

# THE Radon Reporter™

**Summer 2017**

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you need to succeed in the radon profession*

**Primary Radon Reference and  
Intercomparisons**

**AARST Symposium  
Rolls Into the Big Easy**

**Put Quality Into QA**

**Confined Spaces  
How OSHA 19 CFR 1926 Affects  
Radon Mitigation**

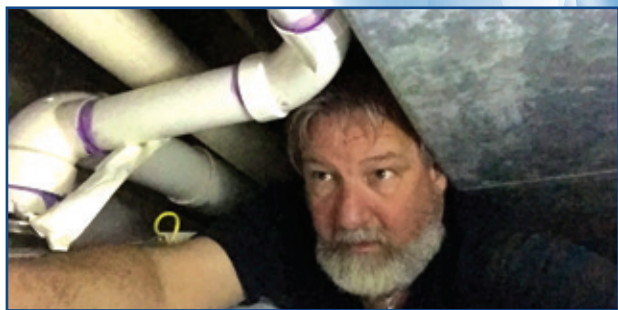






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About the Cover: AARST Board Member, Henri Boyea, shares photos of himself working in two different confined spaces; on the cover he is in an attic, in this photo he is in a basement. Henri is the President of the new chapter, SouthEast AARST.

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AARST™, the American Association of Radon Scientists & Technologists, is a nonprofit, professional organization dedicated to the highest standard of excellence and ethical performance of radon measurement, mitigation, and transfer of information for the benefit of members, consumers, and the public at large. AARST's leadership is democratically elected by the members.

AARST represents your voice as we meet the wide range of challenges facing radon professionals and the community. Your membership and participation provides you a voice in the changes to come, and allows you to gain updated information, discover new techniques, learn about new problems before they occur, and hone your professional skills.

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# Primary Radon Reference and Intercomparisons

By Phil Jenkins, President, AARST



Good news! The EPA is once again providing a primary reference for radon measurements, now from its National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, Alabama. The primary reference is based on quantitatively transferring radon from a source of radium-226, obtained from NIST,

into a carefully measured volume of air. Because the radon is in equilibrium with a known quantity of radium, its activity, or quantity in picocuries, is also known. With a known activity in a known volume of air, the concentration of radon in air is also known. This known concentration of radon is transferred into a Tedlar bag from which it can be further transferred into scintillation cells for the purpose of intercomparisons.

The intercomparison to the primary reference is conducted in the following manner. Each NRPP certified secondary reference lab sends scintillation cells to NAREL, where they are filled with the known concentration of radon and then returned to the secondary lab. NAREL personnel report the known concentration, or target value, only to the NRPP. When the cells are analyzed, the secondary lab personnel send the results to the NRPP. NRPP personnel then determine whether the results from the secondary lab are in sufficient agreement with EPA's target value to meet the requirements for certification. The first such intercomparison conducted at NAREL is scheduled for July. The goal is to demonstrate that all the NRPP secondary reference labs are in agreement with the primary standard by the end of this year.

Secondary labs can also intercompare independently by swapping scintillation cells and filling them in radon chambers rather than from a radium source. However, tertiary reference labs do not necessarily have the capability of intercomparing measurements using scintillation cells. Therefore, in order

to expand a network of intercomparisons to the tertiary labs, an alternative method of intercomparison is being planned using a highly sensitive continuous radon monitor (CRM) as a "transfer standard." The transfer standard will first be used for intercomparisons among the three NRPP-certified secondary reference labs: Bowser-Morner, Inc. in Dayton, Ohio, Radiation Safety Institute of Canada in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Radon Measurements Lab in Colorado Springs. The monitor will operate in a "blind" manner. Each secondary lab will expose the monitor in its chamber(s) and report the chamber value(s) to an independent third party. Once the monitor has been exposed in all of the secondary chambers, it will be sent to the third party, where the data will be downloaded and compared with the chamber values. If significant differences are discovered among the various laboratories, these will be investigated and corrected. Once the agreement among the secondary reference labs has been demonstrated with the transfer standard, the intercomparison network can be expanded to include NRPP-certified tertiary reference labs. The goal is for radon measurements to be consistent among all of the reference laboratories in North America.

In a parallel effort, the members of the Coalition of International Radon Associations (COIRA) are planning a similar network of international intercomparisons. The members of COIRA are AARST, CARST, the UK Radon Association (UKRA), the European Radon Association (ERA), and the Nordic Group Radon Association (NGRA). The plans are to use a highly sensitive CRM, such as the AlphaGuard or a comparable model, as a transfer standard. The logistics of an international project will be more challenging with international shipping considerations. In addition, many of the laboratories that should be involved are in government agencies. The goal is to achieve and maintain agreement of radon measurements internationally. The hope is that the project will eventually be expanded to other countries and truly be global in nature. The COIRA board will meet in conjunction with the AARST Symposium in New Orleans to review and finalize the protocols for the international intercomparison. ●

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starts with the decision to try."*

*— John F. Kennedy*

## International Radon Symposium™

*By Crystal Lytle, 2017 Symposium Chair*



Back in December, I was asked by Dr. Phil Jenkins to chair this year's symposium. I was hesitant at first because of the magnitude of such an event. However, in my short time thus far being on the AARST board, I have been lucky enough to see what goes on behind the scenes. Simply put, our small and mighty industry is led by greatness. The International Radon Symposium™ is a good way to

learn, share, and grow with these leaders. I began assembling the committee by enlisting some of these remarkable leaders, and we have a team that is exceeding all expectations.

This year's symposium will be a bit different than in the past. We listened to feedback from previous symposium attendees and more interaction and engaging sessions were at the top of the list. We have an amazing lineup of speakers, opportunities to network and learn, and chances to get involved in sessions that are more diverse than those in years past. Attendees are guaranteed to gain knowledge about the radon industry while also having a bit of fun!

I have been fortunate to have the support of my best friend, partner in crime, and owner of Reliant Radon Solutions, Terry Kerwin, who allows me to spend time and resources on this symposium. The amount of work that goes into an event of this proportion is immense. Nicole Chazaud is truly instrumental in putting all the puzzle pieces together. The members of the committee—Chad Robinson, Leia Jane Zidel, Laurie Chilcote, Matt Hendrick, Shannon Cory, Eric Lewandowski, Gary Boesker, and Annie Tucker—have all taken time out of their work schedules to make sure this year in NOLA is a hit!

Whether you are in need of earning continuing education credits, getting the latest and greatest from outstanding vendors, looking for ways to grow your business, understanding updates on the standards, or wanting to get involved and

make a difference, the schedule has it all and much more. Through the inspirational words of JFK, I decided to try, and the accomplishments are rewarding.

We are expecting great things from this symposium, and we hope you join us—just give it a try! ●

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# How OSHA 19 CFR 1926 Affects Radon Mitigators

By Dallas Jones, Executive Director, AARST



In August of 2015, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) implemented a new confined spaces rule that directly impacts the work of radon mitigators. OSHA regulations for confined spaces, such as tunnels and manholes, have been in place for years. However, the 2015 rule was specifically intended to protect

construction workers inside areas like residential attics and crawl spaces.

According to the rule, anyone who might enter or perform work in a confined space needs to be trained regarding confined spaces in one of two ways:

1. Can recognize confined spaces with permit space potential and stay out, or
2. Be trained in permit space entry procedures and how to implement them.

The reason is several tragic incidents in crawl spaces and attics, including:

In 2007, a painting contractor was hired by a property owner to apply primer over the creosote floor joists. He and an employee were working in the crawl space under the bedroom when their incandescent work-lamp or a broken light bulb ignited the vapors from the primer. The two were burned and died. Some other employees suffered minor burn injuries because the air in the crawl space was not flushed of flammable vapors and no air testing had been performed to determine whether dangerous air contamination or an oxygen deficiency existed.

A year later, another worker was spraying foam insulation in the enclosed attic space of a two-story house undergoing renovations. He had accessed the attic via an aluminum ladder through a scuttle hole in the second-floor ceiling. A flash fire occurred, killing the guy. While the ignition source was never determined, it was clear that inadequate ventilation contributed to the buildup of flammable vapors.

According to OSHA, a confined space (CS) is defined as having three distinct characteristics, and it must meet all three

of these to be a confined space:

1. Large enough for a worker to enter it,
2. Have a limited means of entry and/or exit, and
3. Not intended for regular/continuous occupancy.

Examples cited include crawl spaces and attics. The rule also designates two levels of confined spaces – 1) those that require a permit, and 2) those that do not.

A *permit-required confined space* is one that may have a physical hazard or other serious hazard, such as exposed wiring, a hazardous atmosphere, an engulfment hazard, or any other atmospheric condition that is immediately dangerous to life or health and can interfere with a worker's ability to leave the space without assistance.

The Standard clarifies three conditions that meet this definition:

1. It poses an immediate threat to the health or life on an entrant,
2. It would cause acute adverse health effects, or
3. It would interfere with an individual's ability to escape unaided from a permit space.

A *physical hazard* is either an existing or potential hazard that can cause death or serious physical damage. Examples include, but are not limited to: explosives; mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and pneumatic energy; radiation; temperature extremes; engulfment; noise; and inwardly converging surfaces. Physical hazards also include chemicals that can cause death or serious physical damage through skin or eye contact (rather than through inhalation).

To even outline all the specific tasks and responsibilities required for the implementation of permit procedures would take a few pages, so suffice it to say most radon mitigation contractors would be best served by executing procedures to recognize and avoid working in such spaces entirely

But all unsafe conditions are NOT considered *physical hazards*. OSHA defines a physical hazard as only those conditions that could impede an entrant's ability to exit the CS without assistance.

So, what does OSHA's rule mean to a contractor looking to install a radon mitigation system? I would first recommend you interview the homeowner and ask questions like "How old is the house?" – "Has there been recent fire or water damage?" – and "Are there any known electrical or combustible gas issues?"



# How OSHA 19 CFR 1926 Affects Radon Mitigators

Continued from page 7

Next, you'll want to find the access to the attic and/or crawlspace to determine if there are any restrictions to entry and exit and if you'll need a ladder. Then you'll want to perform a preliminary inspection without entering the space. For this, you could use a mirror on a handle or a cellphone camera on a selfie-stick.

But remember, even if you find or suspect the presence of a physical hazard, it doesn't make the space a permit-required confined space unless the physical hazard cannot be isolated, or there's potential for employee exposure. The term "isolate" means a process that completely protects employees against contact with the physical hazard.

I would imagine most radon mitigators would rather have a plan to prohibit workers from ever entering a permit-required CS because of the extra safety requirements and training required for working in those spaces.

Some attics will not be considered confined spaces of either type. For example, those with a permanent, full-size doorway or stairwell access would rarely meet the definition of a CS if there are no other impediments to egress. Neither would an attic under construction if there is no drywall in place, since it would not have a limited or restricted means for entry or exit.

While most attics and crawlspaces in residences DO have a limited means of egress and would indeed be considered confined spaces, I have good news – typically, they will NOT trigger permit requirements. For example, most attics have either natural or mechanical ventilation, which would prevent accumulation of hazardous atmosphere, and because other physical hazards are unlikely.

As the employer, once you or your trained competent person performs an initial evaluation and determines that a CS does not require permit procedures, your only other obligation is to have the competent person ready to reclassify it if some

change in the environment could increase the hazard to the workers, or if you discover that the initial evaluation may have been inadequate

A fall hazard, such as falling through the drywall of the attic, could cause a severe injury. However, fall hazards within an attic would not generally impede the ability of an entrant to exit the space without assistance and, therefore, would not trigger the permit-required confined space requirements. But be clear – even though permit-required confined space requirements would not be triggered in this situation, employers are still obligated to appropriately protect their employees from fall hazards when they are working in an attic where fall hazards exist.

The presence of electrical equipment or utility service lines like water, natural gas, sewage and electric power in an attic or crawlspace does not necessarily make it a permit-required space. The space would only trigger permit procedures if an entrant will be exposed to a serious hazard associated with the electrical equipment, such as an exposed live conductor, and that exposure could impede the entrant's ability to exit the space without assistance.

Even the inherent hazards of material flowing through service lines don't have to be considered in the permit space determination unless it's reasonably foreseeable that a rupture or leak could occur and the contents of the lines could cause a serious safety or health hazard that could, again, impede an entrant's ability to exit the space without assistance.

Extreme heat can be considered such a serious physical hazard in an attic that it could be considered a permit-required confined space, even though OSHA has not quantified just how hot it must be to trigger the permit-requirements. But for that to be the case, the heat must be so extreme that it could, one more time, potentially impede an entrant's ability to exit the attic without assistance.

Factors that the OSHA would consider are the temperature of the space while work is performed, the nature and duration of the tasks performed in the heat, and whether the entrant is acclimatized to work in extreme heat. A short-duration,

*While most attics and crawlspaces in residences DO have a limited means of egress and would indeed be considered confined spaces, I have good news – typically, they will NOT trigger permit requirements.*





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light-duty task performed in a hot attic would typically not constitute a physical hazard triggering the permit-required CS requirements. Implementing measures to control the heat in an attic, such as a ventilation fan, will be considered by the Agency in determining whether a serious hazard exists in the first place.

According to OSHA, an attic or crawl space with limited lighting alone would not be considered a permit-required CS, provided that the limited lighting could not impede an entrant's ability to exit the space without assistance. Dimly lit spaces can still pose other safety hazards, so lighting must comply with general worker safety requirements.

The presence of critters would only make it a permit-required CS if they could impede a worker's ability to exit the space without assistance. And remember, even if the presence of extremely poisonous snakes, tarantulas, or some other very dangerous animals do present a physical hazard, if the hazards can be exterminated or remediated, the space can be reclassified.

If the hazards are not the kind that would trigger permit requirements, employers are still required to eliminate and control general hazards. For example, you need to implement measures to avoid slips, trips, and falls that could result from exposed joists in the attic, tangled wires or cables, and inadequate lighting. You must minimize contact with exposed

electrical wires such as open junction boxes and knob and tube wiring. You may need to tagout the power to a whole house fan. You must ensure that employees are wearing helmets to avoid injury from nails and screws protruding through the decking above and address flammables by removing any stored chemicals or solvents and making sure the gas company repairs any obvious gas leaks before beginning work within the space.

29 CFR 1926 is chock-full of definitions and required procedures for both identifying and working in permit-required confined spaces, but remember, even if your intention is to totally avoid confined spaces that would require the implementation of permitting procedures, you must still have a "competent person" who is *trained* to recognize conditions that would trigger those conditions. And just like a good QA Plan, your company safety plan (you do have one, right?) needs to include documentation that at least your crew leader has received that CS training. There are online courses available, and if you find one that is not already approved for NRPP CEs, you can always submit the name of the course, completion certificate, and agenda for Category II approval. ●

For More Info: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3914.pdf>

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**MIKE KITTO (Track I - Abstracts Committee Chair/Proceedings Editor)** - As an educator, I view volunteering as an opportunity to apply my expertise and experience to increase the knowledge of, and to convey a positive learning experience to, less-informed people, as well as for me to learn from them.



**GARY BOESKER (Entertainment Lead)** - Volunteering on this committee is a way to "give back" to the symposium. I have always enjoyed working with people and helping out when and where I can. This committee is an opportunity to do so.



**LAURIE CHILCOTE (Exhibit Hall Lead)** - Being involved with AARST is a rewarding and learning experience for me. It gives me an opportunity to learn from the industry's most talented individuals, and do what I can to increase radon awareness.



**SHANNON CORY (AV Lead)** - I have always had the hunger to gain more knowledge of what ever project I was pursuing. Likewise, when I was offered a position to be on the symposium committee, I jumped at the opportunity to learn, share and serve.



**MATT HENDRICK (AV Lead)** - Volunteering on the symposium's planning committee each year is an honor. The challenges that present themselves behind the scenes are as unique as the locations and presentations. It has been a rewarding experience to work with such a dedicated group of people!



**PHIL JENKINS (Abstract Review Committee Member)** - Vital to our annual symposium are presentations that are both interesting and helpful. The review and selection of presentations is crucial to ensure that they meet a high level of professionalism and address the various aspects of the radon industry.



**ERIC LEWANDOWSKI (Volunteer Lead)** - The reason for my involvement as a volunteer for the symposium is because I love this industry. I see all the good things that this industry has and will provide in the future, and I want to be a part of it.



**LEO MOORMAN (Abstract Review Committee Member)** - I find it important to have high quality scientific and technical developments in the Symposium meetings for this industry year after year, and have a peer reviewed historic record that all members can access and refer to in the future.



**CHAD ROBINSON (Track II Lead - Practical Sessions)** - My goals for sessions were to make it engaging, educational, entertaining and interactive, and I think our presenters will be able to pull it off! I hope you enjoy the Symposium as much as I have enjoyed putting it together.



**DAN STECK (Track I - Abstracts Committee Chair)** - Great presentations are the core of a great conference. We try to help presenters give their best to the audience.



**ANNIE TUCKER (Entertainment Lead)** - Annie shared her desire for more intimate-style Meet & Greet events for newcomers to get to know people in the industry, as well as being instrumental in planning special events with the team.



**LEIA JANE ZIDEL (Marketing Lead)** - Growing up in this industry with so many dedicated individuals has been a privilege, and I'm excited to count myself among the minds contributing to this year's Symposium, working alongside Nicole to create the look, feel, and experience of the event.

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PRE-SYMPOSIUM C.E. courses are available for registration separately from the Full Symposium registration fees. Courses are NRPP approved and must be purchased as a separate ticket item on the ticket page. Beverages will be available for students. Lunch is not included. Sunday C.E. is hosted by AARST; the course completion certificates are administered by all trainers.

## MONDAY CE

This is a free benefit included in the cost of your registration for either the full symposium or a single day (Monday). Attendees may earn up to 6 Category I C.E. credits for attending Monday's sessions by completing an open book workbook through out the day; the workbook covers both the Joint Day sessions and the afternoon Track II (practical) Sessions. Students may attend as many sessions as they want in either track, as long as a minimum number of questions from the AM and PM are answered correctly, and the workbook turned in by the close of Monday.. Their book will be graded, and they can earn credits for the day. (Workbooks are graded and certificates fulfilled after the symposium.) Select the Ticket Item Free workbook on the Ticket Page. **See Monday's course selection below.**

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# SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Subject to change. See website for most up-to-date schedule: [www.internationalradonsymposium.org](http://www.internationalradonsymposium.org)

## SUNDAY, OCT. 1

**8:00AM-10:00AM** • The Revised MAMF 2017 Standard - M. Koch  
**8:00AM-12:00PM** • Common Sense Radon QA - M. Ronca-Battista  
**8:00AM-5:00PM** • Mitigating Schools and Large Buildings - M. Hendrick  
• Radon Mitigation Quality Assurance = Higher Net Profit and More Client Referrals - W. J. Angell  
**10:00AM-5:00PM** • Design and Installation of Soil Gas Control Systems in New Construction of Large Buildings (CC-1000) - M. Koch  
**6:00PM-8:00PM** • Social: Opening Reception: Celebrate Your Excellence New Orleans Style!

## MONDAY, OCT. 2

**7:45AM-8:30AM** • Social: Breakfast with the Champions  
**8:00AM-8:15AM** • Joint Sessions: Welcome - AARST & CRCPD  
- P. Jenkins, P. Daniels  
**8:15AM-8:45AM** • Joint Sessions: Keynote -The PA Experience - D. Allard  
**8:45AM-9:15AM** • Joint Sessions: Lehigh Valley Mitigation Experience  
- B. Brodhead  
**9:15AM-9:45AM** • Joint Sessions: Radon and Lung Cancer - Dr. W. Ackerley  
**9:45AM-10:00AM** • Joint Sessions: Q&A  
**10:00AM-10:30AM** • Social: Break & Exhibits  
**10:30AM-11:00AM** • Joint Sessions: Update from the Hill - J. Malone  
**11:00AM-11:30AM** • Joint Sessions: National Radon Map  
**11:30AM-11:45AM** • Joint Sessions: Q&A  
**12:00PM-1:30PM** • Social: Monday Luncheon, AARST & CRCPD  
- P. Jenkins, D. Allard  
**1:30PM-2:00PM** • Track II: Practical Tools/Mitigation: Silica OSHA and Tool Safety Talk  
**1:30PM-2:15PM** • Joint Sessions: Joint Leadership Update - P. Jenkins, P. Daniels, B. Long  
**2:00PM-2:30PM** • Track II Practical Tools: Business Use Tax: Why It Is Important - R. Wolske  
**2:15PM-2:40PM** • Joint Sessions: Reducing Radon Exposure During Childhood - A Review of Evidence and Policy Initiatives - Dr. A. Nicol  
**2:30PM-3:00PM** • Track II Practical Tools: Mitigation/Measurement: Radon in the Real Estate Transaction: A Lawyer's Perspective  
**2:40PM-2:50PM** • Joint Sessions: Q&A  
**2:50PM-3:30PM** • Social: Break & Exhibits  
**3:20PM-3:40PM** • Joint Sessions: Montgomery Lab Update - Dr. D. Saunders  
**3:30PM-4:00PM** • Track II Practical Tools/Mitigation: Crawl Space Olympics: ROUND 1 - Tunnel Relay - C. Robinson, L. Chilcote  
**3:40PM-4:00PM** • Joint Sessions: U.S. Intercomparisons  
- M. Ronca-Battista  
**4:00PM-4:30PM** • Track II Practical Tools/Measurement: Measurement Testing Situations - M. Ronca-Battista  
**4:00PM-4:20PM** • Joint Sessions: NRAP Update  
**4:30PM-5:00PM** • Track II Practical Tools: Environmental Liability: Insuring Your Business Large and Small - B. Brown, L. Waters  
**4:35PM-4:50PM** • Joint Sessions: NRAP Update  
**4:50PM-5:00PM** • Joint Sessions: International Radon Measurement Association - J. L. Gutierrez-Villanueva  
**4:50PM-5:00PM** • Joint Sessions: Q&A  
**5:30PM-6:15PM** • Social: Meet & Greet: Ladies of Radon & Cocktails

## TUESDAY, OCT. 3

**8:00AM-8:20AM** • Social: Breakfast with the Champions  
**8:20AM-9:00AM** • Track II Practical Tools/ Science & Research: TBD  
**9:00AM-9:20AM** • Track I Science & Research: Influence of a Karstic Environment on Radon Geogenic Potential: Experimental Data Analysis and Radon Transport Modelling (Jura Mountains, France) - G. Ielsch  
**9:00AM-9:40AM** • Track II Practical Tools: Policy: Legislative Mock Hearing - Round One - J. Malone, C. Robinson, C. Lytle, K. Hoylman, B. Snead, K. Stewart, J. Mallon  
**9:20AM-9:40AM** • Track I Science & Research: Evaluation Of Radon Occurrence In Groundwater From 16 Geologic Units In Pennsylvania, 1986-2015 - E. Gross  
**9:40AM-10:20AM** • Social: Break & Exhibits  
• Track I Science & Research: Poster: Implementation of Safety Regimes to Improve Radon Worker and Workplace Conditions - G. Satoh  
• Track I Science & Research: Poster: Radon Mitigation Actions Follow-Up Study - R. Falcomer  
• Track I Science & Research: Poster: Methodology for Determination of Radon Soil Concentration - J. P. Menge  
• Track I Science & Research: Poster: Review of Useful Applications of Electret Ion Chambers for Radon Related Measurements - L. Stieff  
• Track I Science & Research: Poster: Alternative Approaches to Managing School Mitigation and Sub-Slab Diagnostic Testing - B. Fergusson

**10:20AM-10:40AM** • Track I Science & Research: Proposed Performance & Listing Criteria for Pro. Radon Measurement Devices - M. LaFontaine  
• Track II Practical Tools: Crawl Space Olympics - Semi Finals  
- C. Robinson, L. Chilcote  
**10:40AM-11:00AM** • Track I Science & Research: Reducing Lung Cancer Risk In Renters Through Radon Reduction - K. Butler  
• Track II Practical Tools: Business: Measurement and Mitigation in Non-Real Estate Transactions - D. Daniels  
**11:00AM-11:20AM** • Track I Science & Research: Local Action Campaign in a High Radon Potential Region in France: An Attempt to Effectively Reduce Domestic Exposure to Radon - G. Ielsch  
• Track II Practical Tools: Practical Tools/Mitigation: Do I Need a Big A\*! Fan? - B. Snead, C. Robinson  
**11:20AM-11:40AM** • Track I Science & Research: Radon Exposure at Workplaces and Public Buildings – Experience and Future Challenges in Austria - V. Gruber  
**11:40AM-12:00PM** • Track I Science & Research: A Comparison of Various Factors Affecting Analysis of Radon in Water by Liquid Scintillation Counting - U. Saha  
**12:00PM-1:30PM** • Social: Tuesday Luncheon: AARST Annual Meeting  
**1:30PM-1:50PM** • Track I Science & Research: HUD Required Radon Testing and Mitigating Multifamily and Nursing Facilities: The Challenges Facing the Radon Professional and Environmental Professional Speakers - J. Karns  
**1:35PM-2:30PM** • Track II Practical Tools: New Standards Game Show: "What Practitioners Learned Using the New Standards" - B. Snead  
**1:50PM-2:10PM** • Track I Science & Research: Indoor Radon Concentration and its Health Hazard in the Dwellings of Wolaita Sodo South, Ethiopia - N. M. Demewoz  
**2:10PM-2:30PM** • Track I Science & Research: Design and Development of a New Radon Calibration Chamber - O. Mavrichi  
**2:30PM-2:50PM** • Track I Science & Research: Test and Win Contest to Raise Radon Awareness In Rural Appalachia - R. Fox  
• Track II Practical Tools: Mitigation: Crawl Space Olympics - Finals  
- C. Robinson, L. Chilcote  
**2:50PM-3:20PM** • Social Break & Exhibits  
**3:20PM-3:40PM** • Track I Science & Research: Increasing Access to Affordable Radon Mitigation for Vulnerable Populations in Rural Appalachia - R. Fox  
**3:20PM-4:00PM** • Track II Practical Tools: Policy: How Can HUD's Multifamily Radon Policy be More Protective of Tenants? - J. Malone, K. Hoylman  
**3:40PM-4:00PM** • Track I Science & Research: On-site Determination of the Radon Concentration in Water: Sampling and On-line Methods - J. Villert  
**4:00PM-5:00PM** • Social: Meet & Greet Breakout: Making a Difference: Opportunities for Engagement: D. Metzger - Give a Dollar Plus | G. Schambach - NYS Policy Discussions to Regulate the Industry | CanSAR's WAR Campaign and A. Price - Women Move the Grassroots Efforts for Radon Awareness | CR3's G. Linnertz and Survivor Advocates, B. Angell - Minnesota Licensing Bitter Sweetness  
**6:00PM-9:00PM** • Social: Tues. Night Out on The Creole Queen Riverboat

## WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4

**8:30AM-9:00AM** • Track II Practical Tools: Policy: Mock Hearing Review - Round Two - J. Malone, C. Robinson, C. Lytle, K. Hoylman, B. Snead, K. Stewart, J. Mallon  
**9:00AM-9:20AM** • Track I Science & Research : Development of a Radon Reduction Performance Evaluation System of Air Purifier Filters - M. Kim  
**9:00AM-9:40AM** • Track II Practical Tools: Mitigation: Large Building/ Multifamily Showcase: Mitigation System Design - T. McDonald, C. Cox  
**9:20AM-9:40AM** • Track I Science & Research: Depth Profiling of Radon in Vertical Shafts Using Electret Ionization Chambers - L. Welch  
**9:40AM-10:20AM** • Social: Break & Exhibits  
**10:20AM-10:40AM** • Track I Science & Research: A Case Study of Applying Radon Resistant New Construction According to Soil Radon Potential, South Korea - Y. Lee  
**10:20AM-11:20AM** • Track II Practical Tools: Business Mitigation/ Measurement: TBD  
**10:40AM-11:00AM** • Track I Science & Research: Increasing Confidence in Mapping Radon Potential with New Data Sources: Menifee County, Kentucky - B. Overfield  
**11:00AM-11:20AM** • Track I Science & Research: Using Geology as a Predictive Tool: Creating Radon Potential Maps - B. Overfield  
**11:20AM-11:40AM** • Track I Science & Research: The New Euratom BSS: A Proposal to Evaluate Radon Exposure at Workplaces - J. L. Gutierrez-Villanueva  
• Track II Practical Tools: Business: Train Your Support Staff - B. Hansen  
**11:40AM-12:00PM** • Track II Practical Tools: Your Favorite Tool - Show and Tell - J. Bauder



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# Put Quality into Quality Assurance

By Shawn Price, AARST Past President

One of the first tenets of the radon profession is that practitioners develop, abide by, and provide proof of adherence to a Quality Assurance Plan. QA Plans come in all shapes and sizes. I've seen the one sentence QA Plan that says "I will perform radon measurement services in a quality manner" all the way up to the several hundred page binder full of text, charts, calculations, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). QA Plan development may be the most boring, painful, and difficult undertaking for a radon professional, but I argue it is the most important task a new tester or mitigator can do to ensure long-term success as a radon businessman.

The proper QA Program is the foundation that can withstand the strongest client criticism, regulatory auditor, or opposing attorney. A QA Program isn't a document contained in a dusty binder sitting on a shelf. The QA Plan is a living document that should be updated on a regular basis and every time a procedure, form, or improvement is made. The QA Program is a way of life that begins the first day a radon business opens its doors, even before the certification application is sent in for approval. Many new operators take a radon certification course and sit for an exam before they decide to go into business. The training providers do touch on quality assurance during the whirlwind 2-day class that begins with the structure of an atom and ends with general mitigation strategies and waterborne radon. Some manufacturers and laboratories will provide a fill-in-the-blank QA Plan for free or a nominal fee, but without proper preparation and commitment, it ends up being the dusty document sitting on the shelf or in the back of the file cabinet.

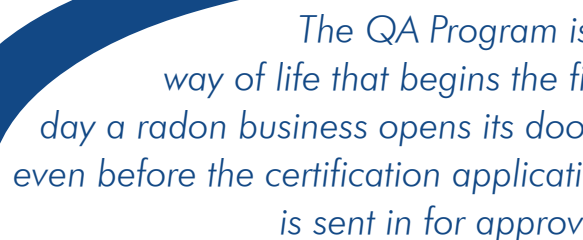
We learn about control charts, blanks, duplicates, spikes, and calibrations. We hear that these tests are important and how to plot them on a chart. A QA Program is far more difficult than drawing dots on a graph. The program starts with understanding one's equipment inside and out, knowing what makes it tick, and what causes it to malfunction. How many new operators ask their laboratory, supplier, or vendors what to look for in order to identify warning signs before things go awry? If the new operator doesn't know, how will they identify those warning signs or train a new hire? What can interfere with a measurement device while it sits on the shelf during storage and what can create false readings in the field?

During my twenty-eight years in this business, nineteen of which have been working on the laboratory side, it is amazing how few times a new customer has called or emailed to ask the important questions that would make them a better professional tester. I have been asked many times for the fill-in-the-blank QA Plan, and I have prepared many of them for clients at no cost as long as they used my equipment. The template made significant commitments to quality once the customer signed it

and sent it in to their licensing or certification program, but did they ever really initiate a QA Program?

As our industry continues to gray and the old timers begin to fade away, I wonder whether we are properly passing the torch to the new generation. Assuming there is a new generation, are they being set up to succeed or fail? Are they being taught to compete on price or compete on quality? If you are reading this you are already in the radon community, but are you being a good steward? Are your current employees, new hires, fellow chapter members, and competitors passing right by the dusty binder sitting on the shelf, or are they continuing to improve it and teaching staff and co-workers how to put it to use every day?

A QA Program never sleeps. It should be entrenched in every employee and passed along to the clients in the form of accurate, reliable, professional-looking, and clearly written test reports. Whether you are a tester or a mitigator, you are expected to be able to document the systems of checks and balances that you use every single day. It starts with suitable staff training, followed by clearly defining the responsibilities and obligations of every employee and subcontractor. It includes the documentation of managerial reviews, QA charts,



*The QA Program is a way of life that begins the first day a radon business opens its doors, even before the certification application is sent in for approval.*

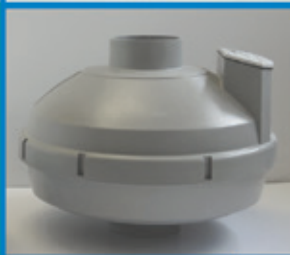
system photos, diagnostic tests, device storage conditions, shelf life limitations, and the list goes on and on. Look in the mirror and ask yourself if you are doing everything that you can do to ensure quality. If your answer is no because you cannot afford to do some of the things being expected of you, then ask yourself whether you would hire your own company to do the work. Proper quality control programs are neither easy nor cheap. Make the commitment to yourself, employees, and customers that you will do the little things that make a difference. Please don't wait until the state or certification program starts asking for proof. Be a leader, take pride in your company, and set a good example for the next generation! ●

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# The Health of an Association is as Strong as its Members

By Nicole Chazaud, AARST Membership & Communications, Symposium Manager

The health of an association is as strong as its members. The American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists has been around for just over 30 years. In that time, we have seen members come and go; the association has been weak and strong. The health of all professional associations ebbs and flows. AARST grew out of a need in the industry to support technicians and companies who deal with radon, technologies, businesses, science, and research. We have been, and still are, forerunners in a field which, by all accounts, should be much larger than it is; its membership should be in the tens of thousands, not the hundreds.

The reality is the strength of an association depends on its soldiers, its volunteers. AARST is a small association with big expectations from its members. Many of our volunteers and heroes in the radon industry have been at the frontlines since its inception. Some always seem to be in view because they consistently choose to be involved. They reliably agree to work on committees, they serve as board members, and they volunteer to write articles and share news. These are the go-to people because they make themselves available for assisting our small staff and help the association grow bigger and better. In other words, without volunteers, there is no association.

"While volunteering has traditionally been term-based, the growth of task-based volunteer opportunities has proven to be a highly effective engagement strategy for other associations. Here are a few examples:

Both empirical evidence and numerous studies have proven the strong correlation between member engagement and member retention. The definition of member engagement, itself, has been expanded to include not only term-based volunteerism such as BOD participation and committee service but also task-based volunteerism such as regularly proofreading white papers, assisting staff with administrative assignments, writing blog posts, or even "micro-volunteerism" such as commenting on a post in the association's social community."

(Paraphrased ASAE From the Power of Short Term Projects for Volunteer Engagement, by Michael Cummings, spells out how to get the most out of members, increase member loyalty, and grow member retention.)

AARST has recently gained some fresh energy as newer members have begun to participate on the Board of Directors, the Symposium Committee, the AARST-ANSI Standards

Consortium, and local Chapters. Yet a substantial segment of members, the ones who have repeatedly held important leadership roles, are looking at retirement.

For AARST to survive, we will need more young volunteers to step into their shoes. We encourage you, our next generation of Rn professionals, to step up and share your talents. Help us to stay relevant, to engage others with social media, to bury old hatchets, to facilitate member outreach and growth, to write or edit articles, and most importantly, to bring innovative news ideas and initiatives.

We need you! ●

## WHAT IS A FAVORITE TOOL IN YOUR TOOLBOX?

The following items are in Mitigator David Daniels' daily toolbox...

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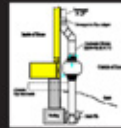
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# REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS?

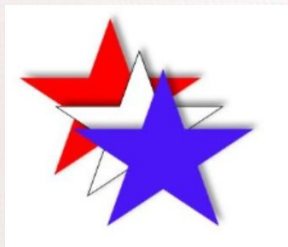
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# New and Emerging State Laws

by Jane Malone, AARST National Policy Director

**Nebraska** enacted a law to create the Radon Resistant New Construction Task Force to develop minimum standards for radon resistant new construction that may be enforced by a county, city, or village as part of its local building code, and recommend such minimum standards to the governor and the legislature. The legislature will use the task force's recommendations during the 2019 legislative session to establish minimum standards for radon resistant new construction. The task force will consider Appendix F of the International Residential Code (IRC) for One- and Two-Family

Dwellings, and whether the installation of an active radon mitigation system, radon resistant new construction, and a radon vent fan or upgrade a passive new construction pipe to an active radon mitigation system may only be performed by building contractors and their subcontractors, or radon mitigation specialists. Led by the chief medical officer of the Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, other members to be appointed by the Governor include a professional engineer; an architect; a representative with expertise in residential or commercial

*"We are excited about the commitment the legislature has made in Nebraska. It's especially encouraging having our governor put his support behind radon safety. He obviously believes that preventing radon exposure is a priority in our state."*

*-Curt Drew, President, National Radon Defense*

An advertisement for the Vibe vibration dampening coupling. The background is black. On the left, a white PVC pipe is shown with a Vibe coupling installed, highlighted by a green circle. In the center, the word "vibe" is written in a stylized, lowercase, light green font with a trademark symbol. To the right of the text is a close-up of the Vibe coupling, a white plastic fitting with two metal clamps. On the right side, another white PVC pipe is shown with multiple Vibe couplings installed, also highlighted by a green circle. Below the text, the website "radongreen.com" is displayed in a bold, light green font. At the bottom right, a white radon vent fan is visible, with a yellow label that reads "RADON MITIGATION SYSTEM".

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building codes; individuals representing a home inspectors' association, a realtors' organization, a respiratory disease organization, a cancer research and prevention organization, and the League of Nebraska Municipalities; representatives of small-scale and large-scale commercial construction associations; three persons representing home builders' associations; and three community public health representatives.

**Utah** enacted a law amending its state building code to require that, when passive radon controls or portions thereof are voluntarily installed, the installation shall comply with Appendix F of the IRC. The law also states that an additional inspection of a voluntary installation is not required.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>State(s) Where Introduced</b>
Disclosure of Radon Hazards	North Dakota
Homebuyer Awareness	Missouri
Mitigation in Child Care Facilities	New Jersey
Radon Professional Proficiency	District of Columbia New York
Radon Resistant New Construction	Mississippi, New York
Radon Testing in Public Schools and/or Child Care Centers	Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee
Radon Testing before Home Sales	New York
Test Result Reporting	Connecticut

### Licensing Law Survives Repeal Threat

**Minnesota** Governor Mark Dayton vetoed an omnibus health and human services budget bill that would have repealed the state's Radon Licensing Act, stating "Minnesota has one of the highest concentrations of radon in the country and this program assures that both radon testers and mitigators are trained and that abatement installations are conducted according to national standards. The program helps protect

public health and provides a level of consumer protection that is needed in this emerging industry." The subsequent bill, signed into law, excluded the repeal and extended the effective date by one year, allowing until January 1, 2019 for the completion of the needed regulatory and administrative infrastructure for the licensing activity. ●

## NRPP News: Doug Kladder appointed as New PAB Chair

In June the AARST Board of Directors approved Doug Kladder to be the new Chair of the NRPP Policy Advisory Board (PAB). Doug has long service on the PAB in the trainer position and history in the certification programs. Kladder replaces Bruce Snead who, retiring from the role, held the position for eight years. Snead and Kladder will work together over the next two months until Kladder takes charge at the annual PAB meeting taking place at the symposium in New Orleans Sunday October 1st.

According to the NRPP by-laws, the Program shall have two committees to assist in providing credentialing policy and guidance recommendations to the AARST Board that maintain impartiality and are free from conflicts of interest: The first is the Policy Advisory Board, consisting of representative stakeholders; the second is a Steering Committee to manage and oversee the policy and compliance practices of the program. The Steering Committee consists of the PAB Chair, the AARST Executive Director, and a PAB member appointed by the AARST BOD. To maintain a firewall, the AARST Board can only withhold approval of NRPP policies that present a legal or financial liability or other undue burden on the program or the Association or endangers public health and safety. ●

*"I look forward to working for the PAB and AARST in the tasks we have set before ourselves in standardizing our credentials, gaining a higher recognition for them, but most of all, serving the certified individuals and consumers who have placed their trust in us."*

*-Doug Kladder, PAB Chair*



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-Henry "Sonny" Toman





# Bipartisan Concerns About the Proposed EPA Cuts

by Jane Malone, AARST National Policy Director

We reported to you last quarter that President Trump's budget would eliminate all EPA radon activities, including State Indoor Radon Grants, the Montgomery, AL National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory's radon reference and inter-comparisons, Headquarters leadership, and funding for vital activities provided by SOS Radon and CRCPD. Public health champions in Congress are weighing what to do. They confirmed that Trump's EPA budget was dead on arrival at the June 15th EPA appropriations hearing.

The House Interior-Environment subcommittee chairman, Ken Calvert (R-CA) opened the hearing by informing EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt that the Trump administration's plan to cut \$54 billion in non-defense spending from the federal budget in a single fiscal year is an "untenable proposition." Calvert noted that the proposed EPA budget would "significantly reduce or terminate programs that are vitally important to each member on this subcommittee ... proposals that we are unlikely to entertain."

Betty McCollum (D-MN), ranking member of the subcommittee, said "I will not support an Interior-Environment appropriations bill that funds the EPA below the current FY2017 funding levels. Cuts to the EPA put the lives, health, and well-being of the

American people in grave danger. Let me close with this one last example of why I feel so passionately about [EPA]. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Mr. Pruitt, this budget proposes to eliminate funding for the EPA's radon program, which educates Americans and save lives. This committee, both Democrats and Republican, has always worked together to support radon."

Tom Cole (R-OK) told Pruitt that he will be the first EPA administrator to get more money than requested, saying "That doesn't mean you'll get as much as you've had, but you'll do better than you've asked for."

Dave Joyce (R-OH) noted that Congress has cut the EPA's budget quite a bit in the past and recently, and that he would expect to take those cuts into account, adding that "nobody is standing on the rooftops begging for dirty water and dirty air and dirty soil." ●

Editor's Note: As we go to press, AARST is cautiously optimistic that the House subcommittee will continue its support for radon-related activities.

*"Cuts to the EPA put the lives, health, and well-being of the American people in grave danger. ....Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Mr. Pruitt, this budget proposes to eliminate funding for the EPA's radon program, which educates Americans and save lives."*

*- Betty McCollum (D-MN)*





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