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## Once a Philistine...

In our last issue of Radon Today we told you that we would continue to follow a particular story and keep you updated. True to our word...

...It is the modern day story of David and Goliath. In the Bible story, Goliath was a Philistine giant. In our version, Goliath is the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and David is played by the American Radon Policy Coalition (ARPC). The ARPC is a non-profit subcommittee of the American Society of Radon Scientists and Technologists that has been working to get HUD to obey the law. In the Bible story, David kills Goliath with a sling shot. In our story, HUD ignores the ARPC, Congress and pretty much everyone else.

Now way back on May 20th, HUD Inspector General Kenneth Donohue was supposed to have an interim response to allegations brought by the ARPC that it is violating federal radon laws and has been for at least fifteen years.

Among the allegations (the one we find the most shocking) is that HUD "willfully concealed a radon testing protocol for multifamily housing developed...for the sole purpose of assisting HUD with the implementation of the McKinney Amendments." Now these amendments required HUD to "develop an effective departmental policy for dealing with radon contamination that utilizes any EPA guidelines and standards to ensure that occupants of federally assisted multifamily housing are not exposed to hazardous levels of radon."

In February 1995, the EPA did its job and gave HUD a guidebook called "Radon Measurement in HUD Multifamily Buildings." At the time, the EPA stated that this represented, "an important step towards achieving equitable protection from the health risks of radon for low income communities." Yeah right.

The ARPC's allegations allege that "At HUD's request, the document did not receive 'the same broad review typical for EPA radon documents, and, therefore, has not been approved for publication as an EPA document.'" And if, in 2003, a HUD employee had not leaked the fact that the guidebook even existed we would not have known.

So on June 29th, Kenneth Donohue finally responded by sending a letter to Senator Rick Santorum. In the letter Mr. Donohue wrote, "We now understand that due to the lengthy and complex issue and the possible policy ramifications, the issuance of the General Counsel's opinion has been indefinitely delayed." That boys and girls is the sound of a door closing.

Mr. Donohue continued, "Since it appears that HUD policy is involved, and my office has no authority to direct Departmental policy, I have decided that we will take no further action in regard to the radon testing issue pending the issuance of the General Counsel's opinion." That was the sound of a door being slammed shut.

Because Dallas Jones, Chairman of the ARPC, takes exception to having doors slammed in the radon industry's face, he took action by composing a letter which we have printed for you in this issue and which you are welcome to use to mail to however many senators or representatives you'd like. Read the letter over and if

you'd like to send any out please contact Dallas Jones at 1-800-295-4655. Be sure to let him know if you get any responses back from the letter.

### Fill In The Blank

The following is the letter that Dallas Jones, Chairman of the American Radon Policy Coalition sent out in August in response to Housing and Urban Development's non-response. If you'd like a copy to send out please contact Dallas at 1-800-295-4655. If you send any out please let him know if you get a response. Thank you.

Re: The indefinite suspension of the Inspector General's investigation into HUD's failure to comply with federal radon laws.



Dear Senator Blank,

I am writing to request your assistance in stopping yet another effort by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to sweep under the proverbial rug their ongoing failure to comply with federal radon laws. For 16 years, HUD has defiantly ignored legislation intended to protect the public from exposure to dangerous levels of the nation's 2nd leading cause of lung cancer.

In January of this year, on behalf of the American Radon Policy Coalition, Senate members requested the HUD Office of Inspector General to investigate the Department and determine the extent of their statutory responsibilities to prevent indoor radon exposure in the nation's housing. Initial correspondence from Inspector General Kenneth Donohue indicated an expected completion date of early April. After an initial review of the facts, the IG requested the opinion of HUD's Office of General Counsel, who advised an opinion, would first be sent by May 28th, and after that date passed, by June 18th.


On June 29th, Inspector General Donohue sent a letter announcing that, *"Due to the lengthy and complex legislative history involved in the radon testing issue and the possible policy ramifications, the issuance of the General Counsel's opinion has been indefinitely delayed."*

The IG goes on to say, *"Since it appears that HUD policy is involved, and my office has no authority to direct Departmental policy, I have decided that we will take no further action in regard to the radon testing issue pending the issuance of the General Counsel's opinion."*

Senator, EPA's recently revised radon risk assessment estimates 21,000 Americans die of radon-induced lung cancer annually. That is 150% greater than their 1994 estimate! Yet, it is extremely difficult to convince the public of the serious [sic]

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of radon when the nation's leading housing authority stubbornly refuses to obey the laws intended to inform and protect the public.

In the sixteen years HUD has sat on their hands, an estimated 336,000 Americans have died from preventable lung cancer. We must hold the department accountable for implementing the necessary policy changes to insure homes are not contaminated with dangerous levels of airborne radiation. I request both GAO and Congressional investigations into the matter along with your assurance that you will take immediate action to prevent the General Counsel from further stonewalling.

Sincerely,



And we here at *Radon Today* think you should send out this letter if for no other reason then the fact that Kenneth M. Donohue the Inspector General of HUD ended his letter to Senator Rick Santorum with the words, "As always, we appreciate your interest in the integrity of HUD programs." Did he write that with a straight face? We'll never know.

## Goodbye and Thank You

Yes, we knew this day would come. It really was bound to happen. It couldn't last forever. And so on June 30th, 2004, Peter Hendrick, a man who really pulled the radon industry together at a time when it really needed pulling together, officially completed his role as Executive Director of the American Society of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST).

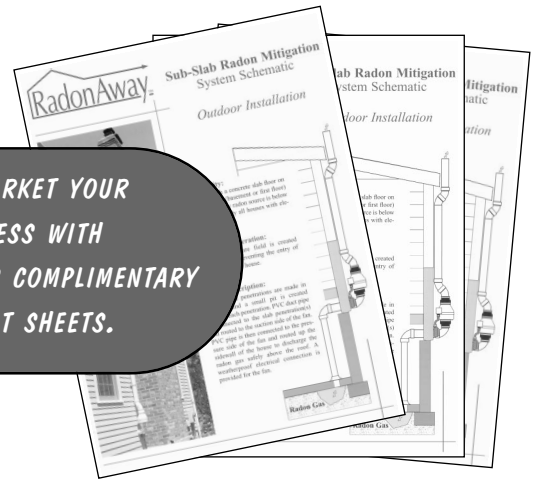
In the three years he served AARST he put radon back in the news (literally) and also got some key congressmen and senators to focus on the issue. He poked the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the nose a few times and, most importantly, he took the fact that radon causes cancer from the statistical to the human by putting real radon cancer patients into the public eye.

We thank him for his time and effort and wish him all the best for the future.

## Has It Been A Year?

The reservation cut off date for the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) 2004 International Radon Symposium was October 6th; so by the time you read this you've probably already decided whether or not you're going. This is the 14th national conference which is sponsored by AARST in cooperation with the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. If you are going, it sounds like it's going to be great.

As you know, the 2004 Symposium is being held this year



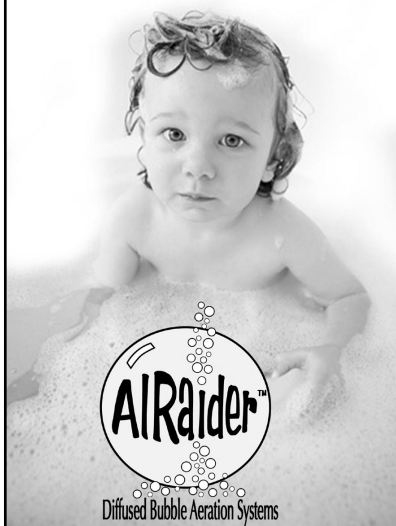
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at The Newport Marriott in Newport, Rhode Island from November 7th until the 10th. It really promises to be worthwhile and is continuing last year's theme "Radon Professionals Saving Lives".

As always, there will be scientists from around the world sharing information; there will be radon cancer survivors; some very interesting papers such as the possible link between radon and Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases; a chance to earn continuing education credits and a chance to exchange ideas with other professionals. There are also wonderful things to see in the city of Newport. The Cliff Walk is beautiful and the mansions are such an interesting glimpse into the way life used to be. The big night out will be at Christie's which is billed as Newport's "oldest waterfront restaurant". If you're very brave you may enjoy singing at the karaoke.

Also, as a special thank you, if you are a customer of either RadonAway or AccuStar (and gosh who isn't?) they will be having a customer appreciation night and will take their customers out for food and drinks at the Brick Alley Pub on Monday night November 8th. If you are a customer please stop by their booths for your invitation.

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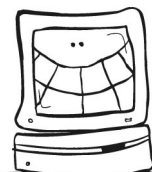
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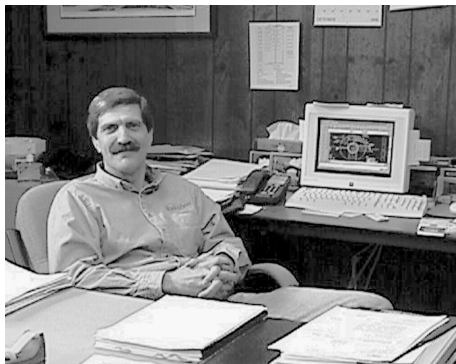
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# Dave's Corner

## Condensation

The air inside an Active Subslab Depressurization system is relatively warm at 55 degrees Fahrenheit and moist with a relative humidity of nearly 100%.

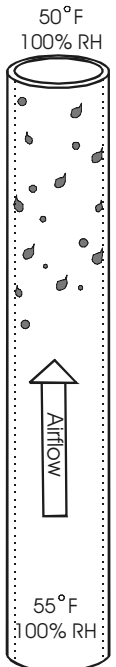
If a portion of the system piping passes through unconditioned space then there is a potential for condensation to form inside the pipe during periods of cold weather. The condensation occurs because colder air cannot hold as much moisture as warmer air.

If we look at a typical residential radon system with airflow of 50 cubic feet per minute (cfm) we can calculate the potential amount of condensation due to cold weather operation. Dry air weighs .075 lbs/cu. ft. So, in a 24 hour period the fan will move:

$$50 \text{ cfm} \times .075 \text{ lbs/cu. ft.} \times 60 \text{ min/hr} \times 24 \text{ hrs / day} = 5,400 \text{ lbs of air}$$

The humidity ratio (Ws) of saturated air (100% relative humidity) at 55F equals .0092 and .0077 at 50F. The humidity ratio describes the weight of water relative to the weight of air. If the air inside the system is cooled from 55F to 50F, then an amount of water equal to (.0092 - .0077) X 5,400 lbs or 8.1 lbs is removed from the air in a day. A gallon of water weighs 8.35 lbs so we see that nearly 1 gallon of condensation can be left behind inside the pipe each day under these conditions. If you do not properly design your systems to accommodate this moisture then you will be sure to have problems with the operation and service life of the system.

The actual amount of condensation produced by any particular system is influenced most by the length of outdoor pipe, the piping material ( Schedule 40, Schedule 20 plastic pipe or aluminum downspout) and the severity of the climate. Other system design factors such as pipe diameter, air velocity, pipe pitch and condensation bypass design all must be considered for long, trouble free system operation. We will look at a number of these design factors in upcoming articles.



**STICK TO THE BEST!**

See page 18 in RadonAway's Catalog.