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EPA RMS. AARST's concerns with this document include, but are not limited to the following: Lack of guidance or requirements for providing consumer health information; temporary systems; initial visual inspection; contractor training and certification; worker protection planning and exposure monitoring; and post mitigation testing.

AARST notes that "Voluntary standards...are not equivalent to federal rules and regulations; recognition of a standard by a federal agency does not make that standard the defacto law of the land." Also, "Whether federal or state, rule making, including the adoption and recognition of a standard, must be done in accordance within the bounds of published administrative procedure and legislative authority." All AARST membership must obey local and state laws.

AARST will be publishing an updated RMS "and will continue to support the EPA's RMS and the AARST Interim Radon Mitigation Standard." Clearly AARST does "and will support any and all standards that serve to protect the public health and safety from the risks of developing lung cancer from unnecessary exposure to radon gas..." The industry needed more time. The industry needed the EPA to delay the retirement of its Radon Mitigation Standards. I will leave you with this line from Shakespeare's "Henry VI", "Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more..."

No Retirement Party

The EPA retired its Radon Mitigation Standards (RMS) on Friday April 28, 2006. The board of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) had requested that it delay this action to "allow additional time for the education community to revise documentation and training and especially exams to make the changes to address the standard." It was not to be.

The EPA had not revised or added to its guidelines and standards since 1995. While there have been a number of organizations that have tried to fill the void left by the EPA's inaction, the results have been mixed at best and confusing and self-serving at worst.

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) put together a document called ASTM E 2121-03 which many in the industry believe is not as good as the

Pertinent Proficiency Plan

****A** quick note to readers before you begin this article. I want to apologize, in advance, for the number of acronyms. I am beginning to think that the radon industry now uses more acronyms than the medical field.

In our last issue we mentioned a meeting which had taken place on November 2, 2005 between the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST). The meeting was held because AARST bought the stock of Price Consulting, Inc. (PCI), which is the entity that had been administering the NEHA National Radon Proficiency Program (NEHA-NRPP).

In April 2006, a long-term agreement was signed by NEHA, AARST and PCI, which will allow AARST "to continue operating the NRPP in conjunction with NEHA." The terms are that "AARST will be providing day-to-day management of the NRPP, with Angel Anderson Price remaining as AARST's Executive Director for the proficiency program."

It is important to note that NRPP's advisory board will remain a separate entity from AARST's advisory board and that "All NEHA-



NRPP professionals under the National Radon Proficiency Program are fully certified with the NEHA-NRPP program until your certification expires or a member fails to meet their continuing education requirements and other renewal requirements.” This agreement creates a more unified industry.

If you would like more information please contact Angel Anderson Price at 1-800-269-4174.

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Run For Cover

There is a famous line from William Shakespeare's play "Henry VI". It is said by the character Dick the butcher, and it goes, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers."

Anyone who has ever been caught up in our legal system can certainly relate. In this increasingly litigious society, an encounter with the system is all too common. While a clove of garlic and a cross won't offer you protection, insurance coverage will certainly help.

Starting April 1st, InterContinental Insurance Brokers and American Safety Insurance Services made available a Radon Insurance Program specifically for members of the American Society of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST).

"This insurance program offers a combination of coverages designed specifically for the radon professionals who are AARST members and who are either certified through NEHA-NRPP or are licensed in a regulated state.

These coverages include: General Liability, Professional Liability and Pollution Liability."

Pollution Liability is a new category as is the "special provision for a two year rate and coverage for roof liabilities....AARST's goal is to make placing coverage through InterContinental convenient for our membership. While AARST member accounts will be written through InterContinental Insurance Brokers, InterContinental is also willing to work with local retail agents."

So if you are a member of AARST and are NEHA-NRPP certified or are licensed in a regulated state, and you're interested in more information regarding insurance coverage, please contact Lauren Hurd, laurenh@iibweb.com or Al Evert, ale@iibweb.com.

Crazy Little Women?

It's time once again to mark your calendar: September 17th to the 20th, 2006 is the 16th Annual International Radon Symposium. Due to circumstances beyond even the control of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST), the event which was to be held in New Orleans will take place at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

As always the Radon Symposium "will provide an opportunity to share ideas and to facilitate the exchange of information regarding radon in air, water and soils." As for who participates in the Symposium, "AARST welcomes the participation of members of the scientific and medical community, radon testers, diagnosticians, mitigators, educators, public officials and business owners." Further, the Symposium offers a great way for professionals to receive continuing education credits.

There is also more to do in Kansas City than one might think. Really. There is the Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum and Library; the Kansas City Zoo; the American Jazz Museum; the Steamboat Arabia Museum and the famous restaurant The Golden Ox Steakhouse. For those of you who appreciate nature there is the Overboard Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

If you have any questions you may write to AARST at 2502 South Fifth Avenue, Lebanon, PA 17042 or call (866) 772-2778. You may also visit the AARST website at www.aarst.org.

Our thanks to Pat Everett, Publication Editor of the Radon Reporter, for sharing information.

Left To Our Own Devices

Let's suppose that you've invented a really great radon measurement device. Well of course you'd want to sell it but before you can it has to go through an evaluation process. And there's the rub. The former device evaluation process is no longer current and as it stands now, "no recognized standard exists that defines the process". So a meeting was held in early April in Washington to bring "various stakeholders together to assist in defining the proper procedures and roles of government and non-government organizations in approving devices..."

The meeting was hosted by the EPA's Radon and Indoor Toxins office. The participants were representative of many sides of the radon industry. From the EPA Indoor Air Division: Phil Jalbert, Barnes Johnson and Bill Long. From EPA Radiation and Indoor Air Lab: Emilio Braganza and Jed Harrison. NEHA/NRPP sent Angel Price and AARST was represented by Peter Hendrick and David Hill. Nancy Bredhoff was there on behalf of the NRSB as was Phil Jenkins from Bowser Morner and Rick Steiff of RadElec representing the device manufacturers. Participating in the meeting by phone were: Rick Welke, the Iowa Radon Program; Bob Stillwell, the Maine Radon Program; Bob Lewis and Mike Pyles from the Pennsylvania Radon Program; Francesca Provenzano and Allison Sullivan from the Connecticut Radon Program and Dale Dorschner and Josh Curper from the Minnesota Radon Program.

According to Peter Hendrick, AARST's Executive Director, those attending "were looking to resolve an impasse regarding the correct role of the EPA's laboratory

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versus the role of the private proficiency programs." Further, "AARST is a strong supporter of the EPA's independent and continuing role in evaluating and establishing an independent and impartial review process in to determine (sic) which devices will be allowed to be listed by the private proficiency programs."

A lot of ground was covered in this first meeting and there will be another meeting in June "to clarify issues and establish further timetables for cooperation between private proficiency programs and the EPA Laboratory." So hang on to your devices, help is on the way.

Radon Today would like to thank both Peter Hendrick and David Hill for outstanding information and patience.

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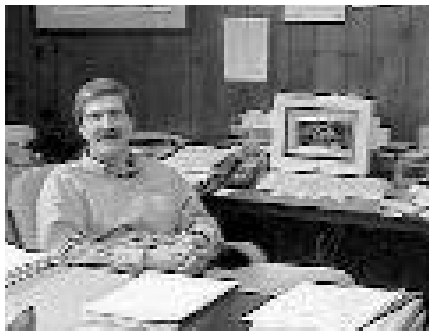




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Dave's Corner

Here is an opportunity to see how well you have learned some of the concepts that we have discussed in Dave's Corner over the years. You can complete the following quiz and email the answers to fanmail@radonaway.com. A prize will be awarded to the first five (5) readers with all the correct answers received by 7/1/2006.

- 1) Stacking fans in an ASD system will:
 - a. Double the airflow
 - b. Double your profits
 - c. Double the pressure
 - d. Double your fun
- 2) The Best Available Technology (BAT) for removing radon in water is:
 - a. Granulated Active Charcoal
 - b. Diffused Bubble Aeration
 - c. Liquid Scintillation
 - d. Active Sub-slab Depressurization
- 3) The gauge oil in a u-tube manometer can disappear because of:
 - a. Evaporation
 - b. Wind and weather
 - c. A ball of ice in the outlet pipe
 - d. All of the above
- 4) A seasonal high water table under the slab of an ASD system can cause:
 - a. The u-tube manometer gauge to read zero
 - b. The radon levels to go way up
 - c. The fan to overheat and cycle on and off
 - d. None of the above
- 5) Condensation can form inside piping of an ASD system because:
 - a. The relative humidity of the sub-slab air is so low
 - b. Warm air rises
 - c. The air is pressurized by the fan
 - d. Cold air cannot hold as much moisture as warm air

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