newborn programs, resulting in the dissemination of approximately 371 radon test kits.*

- e. Expand newborn radon packets to other area hospitals including: St. Mark's Hospital and the University of Utah Hospital System.

STATUS: *DEQ's Newborn Radon Program was expanded to include IHC pre-natal educational classes as well as newborn education.*

- f. Create, print, and distribute radon information to each library within the State of Utah for education and resource materials concerning radon.

STATUS: *DEQ offered radon information and free radon educational classes to all Salt Lake County libraries. As a result, two radon classes are scheduled. During January, the Whitmore County Library displayed information about radon and exhibited 138 entries from the Radon Poster Contest. In spring 2009, the Salt Lake County Library Services Newsletter carried an article about radon and the 2009 Radon Poster Contest Winners, which was distributed throughout all county libraries. Salt Lake City Library provided Share Space for DEQ to disseminate radon information in the library from January 20 to February 2. The Utah State Pioneer Library for the Blind converted EPA's booklet, A Citizen's Guide to Radon" into braille and distributed the information to its patrons.*

- 4. Determine (track) and measure results with respect to awareness levels, testing frequency, mitigation, and radon resistant new construction.
 - a. Continue to inform the public about radon and the health hazard associated with exposure to elevated levels.

STATUS: *DEQ provided radon educational presentations to the following community*

groups: Spanish Fork Elder Quest, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Altius Health Care, and Midway Rotary Club. Approximately 150 people participated.

- b. Provide educational opportunities to the general public, real estate professional, and homebuilders.

STATUS: *DEQ provided eight continuing education radon classes for real estate professionals and homebuilders, with approx. 100 participants.*

- c. Continue to track phone inquiries and distribute radon detectors and or literature to the citizens of Utah.

STATUS: *DEQ distributed approximately 1500 free radon detectors to Utahns, along with radon fact-sheet literature (includes the newborn radon program).*

- d. Track the number of homes tested for Radon by currently listed Radon Measurement Service providers and report to the EPA the number of mitigations performed by currently listed Radon Mitigation Providers in Utah. In addition, the UDRC will attempt to track and report to the EPA the number of homes built radon resistant based on information provided by local homebuilders.

STATUS: *DEQ collected data from certified laboratories servicing Utah (Alpha Energy, RSSI, and Air Chek) and found approximately 2,945 homes were measured and analyzed for radon gas, with 1,256 testing over 4.0 pCi/L. Utah certified mitigation service providers reported mitigating approximately 560 homes during FY2009.*

- e. Update DEQ's radon Web site.

STATUS: *DEQ's Radon Web site was updated to acknowledge home builders who have been trained in Radon Resistant New Construction and to recognize home builders who are currently building homes with radon resistant techniques. Other updates included new state requirements for radon mitigation professionals (SB 163 was passed in the 2009 Legislative Session) and the annual test results on the online zip-code tracking database.*

- 5. Testing and, where necessary, mitigating schools for radon and radon decay progeny.
 - a. When requested by School District administrators, inform them of the health hazard associated with exposure to radon and promote radon testing in schools. Have radon test kits available to school districts that care to test for radon.

STATUS: *Long-term radon testing was completed at Settlement Canyon Elementary, Tooele.*

6. Continue to work with the Division of Drinking Water, regarding the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, Radon in Water rule (as necessary).
 - a. Contingent upon when EPA provides its guidance document to States and Public Water Systems regarding the requirements to the multimedia program, and in coordination with the Division of Drinking Water, develop a multimedia mitigation program that is based on this guidance document for the State of Utah.

STATUS: *No updates.*

- b. Continue to encourage both Public Water Systems and Private systems to test their water for radon.

STATUS: *No updates.*