INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2026

THE RADON REPORTER

Practical Information for Your Success

IEA Podcast: Continuing the Conversation

Sidewall Venting Evidence Review | Increasing RRNC Effectiveness

INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS ASSOCIATION

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Please submit content, comments, or questions to editor@aarst.org.

Indoor Environments Association™ is a nonprofit, professional organization of members who are dedicated to the highest standard of excellence and ethical performance of hazard identification and abatement of radon, chemical vapor intrusion, and other contaminants of concern in the built environment. The organization primarily strives to advance the interests of its members through developing industry standards, certifying technical proficiency, enabling advancement of public policy, and communicating health risks to the public.

Letter from the Executive Director

As we continue advancing the mission of the Indoor Environments Association (IEA), I am proud of the steady progress being made across our programs, partnerships, and professional community. Through our work with the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) and as an ANSI-accredited standards developer in collaboration with the AARST Consortium on National Standards, we remain focused on strengthening industry standards, expanding professional proficiency, and supporting a unified voice for radon and vapor intrusion professionals. These coordinated efforts are essential to ensuring quality, consistency, and credibility across our field.

I am pleased to share that NRPP has once again been awarded continued accreditation by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) under ISO/IEC 17024. This important recognition reinforces the strength, rigor, and integrity of NRPP certification programs and underscores our shared commitment to maintaining the highest standards for credentialing professionals in radon measurement and soil gas mitigation.

A highlight of this year is the upcoming Indoor Environments Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium, which continues to serve as the premier gathering for professionals across disciplines. This year's program features robust lineups in the Practice & Policy, Science & Research, Vapor Intrusion, and States and Tribes track, each designed to foster meaningful insights and practical learning. We are especially excited about the Sunday Continuing Education courses, which include a vapor intrusion training tailored for emerging professionals and regulators. Investing in the next generation of experts remains a top priority, and this initiative reflects our commitment to building capacity across the industry.

At both the national and regional levels, IEA remains deeply engaged in intense efforts to ensure our industry's voice is heard, particularly during these evolving times. We are actively working at the federal level to elevate the importance of healthy indoor environments, fortify existing federal programs, and shape policies that support public health and safety and industry advancement. Meanwhile, IEA chapters continue to play a vital role through ongoing participation in collaboration with state, tribal, and local partners, regional stakeholder meetings, and targeted advocacy efforts. Several chapters are making meaningful progress in advancing legislative and regulatory initiatives, demonstrating the strength of a coordinated, informed, and proactive community representing your industry.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support of IEA. Together, we are building a stronger, more informed, and more impactful community of indoor environments professionals.

IEA Board of Directors Convenes for 2026 Annual Retreat

Strategic Planning, Standards Progress, and Unified Commitment Shape Three Days in Maryland

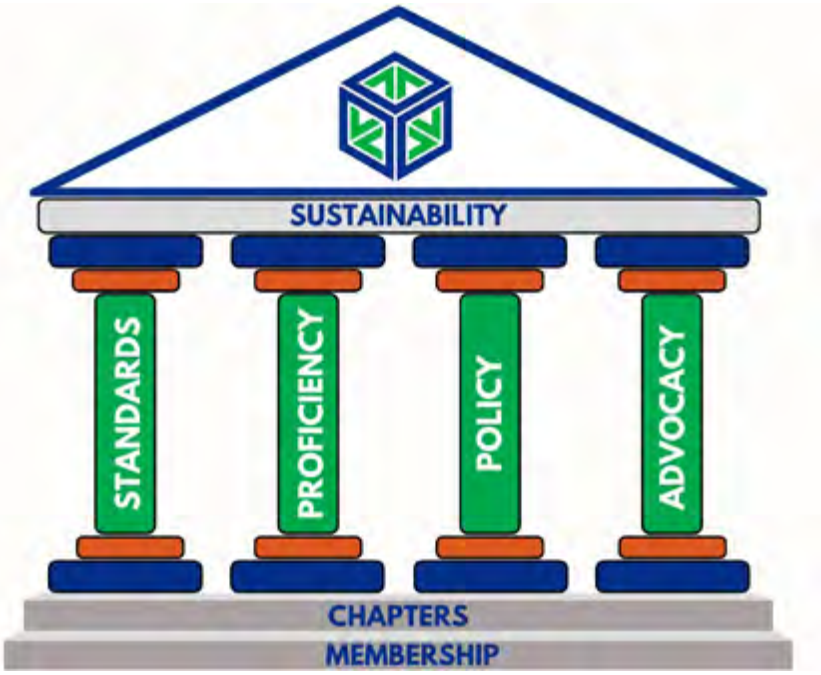
Fresh off the Association's annual Capitol Hill Fly-In, the Indoor Environments Association (IEA) Board of Directors gathered February 25–27, 2026, at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, for its annual Board Retreat, three days of focused discussion, strategic planning, and collaborative problemsolving. With a full agenda and strong participation from officers, directors, committee and council leaders, and staff, the retreat underscored the Association's momentum and the shared commitment to advancing indoor environmental quality nationwide.

The retreat opened with a review of 2025 accomplishments, including progress across NRPP, the Standards Consortium, chapter development, and advocacy initiatives. Updates from the Certification Council, Chapter Council, Government Affairs, and the Audit and Financial teams provided a clear picture of organizational health and the work ahead. The Board also received a detailed update on standards activity, including the Standards Consortium's ongoing support for ANSI audits and progress towards aligning of standards development with NRPP's Job Task Analysis (JTA) calendar, an important step toward strengthening consistency across certification and standards programs.

A significant portion of the retreat was dedicated to the SWOT analysis, which served as the foundation for refining the 2026 Strategic Plan. Directors spent several sessions reviewing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, building on preretreat homework by Board members, committees and councils. These discussions were candid and constructive, reflecting the Board's deep investment in the Association's mission and the importance of setting clear, actionable goals for the year ahead. The resulting priorities will guide IEA's work across chapters and membership growth, advocacy, standards, proficiency, policy and stakeholder engagement.

The Board also examined the evolving Vapor Intrusion proficiency program, discussed committee training needs, reviewed the status of state and federal policy efforts, and explored opportunities to strengthen partnerships with organizations. Updates on branding, membership strategies, and future Symposium planning rounded out the agenda, ensuring alignment across all major operational areas.

Throughout the retreat, one theme was unmistakable: every participant leaned in. Whether addressing resource constraints, industry uncertainty, or the need for stronger chapter engagement, Board members approached each topic with honesty, collaboration, and a shared belief in the value of the Association's work. The retreat concluded with finalization of the 2026 Strategic Plan and a reaffirmed commitment to the mission of improving indoor environments through standards, education, certification, and advocacy.



The 2026 Board Retreat demonstrated not only the complexity of the work ahead, but also the strength of the leadership guiding it. With clear priorities and a unified Board, IEA enters the year positioned for meaningful progress and continued impact.

The Indoor Environments Project: Continuing the Conversation

Earlier this year, the Indoor Environments Association launched The Indoor Environments Project, a podcast designed to explore the science, policy, and professional practice shaping the indoor environmental industry. The first set of episodes introduced the series and established its goal: to create thoughtful conversations that connect researchers, standards leaders, regulators, and field professionals working in radon, vapor intrusion, and indoor air quality.

Episode 8: Vapor Intrusion in Practice: Why This Evolving Field Demands More Than Radon Expertise

Vapor intrusion has moved well beyond the margins of environmental work. Once treated as a niche concern, it now shapes redevelopment decisions, influences building design, and challenges professionals to rethink what "standard mitigation" really means. In the latest episode of ***The Indoor Environments Project***, Executive Director Diane Swecker sits down with two seasoned experts to explore how vapor intrusion projects unfold in the real world, and why the work is far more complex than many assume.

Joining the conversation are **Rachel Peterson**, a professional geologist and Environmental Department Manager with Colorado-based *AGW* whose work includes complex environmental investigations and system design challenges, and **Tony McDonald**, CEO of *A to Z Solutions* who has extensive experience in system design, pilot testing methodology, and mitigation implementation. Together, they bring decades of experience from both the consulting and mitigation sides of the industry.

A Different Kind of Risk

While radon and vapor intrusion share similar soil-gas entry pathways, the comparison quickly breaks down. Radon risk is largely geologic and predictable. Vapor intrusion, Peterson explains, is "site-specific and often the result of manmade releases." Former gas stations, dry cleaners, manufacturing facilities, and oil and gas sites all leave behind volatile chemicals that can migrate into overlying buildings. Even shallow coal beds or poorly sealed historical wells can create methane concerns.

McDonald adds that the conceptual site model, a foundational tool in vapor intrusion work, is far more involved than anything typically required in radon mitigation. "In the radon world, the conceptual site model is one question: is radon a concern? And the answer is yes," he says. "In vapor intrusion, there are dozens of variables that determine whether a risk exists and how to address it."

continued on next page

Where System Design Diverges

The differences between radon and vapor intrusion mitigation begin immediately. Vapor intrusion projects require a larger, more specialized team: environmental consultants to identify contaminants, regulators to review plans, and mitigation designers who understand how chemicals behave in the subsurface. Materials must be selected based on chemical compatibility, and standard radon fans or vapor barriers may not be appropriate.

McDonald notes that the engineering expectations are also dramatically different. Every vapor intrusion system that his firm installs begins with CAD drawings, formal reviews, and multiple approvals. "There's no such thing as design on the fly," he says. "When we turn a system on, it has to work the first time."

Pilot testing is equally demanding. Subsurface conditions rarely behave in the neat, circular patterns shown in textbooks. Buildings with multiple additions, inconsistent aggregate layers, or structural constraints require careful interpretation of pressure field data and often more conservative design choices.

The Challenge of Verification

If design is complex, verification is even more so. Unlike radon, where post-mitigation testing is straightforward, vapor intrusion verification must contend with a world full of volatile organic compounds. New carpets, fresh paint, adhesives, cabinetry, and furniture all off-gas VOCs that can obscure or mimic subsurface contamination.

Peterson explains that this makes sampling interpretation especially challenging. "You will find VOCs in almost any building," she says. "The question is whether they're coming from the subsurface or from the materials inside the space."

McDonald adds that even when a system is functioning properly, verification can be complicated by fan failures, building owner behavior, or incomplete delineation of the treatment area. In one case, he recalls, a building owner simply not wanting to run the system at night, so he would turn it off - a detail that explained unexpected test results.

A Team Sport, Not a Solo Practice

Both guests emphasize that vapor intrusion is not a one-person job. Successful projects require designers, consultants, regulators, and sometimes financial specialists who understand redevelopment incentives and grant structures. Just as important is knowing when not to step outside your expertise. "People ask me exposure questions all the time," McDonald says. "That's not my role. You need the right people at the table."

Why This Conversation Matters

Vapor intrusion is no longer an emerging issue. It is a defining challenge for environmental professionals, builders, and policymakers. As Peterson and McDonald make clear, the work demands technical depth, collaboration, and a willingness to navigate complexity. For those working in radon, mitigation, environmental health, or consulting, this episode offers a grounded look at what it truly takes to design, install, and verify vapor intrusion systems in the field.

Check out the full Episode 8 of **The Indoor Environments Project** It's a timely, insightful conversation for anyone committed to advancing indoor environmental quality and staying ahead of the evolving demands of vapor intrusion work.

The podcast has continued to expand the conversation

Episodes 5 through 7 explore three topics that sit at the heart of the profession: standards development, emerging technologies, and the public health implications of radon exposure.

Episode 5: Why Standards Matter

Released November 26, 2025, Episode 5 focuses on the role that consensus standards play in protecting both professionals and the public.

Host Diane Swecker speaks with Myca Bruno, Managing Director of Indoor Air Quality Assessment at BBG, member of the AARST Consortium's Radon Measurement Standards Committee, and President of the IEA North Carolina Chapter, along with Shawn Price, Director of Operations for Air Chek and AccuStar Labs, former IEA President, Chair of the Standards Management Council, and Chair of the AARST Consortium's Radon Measurement Standards Committee.

Together, they explain what a consensus standard actually is and how the standards development process works. The

conversation highlights how real-world science, field experience, and broad industry participation shape updates to ANSI/AARST standards.

The episode also addresses an issue familiar to many professionals: the risks created when standards are ignored or misunderstood. Ultimately, the discussion emphasizes that standards are not simply technical documents—they are a framework for safety, consistency, and public trust in the industry.

Episode 6: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Radon Work

Episode 6, released January 7, 2026, shifts the focus toward technology and the evolving role of artificial intelligence in the profession.

Diane Swecker is joined by Lorin Stieff, Vice President of Rad Elec and member of the AARST Consortium's Radon Measurement Quality Assurance Standards Committee, who brings a perspective grounded in instrumentation and software, and Chad Smith, NRPP-certified radon measurement and mitigation professional and founder of RadonSketch, who offers insights from years of field experience.

The conversation explores where artificial intelligence may support professionals — particularly in data management, analysis, and workflow efficiency — while also drawing clear boundaries around where human expertise remains essential.

Both guests emphasize that professional judgment, field verification, and accountability cannot be replaced by automation. Instead, the future will likely involve tools that assist professionals while still relying on the knowledge and responsibility of trained practitioners.

Episode 7: Radon Exposure and Long-Term Health Risk

Released February 25, 2026, Episode 7 moves from professional practice to public health.

Guest host Jane Malone sits down with Dr. Allison Wallace, a thoracic surgeon and lung cancer researcher at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada. Dr. Wallace's work focuses on understanding the relationship between radon exposure and lung cancer risk.

The discussion highlights a key concept that many professionals already recognize in practice: the health impact of radon is tied to lifetime exposure rather than a single test result. Dr. Wallace explains the challenges researchers face in measuring long-term exposure and describes emerging research into biological "signatures" that may help identify individuals affected by radon over time.

The episode also explores efforts to expand lung cancer screening beyond smoking history and offers guidance on how radon professionals can help clients understand risk and make informed decisions when elevated levels are discovered.

Continuing the Conversation

Together, these episodes illustrate the broad range of conversations taking place across the indoor environmental field—from standards development and emerging technology to the health science that drives public awareness and prevention.

The Indoor Environments Association created The Indoor Environments Project to support these discussions and provide a platform for experts across the industry to share knowledge, experience, and research.

Listeners can find episodes on their favorite podcast streaming platforms or by visiting **aarst.org/podcast**.

As the series continues, the Indoor Environments Association welcomes ideas for podcasts from across the industry. Professionals interested in suggesting future topics or potential guests are encouraged to reach out and help shape upcoming conversations.

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Mitigation Certification Updates

Results of NRPP Radon Mitigation Certification Revalidation

NRPP notified readers in the last issue of Radon Reporter of the outcome of NRPP's measurement certification revalidation process and changes to the Radon Measurement Professional and Field Technician certification programs. This article updates readers on the changes to the Radon Mitigation Specialist and Mitigation Installer certification programs as a result of the revalidation of these programs, which were approved by NRPP's Certification Council in February.

The revalidation process involved regular meetings of committees of subject matter experts to review the content and format of NRPP's certification examinations, the requirements for initial certification, the recertification interval, and the recertification activities. The process included a validation survey, which many industry members completed. Survey results were used to guide the development of the 2025-2026 programs.

Because NRPP's certifications are designed to identify individuals who possess the knowledge and skills necessary to protect the public from the harmful effects of radon, NRPP revalidates its certification programs at regular intervals to align certification requirements with essential, job-related competencies. Although a solid deadline for rolling out these changes has not yet been set, NRPP is aiming for mid-2026.

Changes to the Radon Mitigation Installer Certification

The Mitigation Installer credential is designed to identify individuals who are proficient at installing soil depressurization systems following designs provided by the certified system designer. This can include installing pipes, fans, and other equipment necessary to reduce contaminants to below their respective action levels. They understand the necessary practical considerations for a successful installation, and they notify the supervising Mitigation Specialist when encountering problems. Mitigation Installers follow safety protocols established by the Mitigation Specialist to protect themselves and the occupants of the building during the installation process and may explain the functioning of the mitigation system to the homeowner or building manager, including how to operate and maintain it. Mitigation Installers work under Radon Mitigation Specialists (and in the future, Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Specialists), installing mitigation systems in single family residential as well as commercial or other large buildings.

For initial certification under the revalidated program, MIs will complete an 8-hour training course, pass a 40-item examination, report to NRPP the name of the Radon Mitigation Specialist (RMS) who will be supervising their work, and agree to the *NRPP Code of Ethics/Certification Terms Agreement*.

MIs will recertify every two years by completing eight hours of NRPP-approved continuing education. Of these eight hours, a four-hour review course covering the SGM standard is required. The remaining four hours of continuing education may be earned from category I or category II activities. MIs will also renew their agreement to the *NRPP Code of Ethics/Certification Terms Agreement* and again notify NRPP of the name of their current supervising RMS.

Differences between the current RMI and the new MI certification include the following:

The name of the Radon Mitigation Installer certification has changed to *Mitigation Installer*. The responsibilities

assessed under this certification have been narrowed to installing soil depressurization mitigation system installations according to the design created by the supervising RMS and reviewing the installation with responsible parties and providing them with the information packet. The Mitigation Installer will no longer be responsible for understanding radon entry behavior and identifying radon entry pathways, communicating with clients about radon risk, or reviewing the work plan with the client: these are the sole responsibility of the RMS. The scope of the Mitigation Installer credential has, however, been expanded to allow for soil depressurization mitigation system installation in single family and commercial or other large buildings for radon or vapor intrusion mitigation purposes.

MIs must complete the 8-hour training course before registering for the examination. In the past, the course was required for certification but was not a prerequisite for sitting for the exam. The examination, which has been reduced from 85 scored questions to 40, assesses knowledge of the tasks MIs perform when installing a mitigation system.

MIs will now be eligible for category II continuing education for recertification. Previously, RMIs were limited to completing category I CE for recertification, which includes traditional lecture-type courses with a quiz to demonstrate proficiency. Under the new certification, MIs may earn a maximum of 4 CEs from category II which includes professional activities such as attending professional conferences, meetings or events, delivering professional presentations, and authoring articles. The addition of category II continuing education promotes engagement in the profession and an opportunity to enhance the MI's knowledge through nontraditional methods.

Upon recertifying, MIs must agree to the ***NRPP Code of Ethics/Certification Terms Agreement*** and must confirm the RMS that they reported for initial certification is still their supervisor (or report a new one). Traditionally these have only been required to be submitted for initial certification. Requiring individuals to sign the ***NRPP Code of Ethics/Certification Terms Agreement*** for recertification reminds them of their responsibility for professional conduct. And reconfirming the supervising RMS is a way to ensure that certification requirements continue to be fulfilled and that MIs are adequately supervised and working within the scope of their certification.

Changes to the Radon Mitigation Specialist Certification

Radon Mitigation Specialists design and install radon mitigation systems to reduce radon gas levels in single-family structures and individual dwellings within a shared structure that contain no more than four attached dwelling units on a contiguous foundation. They evaluate radon levels, assess the source(s) of radon entry, and customize the application of radon mitigation technologies to a particular structure to achieve effective radon reduction. They communicate with inspecting bodies and occupants, homeowners, and others who will operate the system, providing instructions for ongoing maintenance. They may also provide ongoing monitoring and maintenance to ensure the system continues to function properly and keeps radon levels low.

For initial certification under the revalidated program, RMSs will complete a 32-hour training course, pass a 160-item examination, complete a hands-on field experience activity, and agree to the NRPP Code of Ethics/Certification Terms Agreement and QA/QM Attestation Form.

RMSs will recertify every two years by completing 24 hours of continuing education. Of these 24 hours, a four-hour review course covering the SGM standard is required. The remaining 20 hours of continuing education may be earned from category I continuing education courses or category II activities up to a maximum of four CEs for the latter. RMSs may earn up to 4 CEs for completing nontechnical coursework. RMSs will also agree to the NRPP Code of Ethics/Certification Terms Agreement and the QA/QM Attestation Form.

Changes from the current RMS certification include the following:

The RMS candidate must complete a 32-hour mitigation training course prior to registering for the examination. Although the course length has increased from the 24-hour mitigation course currently required, the 32-hour course focuses on not only mitigation but also the essential measurement knowledge required for mitigation work, so the separate 16-hour measurement course is no longer required.

RMS certification will require the candidate to complete a hands-on fieldwork activity that involves installing a mitigation system under the direction of an experienced mitigation specialist. Options for meeting this requirement are currently in development and may include a virtual home that the candidate must navigate through, investigate and ultimately mitigate.

The exam has increased to 160 scored items from 150 and is no longer a two-part exam. Currently, part 1 of the exam consists of 85 RMI questions and part 2 consists of the RMS-specific questions. Under the new certification program, RMS candidates must pass one exam that focuses on knowledge of inspection, diagnostics, system design, soil depressurization, mitigation system installation, and post mitigation activities. The new exam will focus more heavily on diagnostics than the current exam (28% of the exam versus 8%).

Although the number of continuing education credits required for RMS certification has doubled, options for earning CE have been expanded. A RMS will be allowed to take courses from organizations with expertise in specific areas, such as OSHA, ASHRAE, and others. Although these courses will not be required to go through

the NRPP approval process, they will be prescreened by NRPP and will be listed on the NRPP website.

RMS certificants may also earn CEs for continued work experience. The details are currently in development but will include a review of the individual's system installations within the prior two years.

A RMS may currently claim up to four hours of category II continuing education credits, which can include professional activities such as attending radon-related conferences, meetings or events, delivering radon-related presentations, and authoring radon-related articles. This will remain in effect with the new certification, however a RMS may also earn up to four hours of continuing education by completing nontechnical courses that are designed to assist radon professionals in operating their businesses and contribute to a more well-rounded professional. Topics in this category include such things as sales and marketing, using social media, writing proposals and contracts, insurance, and business ethics.

Upon recertifying, a RMS must agree to the NRPP Code of Ethics/Certification Terms Agreement and the QA/QM Attestation Form. Traditionally these have only been signed for initial certification. Requiring individuals to sign the NRPP Code of Ethics/Certification Terms Agreement for recertification reminds them of their responsibility for professional conduct. And, by signing the QA/QM Attestation Form again they are confirming that they operate under a QA program, maintain quality control records, are responsible for the work of subordinates, and understand that NRPP may audit the QM plan and other records as a condition of certification.

Rollout of New Radon Mitigation and Measurement Certification Programs

NRPP staff and subject matter experts are working diligently on creating and updating current handbooks, policies, procedures, forms and the certification portal to accommodate the changes to these two programs. A firm "go live" date for the launch of the revised certification programs has not yet been established. We will communicate all updates here, in Rn Biz, on NRPP's website, and by email to current certificants.

Attention Radon Measurement Device Manufacturers

Please email devices@nrpp.info with the name and email address of the person at your company who will serve as the primary contact with NRPP.

The re-validation of the measurement certification programs has led to changes in device requirements for Radon Measurement Field Technicians and Professionals. NRPP will be communicating these changes to device manufacturers.

To ensure your company receives these updates from NRPP, current contact information is needed. Without this information, the device's future approval status may be affected.

NRPP Awarded Continued Accreditation by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

Radon certification decisions are considered high-stakes, meaning that the outcome of the certification process – whether an individual is awarded or denied the credential – may have serious implications for the individual. Denying certification to someone who deserves to be certified can negatively impact that person's ability to find a job or continue working, and awarding certification to an incompetent individual can place the public's health at risk. For this reason, members of the public, employers, and other radon stakeholders should be able to trust that

Individuals who have earned certification have demonstrated proficiency in and met the requirements for certification,

The certification requirements accurately reflect the requirements for professional, competent practice as a radon measurement professional or radon mitigation specialist, and

The certification program was developed in a way that ensures certification outcomes are fair, valid, reliable, and legally defensible.

Accreditation involves evaluation of an organization by an independent third-party against recognized standards. NRPP is accredited by ANAB to ***ISO/IEC 17024, Conformity assessment– General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons***, which signifies that NRPP has met all requirements of the international standard for operating a certification program, is deemed competent to carry out its certification activities, and meets the global benchmark for quality certification.

The goal of NRPP's certifications is to protect the health and wellbeing of the public. Certifying bodies who adhere to a set of standards and best practices in certification development provide credentials that are valid and reliable indicators of professional competence. ANAB accreditation to ISO/IEC 17024 is confirmation of NRPP's dedication and attention to quality.

Comparison: Radon Mitigation Specialist Credential Requirements

Initial Certification	CURRENT	NEW
Initial training course	16 hr. measurement 24 hr. mitigation	32 hr. mitigation
Lab/Demo/Hands-on Activities (included in course)	Yes	Yes
Exam	Part 1 RMI: 85 items + 10 pilot Part 2 RMS: 65 items + 5 pilot Total: 165 (150 scored + 15 pilot)	Total: 175 items 160 scored + 15 pilot
Duration	180 min	180 min
Field Experience	No	Yes
Code of Ethics	Yes	Yes
QA/QM Attestation	Yes	Yes

Recertification	CURRENT	NEW
Interval	**Every 2 years**	**Every 2 years**
Continuing education hrs.	12 hr. total	24 hr. total
Measurement or Mitigation	Yes	Yes
External courses allowed	No	Recommended
4-hour MSO	Yes	Yes
Remaining:	8	20
Max Category 2	4	4
Max nontechnical	N/A	4
Code of Ethics	No	Yes
QA/QM Attestation	No	Yes

Comparison: Mitigation Installer Certification Requirements

Initial Certification	CURRENT	NEW
Initial training course	12 hr. measurement 20 hr. mitigation	8 hours mitigation
Exam	Total: 95 items 85 scored + 10 pilot	Total: 45 items 40 scored + 5 pilot
	120 min	60 min
Code of Ethics	Yes	Yes
Supervisory reporting	Yes	Yes

Recertification	CURRENT	NEW
Interval	**Every 2 years**	**Every 2 years**
Continuing education hours	8 total	8 total
4-hour MSO	Yes	Yes
Remaining:	4	4
Max Category 2	ineligible	4
Max nontechnical	n/a	ineligible
Code of Ethics	Yes	Yes
Supervisory reporting	Yes	Yes

Chapter Corner

Midwest Chapter

The Midwest IEA Chapter once again led the coordination of the annual Midwest Radon Stakeholder Conference, in conjunction with the American Lung Association and the Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin state radon programs. Combined on-line and in-person attendance was nearly 180 people for the March 13th event. The day-long session provided updates on the industry and tips to grow business and save more lives, while also providing continuing education credit for certified attendees. During one presentation, attendees made over 900 phone calls in twenty minutes to Illinois legislators to push for radon policy change. A recorded version of the conference will be soon available for continuing education credit.

Illinois Policy Update - The Illinois Radon Policy Taskforce, (primarily funded by the Midwest IEA Chapter), continues to push a bill in the Illinois General Assembly requiring public schools to test and mitigate radon. The Taskforce outreach has produced sizable legislative support (42% of Senators as cosponsors), helping its odds in a state notorious for difficulty in enacting new laws. To date, it has made it half-way through the process.

Heartland Chapter

The EPA Region 7 Stakeholders Meeting was held in Lincoln, Nebraska on March 3rd, 2026, bringing together professionals from various industries for discussions and presentations about radon risk-reduction in the four-state region. With more than 150 participants, the event created meaningful opportunities for collaboration as attendees exchanged ideas to advance radon mitigation and foster safer indoor environments. The IEA Heartland Chapter organized a chapter meeting during the event, offering lunch to current members. This annual tradition has seen growing participation every year.

Rocky Mountain Chapter

The RMIEA National Radon Action Month Networking Happy Hour in Englewood, Colorado at Moe's Original BBQ was a huge success on January 28! It was wonderful to see so many members come out to connect, catch up, and celebrate the work we're doing together. Between great BBQ, bowling, drinks, and lively conversation, the energy in the room was fantastic.

The Indoor Environments 2026 Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium

Norfolk, Virginia

REGISTER NOW! The **Indoor Environments 2026 Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium** will take place **October 4–7, 2026, at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott in Norfolk, Virginia.** As the premier annual gathering for professionals across indoor environmental health, radon measurement, vapor intrusion, mitigation, and environmental safety, the Symposium continues to set the standard for education, innovation, and industry collaboration.

This year's event will bring together government agencies, industry experts, scientists, advocates, educators, field practitioners, and vendor partners from across the country and abroad. Sessions will cover the latest research, policy developments, field practices, mitigation techniques, and innovative technologies that advance public and environmental health. Attendees can expect expanded training opportunities, an interactive exhibit-floor learning lab, and sessions highlighting regulatory updates, field practices, and emerging technologies shaping public and environmental health. As always, the Symposium advances the IEA mission: supporting policy, standard-setting, and professional excellence across the indoor environments and soil gas industries.

Why Norfolk? A Coastal City Built for Discovery

Norfolk, Virginia, offers a vibrant and welcoming backdrop for the 2026 Symposium. With its rich maritime heritage, cultural depth, and waterfront charm, the city provides an ideal setting for both professional engagement and memorable exploration.

Fun Facts About Norfolk

- **Maritime and Military Heritage:** Norfolk is home to **Naval Station Norfolk**, the **world's largest naval base**, and the **North American Headquarters for NATO**, making it a key hub for U.S. and international defense activity.
- **A Waterfront City:** With more than 140 miles of shoreline along the Chesapeake Bay, Norfolk offers scenic views, outdoor recreation, and a lively harbor front.
- **Cultural Attractions:** From the **Virginia Opera** to **Chrysler Hall** and **Nauticus**, Norfolk's cultural institutions offer world-class performances, museums, and educational experiences.
- **Historic Attractions:** The **USS Wisconsin**, one of the largest battleships ever built, is permanently docked downtown as a museum and tour experience.
- **Botanical Beauty:** The **Norfolk Botanical Garden** features expansive themed gardens and seasonal displays—an ideal stop for nature lovers.
- **Education and Innovation:** With institutions like **Old Dominion University** and **Norfolk State University,** the city thrives as a hub of research, diversity, and innovation.
- Nearby **Colonial Williamsburg** and **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** offer additional opportunities for history, entertainment, and family-friendly adventure.
- Year-round, Norfolk hosts events, lively dining and entertainment districts, and historic neighborhoods that offer visitors plenty to explore before or after symposium sessions.

The Indoor Environments 2026 Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium promises a rich blend of professional development, networking, and discovery. Mark your calendar and join the indoor environmental health community in one of America's most engaging coastal cities this October.

Symposium Speaker Spotlight: **Jennifer Borski**

Wisconsin's Updated Vapor Intrusion Guidance and Its Updated Mitigation Appendix

The Indoor Environments 2026 Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium is proud to feature **Jennifer Borski**, Vapor Intrusion Team Leader / Hydrogeologist for the WI Remediation & Redevelopment Program / Environmental Management Division, who will present one of the most timely state-level updates in the vapor intrusion field: the **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Vapor Intrusion Guidance, updated in January 2026.** This revision reflects Wisconsin's ongoing effort to modernize its vapor intrusion framework and provide clearer expectations for practitioners working at sites where subsurface vapors may pose a risk.

A central focus of Borski's presentation will be the guidance's updated **mitigation appendix**, which offers detailed requirements and recommendations for implementing mitigation at vapor intrusion sites in Wisconsin. The appendix includes updates on **system design, installation, commissioning, documentation, and long-term stewardship/operation, maintenance, and monitoring (OM&M)**. These additions strengthen the guidance by clarifying what constitutes a complete and defensible mitigation approach, from the initial engineering considerations to the long-term responsibilities that ensure continued protectiveness.

Borski will walk attendees through how WDNR's update aligns with current science and field practice, and how the mitigation appendix supports more consistent decision-making across consultants, responsible parties, and regulatory reviewers. Her session will also highlight how the updated guidance improves clarity around system performance verification and long-term management, areas of growing emphasis nationwide as states refine their vapor intrusion programs.

As part of the Symposium's **Vapor Intrusion Track**, sponsored by **Barnes & Thornburg**, Borski's presentation offers an important look at how one state is advancing its approach to vapor intrusion mitigation. With participation from **EPA and state regulators**, attendees will gain valuable insight into how Wisconsin's updated guidance fits into the broader national landscape and what it means for practitioners working on mitigation projects today.

2026 Annual Capitol Hill Fly-In

With the able assistance of lobbying firm ML Strategies, on February 24, IEA board members and staff descended on the US House and Senate in Washington DC to engage legislative offices on the critical need for Congressional action on radon risk reduction.

Entry to Hill office buildings usually involves X-ray screening of bags and a quick walk through a metal detector. The fly-in day got off to a surprisingly slow start because Capitol Police security implemented extensive visitor screening, including wanding, in preparation for the Capitol complex's hosting of the State of the Union later the same day. Although some were late for first appointments after spending as much as an hour in line outside (in chilly weather), the team managed to cover all 23 appointments. Staff in the overwhelming majority of offices visited were extremely welcoming and attentive, asked good questions, and promised to forward the information provided, which included the state's Radon Report Card, maps with radon test data prevalence, and handouts about the requests being made.

IEA Government Affairs communications with the offices visited will continue through the summer as the appropriations process unfolds.

Capitol Hill Fly-In Team (the day after). L. to r: Duane West (OR), Jane Malone (MD), George Schambach (NY), Dawn Oggier (FL), Kyle Hoylman (KY), Annie-Laurie Hunter (NY), Dan Potter (IL), Diane Swecker (VA), Bob Coffee (IN), Myca Bruno (NC).

The focus of many meetings and follow-up activities was on key EPA programs, which serve as the federal government's primary line of defense against exposure to radon in fulfillment of the Indoor Radon Abatement Act in 1988. The law required EPA to provide leadership on grants to states, proficiency, training, technical assistance, protocols/standards, and science.

EPA's Indoor Air: Radon Program is a critical force in equipping the radon industry and public health programs with the technical and information tools they need to reduce radon exposure in homes, schools, and other buildings.

It has played a key role in establishing a standard of quality for radon service providers, including development and maintenance of a provider credentialing program, a one-time evaluation of two certification bodies, and most recently proposed a new framework to oversee radon credentialing systems. In addition to providing an associated national radon reference, the program supported development and maintenance of standards of practice for radon measurement and mitigation to ensure that all concerned with radon risk reduction are working according to proven evidence-based practices and policies. The program also provides nationwide outreach resources and federal leadership on radon, supports the National Radon Action Plan, and provides technical and research support to state and tribal radon programs as well as industry.

The final FY26 Interior-Environment Appropriations bill fully funded the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, where funding for the Radon Program has traditionally been included. A separate line item is needed to express the need to sustain EPA work focused on radon, and language needed to encourage continued progress with standards and credentialing work.

EPA's State and Tribes Indoor Radon Grants enable state health departments, tribes, and others to implement radon programs best suited to their respective communities.

These programs' radon risk reduction efforts are significant. State and Tribal grantees have accomplished widespread radon testing; adoption of radon-reducing strategies; testing in schools and childcare facilities; addressing radon in during residential real estate transactions; adoption of radon goals in cancer control plans; education and outreach to the medical community; and broader outreach and technical support. Many programs provide free or low-cost test kits for citizens who cannot afford to test. Forty-five State radon programs and up to twelve tribal programs rely on SIRG to support their various approaches to radon awareness and citizen education. Because there is a need for greater consistency, effectiveness, and accountability for radon services within and across states, IEA is seeking to continue current funding for current grantee activities and to increase the total amount of SIRG funds to support improving current regulation of services in 20 states and

establishing new regulatory programs elsewhere. Better oversight is critical to protect families from widespread problems such as incorrect radon test results and unsafe mitigation.

EPA-Related Asks.

We are requesting that Senators and Representatives support in the FY27 Interior-Environment appropriations bills (1) an increase for State and Tribal Indoor Air Radon Grants (SIRG) within the categorical grants program from $9.13 million to $18 million and (2) level funding for the Indoor Air: Radon program within the Radiation and Indoor Air Office, as well as the report language below: ***Categorical Grant: Radon. [SIRG]*** *The Committee continues to support state and tribal radon program efforts that raise awareness about the associated risks of radon exposure. The Committee encourages increasing radon grants from the FY26 level to $18 million, with the increase to be used for adopting and strengthening state credential requirements for radon measurement and mitigation workers.* ***Indoor Air: Radon****. The Committee supports Agency efforts to update its radon credentialing framework to ensure a quality workforce, public health protection, and consistency, and to support the ongoing development of the EPA-recommended voluntary consensus standards.*

Attention to HUD radon policies was also requested.

In several meetings with offices involved in housing-related committees and subcommittees, IEA team members requested new and greater attention to radon policies at HUD. As background, in the wake of FHFA's rescission of its radon policy for multifamily lending, a lending industry association has advocated that HUD multifamily lending follow Fannie Mae and defer radon requirements. IEA is advocating with HUD, and emphasizing the need for Congress to direct HUD, to continue its multifamily lending radon testing and mitigation requirements and, further, to consider strengthening the department-wide radon policy affecting other HUD programs so that it will be as protective as the lending policy, through appropriations report language:

HUD-Related Asks.

We are requesting that Senators and Representatives support including the report language below in the FY27 Transportation-HUD appropriations bills: ***Office of Housing, General and Special Risk Program Account.*** *The Committee recognizes the importance of protecting tenants from radon exposure, the second leading cause of lung cancer, and encourages the FHA to continue the 2020 policy requirement for radon testing, and radon mitigation as needed, performed by Radon Professionals according to the applicable ANSI/AARST industry consensus standard.* ***Community Planning and Development, Office of Environment and Energy.*** *The Committee understands that the departmentwide radon testing and mitigation policy promulgated by the Office of Community Planning and Development is not as protective as FHA's 2020 policy requirement for radon testing, and radon mitigation as needed, performed by Radon Professionals according to the applicable ANSI/AARST industry consensus standard. The Committee encourages HUD to reevaluate and prepare for the implementation of changes consistent with the FHA 2020 policy requirement.*

President's Budget

Breaking News: The Trump Administration's proposed budget for FY 27, released April 3rd, proposed to eliminate the State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grants (SIRG) (along with most other categorical grants to states and tribes), under rationales such as "responsibility for funding local indoor radon reduction programs is best placed with states and localities" and "many programs are mature or have accomplished their purpose." The budget also proposes to eliminate the Indoor Air: Radon program within the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air. These elimination proposals were not accepted by Congressional appropriators last year.

IEA Lobbying Partner - ML Strategies

ML Strategies, based in Washington DC and Boston, is the lobbying and government affairs affiliate of Mintz that specializes in "government relations, strategic lobbying, public affairs strategy, strategic communications, and business development expertise — delivering the insight, access, and execution clients need to influence policy, shape legislation, and drive outcomes at the local, state, and federal levels." Its team includes former senior elected officials, regulators, and government leaders who understand how decisions are made and how to move priorities through complex political and legislative environments.

With support from contributions made to IEA's Advocates Program, the association has contracted with ML for assistance with strengthening Congressional and Executive Branch commitment to radon risk reduction policies.

The ML Strategies team assisting IEA includes:

Anthony DeMaio,Senior Vice President; Frank C. Guinta, Senior Vice President; R Neal Martin,Senior Director of Government Relations

Increasing RRNC Effectiveness and Accountability

Reducing radon exposure through building codes is one of the most effective, scalable public health strategies available. Expanding adoption and effective implementation of RRNC requirements ensures new homes are built with, at the very least, basic passive soil gas depressurization systems from the start.

States and tribes play a critical role in protecting communities from radon exposure, the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Their leadership in advancing RRNC code adoption is key to interrupting the cycle where more new homes cause radon exposure.

Code Adoption Webinar and Toolkit

The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors launched a government-to-government campaign to provide tools to state and tribal radon program leaders to support adoption of building code requirements for radon control systems in new buildings – also known as Reducing Radon in New Construction (RRNC). The effort was kicked off with a January webinar for states and tribes that featured presentations on how RRNC works, the International Residential Code's radon appendix, RRNC adoptions across the US, how state radon programs have collaborated with code officials, and the viewpoint of a code official. The Code Adoption Toolkit, which includes links to the webinar recording, slides, talking points, references, and code adoptions, is posted at https://radonleaders.org/Portal/RRNCtoolkit

RRNC Adoptions Update

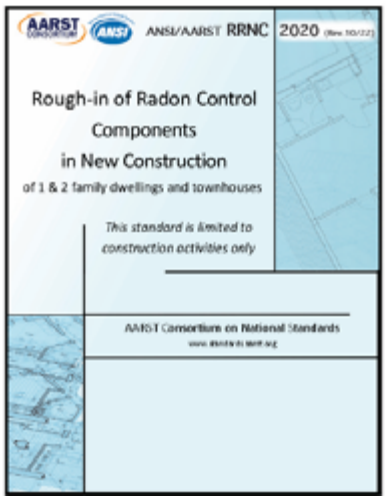
The CRCPD E25 Committee on Radon researched the status of state and local code adoptions of the radon appendix, including which version (year) was adopted. Stakeholders are encouraged to check out the resultant table for state and local adoptions and send any needed updates to nationalpolicy@indoorenvironments.org

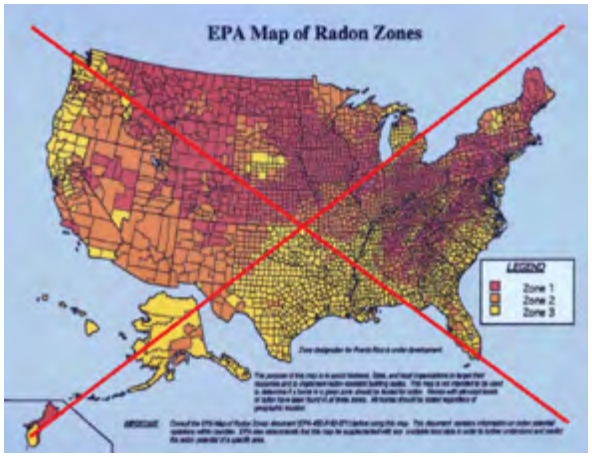
Multiple Versions of the Radon Appendix

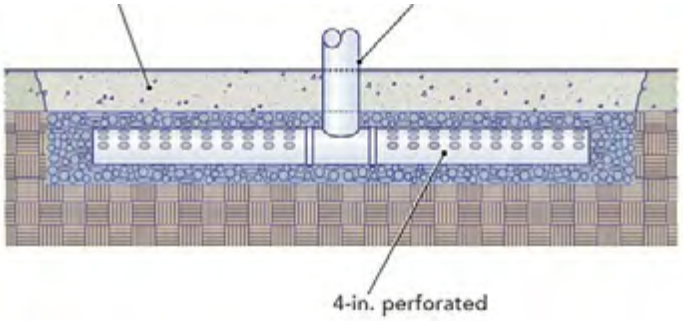
It's no longer just Appendix F (keeping the same name would be too easy). The 2021 version is called "Appendix AF." The 2024 version is called "Appendix BE."

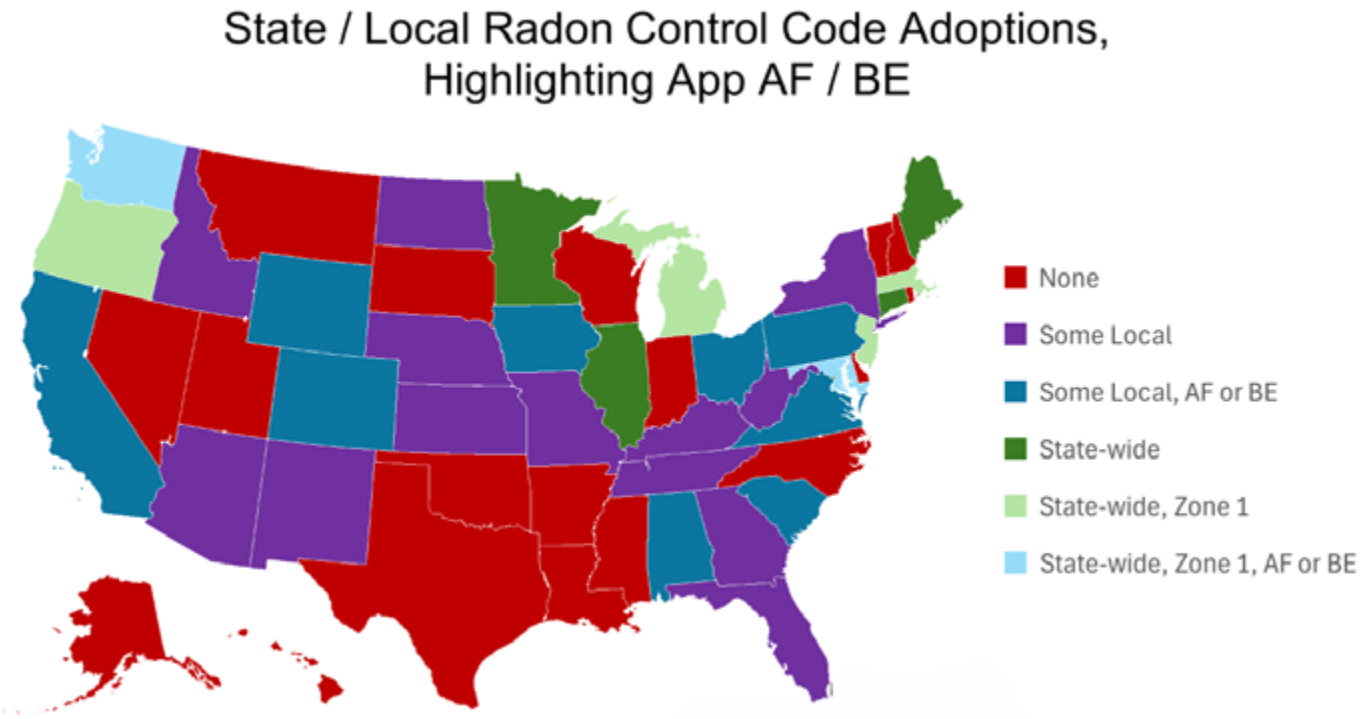
Progress from radon stakeholder advocacy has added complexity. After remaining unchanged for two and a half decades, the radon appendix received seven changes:

- 2021 Appendix AF - addition of the testing requirement
- 2024 Appendix BE - during the past few years: aligned the subslab soil-gas retarder specification during the past few years with IRC's subslab vapor barrier, exempted well-drained soils from sand requirement
- 2027 Appendix BE - eliminated the radon zone map, added fan space, added vertical pipe, added ANSI/AARST RRNC as an optional pathway









Testing Requirements

The IRC Appendix AF (2021) and Appendix BE (2024) require testing (adoptions highlighted in the map above). The 2027 version will be even more protective. The data for this map is posted **here.**

States, tribes, and other stakeholders should pursue adoption of the most recent edition.

IRC Edition	Testing Requirement	Radon Zone Map/List Deleted; ANSI/AARST RRNC Alternative Allowed; Fan Space and Vertical Pipe Added
1995-2018 (Appendix F)	NO	NO
2021 (Appendix AF)	YES	NO
2024 (Appendix BE)	YES	NO
2027 (Appendix BE)	YES	YES

The testing requirement in Appendix AF and Appendix BE generally includes closed building conditions consistent with industry consensus standards. It specifies:

- A post-mitigation testing result below 4 pCi/L must be provided to the code official.
  - Installation of a fan / other system modification needed if the initial test failed.
- A builder, design professional, or an approved third party may use a commercially available kit to conduct the radon test.
- Only an approved third party may use a continuous radon monitor to conduct the test.

As states, tribes, and localities adopt Appendix AF or BE, implementation of the testing requirement will get builders in the habit of passing the radon test by ensuring their subcontractors follow an effective protocol and properly install the radon control system.

Sidewall Venting – A Review of the Evidence

National policies regarding radon remediation differ in relation to the location of fan exhaust, with Canada allowing emission at ground level and the US predominantly requiring expulsion above the roof line. Soon after the allowance of side-wall venting in Canada (2010), there was consideration of its applicability in the US. The following is a brief chronological summary of available studies regarding side-wall venting of radon.

Using model houses and wind tunnel studies, Neff et al. (1994) reported a maximum concentration of 8 pCi/L along the side of a house exhausting radon of 1000 pCi/L at ground level and substantially less (max. 4 pCi/L) when the exhaust was emitted above the roof line.

While the fraction of re-entrained radon was minuscule, Henschel (1995) reported mitigation systems "exhausting at grade level can contribute indoor radon concentrations 3 to 9 times greater than systems exhausting above the eave." For radon exhaust of 1000 pCi/L, the study concluded "Wind tunnel tests of exhaust dispersion outdoors suggest that grade-level exhaust can contribute mean concentrations beside houses averaging 7 times greater than exhaust at the eave, and 25 to 50 times greater than exhaust midway up the roof slope."

Although they did not study ground-level exhaust, Maeda and Hobbs (1996) measured a ground-level maximum of 3 pCi/L in stable air outside a house with roof-level exhaust containing only 200 pCi/L of radon. This study showed that stable atmospheric conditions will reduce dispersion and allow local radon concentrations to elevate.

In a comparison of lateral and vertical exhaust, Bernier and Brossard (2014) noted that, while radon re-entry had been shown to be higher for lateral ground-level discharge, a system could be effective where the basement-level fan was sealed and had proper fittings and sealed piping. Measurements also showed radon levels decrease rapidly to background (natural) concentrations following discharge at ground level.

Lebel et al (2021) used plume modeling of vent exhaust, including a variety of scenarios, to clearly demonstrate the continuous exposure from ground-level radon exhaust to adjacent buildings. The study assessed the dilution of radon-laden exhaust gas and estimated the outdoor concentrations that can be expected under a variety of conditions, reaching as high as 7% of the radon level discharged in the exhaust (which can reach be as 1000 pCi/L, as noted by Neff). Later, using multiple parameters to model above-ground-level exhaust dispersion, Lebel et al. (2022) showed that re-entrainment is possible for the emitting house, and less likely for neighboring houses. The study evaluated plume dispersion for the exhaust-facing and non-exhaust-facing surfaces of the buildings under various meteorological, venting, and building geometry parameters. The direction of the prevailing wind affects locations where radon could accumulate. Outdoor radon concentrations can also be affected by wind speed, atmospheric stability, season (plume buoyancy), vent system velocity and building size.

A video (KSU, 2022) of the dispersion of smoke exhaust, simulating radon emissions, dramatically demonstrated exposure scenarios. Sidewall venting enveloped the host, while venting above the roof line did not. This visual confirms that relatively little dispersion occurs during atmospherically calm periods. While other types of atmospheric conditions can increase dispersion, there is no evidence to support non-roof venting if it must rely on wind to reduce the exposure levels.

Recent measurements conducted in PA (Brodhead (2020) noted a slight increase above background levels with sidewall venting. In a study of ten homes in PA over the course of a year, comparing radon levels every two weeks, alternating between above-roof and grade-level systems, Lewis et al. (2025) found ground-level radon concentrations were higher on the side of the home with fan exhaust, but with little re-entrainment. Interestingly, indoor radon levels above 3 pCi/L were rarer for the ground exhaust location than the roof exhaust location. Radon concentrations were near (or at) non-detectable levels within a few meters from the vent. However, radon levels in the exhaust were low (~230 pCi/L) relative to those that often occur.

As shown here, most studies warn against the venting of radon emissions into the breathing zone. The potential for exposure from the vented radon is evident in the studies identified here. Exhaust from a fan rated at 120 ft3/min (3400 L/min) through a three-inch vent has a face velocity over 40 ft/sec (27 mph). It seems intuitive that this exhaust will impact a neighbor within 40 feet (in one second), especially during calm conditions. Exhaust can contain 500 pCi/L, in which case 28,000 pCi/L are vented each second. Even a fraction of possible re-entrainment accentuates the need to install exhaust on the downwind side of a house, if possible, and can be minimized by controlling the air infiltration

along the vent-facing wall. Due to elevated radon levels in soil gas, continued confirmation of air tightness, both inside and along the vent-side of the home, is critical when the fan is mounted indoors.

Overall, despite conflicting information, sidewall venting inherently elevates local outdoor radon concentrations and increases the possibility (compared with roof-level venting) of radon re-entrainment back into living spaces of the emitting house and its neighbors. Radon concentrations along the side of the emitting house can be quite high near the exhaust vent, and air exchange into the house from nearby open windows or air intakes can increase indoor concentrations, depending on atmospheric stability conditions. As the emphasis has been to reduce radon exposures in homes, schools, and workplaces, it seems counterproductive to allow side-wall venting in the U.S. The increased potential for radon exposure is unnecessary.

Except for the health-implications of freeze-ups, criticisms of above-roof venting have been economically based (materials, repairs). From an economic viewpoint, the materials and labor needed to exhaust above the roof line, or at least above the breathing zone, are inconsequential relative to the cost of even a single lung cancer case in the neighborhood.

Mike Kitto, Retired from the NY State Department of Health Labs; Jane Malone, IEA National Policy Director; Kim Steves, Retired from the KS State Department of Health and the Environment. They serve on the Indoor Environments Foundation's Board of Directors.

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A New Era for Vapor Intrusion Practice: Inside the 2026 ITRC Vapor Intrusion Toolkit

When the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) released its updated Vapor Intrusion Toolkit in January 2026, it marked one of the most significant advancements in vapor intrusion guidance in more than a decade. The new toolkit replaces and integrates earlier documents, (VI-1, PVI-1, and VIM-1), into a single, comprehensive resource that reflects the rapid evolution of vapor intrusion science, regulatory expectations, and field practice.

For environmental consultants, regulators, and mitigation professionals, this update arrives at a pivotal moment. Vapor intrusion is no longer a niche concern; it is a central factor in redevelopment, environmental due diligence, and long-term building performance. The 2026 toolkit provides the clarity, structure, and technical depth needed to navigate this increasingly complex landscape.

A Modernized Framework for a Modern Challenge

The new toolkit is more than a revision — it is a rethinking of how vapor intrusion should be assessed and managed. ITRC's update reflects major advancements in conceptual site modeling, investigation techniques, and mitigation system design. It also incorporates lessons learned from hundreds of real-world projects across the country, offering practitioners a more defensible and consistent approach to decision-making.

The guidance is intentionally practical. It walks users through the entire vapor intrusion process, from initial screening and pathway evaluation to mitigation selection, system verification, and long-term operation and maintenance. The result is a resource that supports both seasoned experts and professionals newly entering the field.

What's New in the 2026 Toolkit

One of the most notable strengths of the updated toolkit is its integration of previously separate guidance documents into a unified, streamlined resource. This consolidation eliminates redundancy and ensures that investigation and mitigation guidance are aligned. This is a major improvement for practitioners who previously had to navigate multiple documents.

The 2026 update also reflects advances in vapor intrusion science, updated regulatory perspectives, enhanced mitigation guidance, and new training pathways. These updates make the toolkit not only more comprehensive, but also more aligned with the realities of today's vapor intrusion work where redevelopment pressures, community expectations, and regulatory scrutiny continue to rise.

A Collaborative Effort Behind the Scenes

The 2026 toolkit reflects the work of a broad coalition of environmental professionals, regulators, academics, and industry leaders. ITRC's model where a state-led, multi-stakeholder collaboration ensures that the guidance is grounded in both scientific rigor and practical field experience.

Contributors from consulting firms, state agencies, and mitigation companies helped shape the document, bringing diverse perspectives on investigation challenges, system performance, and community engagement. ITRC's collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach is one reason its guidance is widely referenced by agencies and practitioners across the country.

How the 2026 ITRC VI Toolkit Evolved

The 2026 Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) Vapor Intrusion Toolkit consolidates and updates three earlier guidance documents:

- VI-1 (Vapor Intrusion Guidance)
- PVI-1 (Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Guidance)
- VIM-1 (Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Guidance)

This unified toolkit streamlines investigation and mitigation concepts into a single, modern resource. The update reflects advances in conceptual site modeling, sampling methods, mitigation technologies, and long-term stewardship practices. By integrating these previously separate documents, ITRC provides practitioners with a clearer, more cohesive framework for evaluating and managing vapor intrusion at a wide range of sites.

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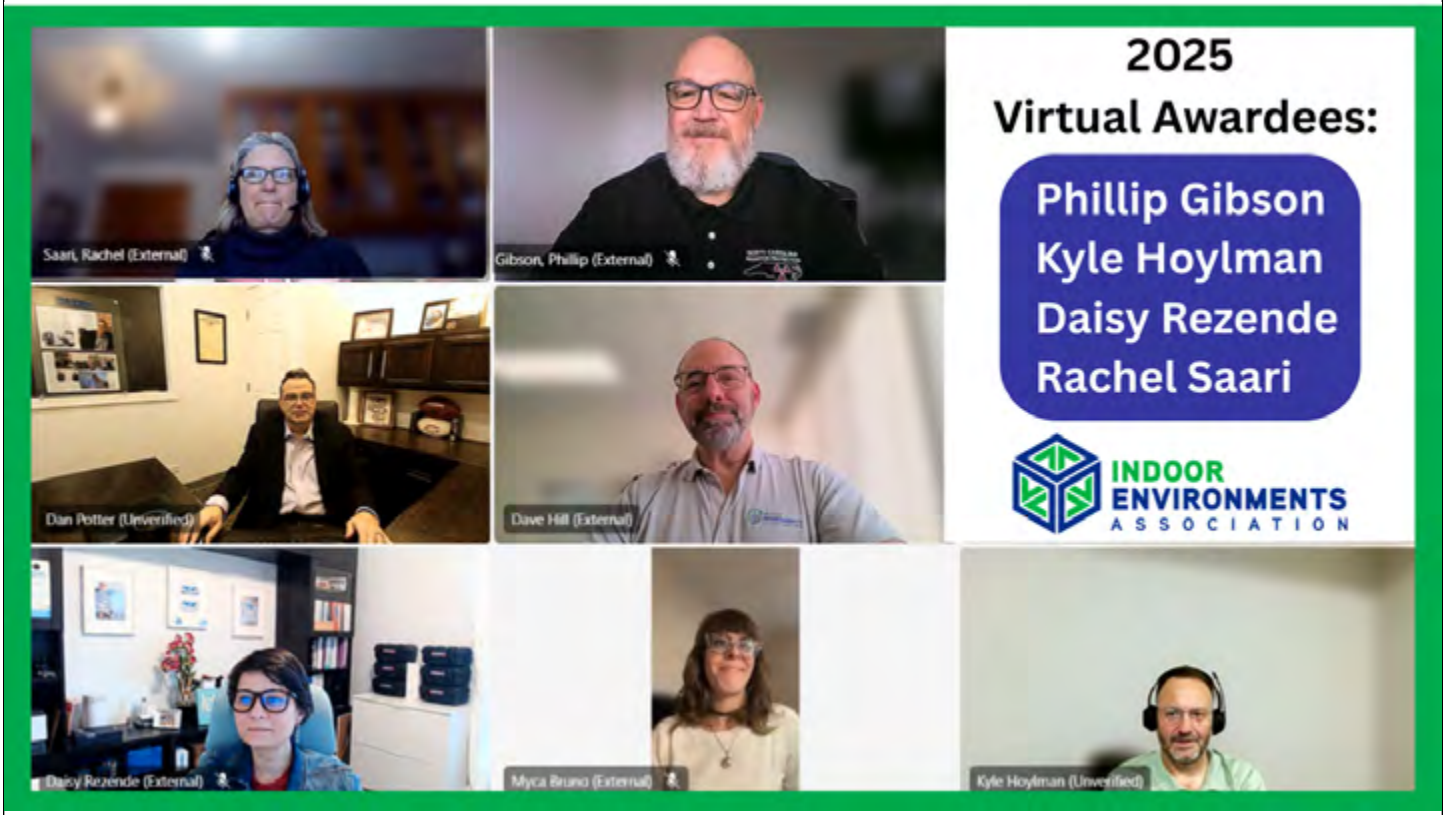


IEA Hosts Virtual Awards Ceremony for 2025 Honorees

The Indoor Environments Association hosted a virtual awards ceremony on January 8, 2026, to recognize the 2025 award recipients who were unable to attend the in person celebration at the 2025 Symposium. The online event provided an opportunity for the broader community to honor the exceptional individuals whose leadership, service, and technical contributions continue to advance the radon, vapor intrusion, and indoor environmental health professions.

The ceremony highlighted several distinguished honorees:

- **Phillip Gibson**, recipient of the Radon Community Impact Award ~ Public Ally, recognized for his long standing public service and statewide leadership in radon awareness through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.
- **Daisy Rezende,** honored with a President's Leadership Award for launching The Indoor Environments Project podcast and elevating IEA's digital presence
- **Rachel Saari,** P.E., recognized with a President's Leadership Award for her national technical leadership in vapor intrusion mitigation and her extensive contributions to ANSI/AARST standards development.
- **Kyle Hoylman,** honored with the IEA Governance Award for his sustained leadership, policy engagement, and commitment to transparent, member focused governance.

This virtual gathering ensured that all 2025 awardees received the recognition they deserve, offering the community a meaningful opportunity to celebrate their achievements and reaffirm the values that drive the Indoor Environments Association forward.

NRPP Certification Spotlight: Mayra Piedrahita

Location :
Omaha, Nebraska

Title/Company:
Environmental Services, Healthy Housing Omaha

WHAT CERTIFICATION DO YOU HAVE?
NRPP Radon Measurement Professional (RMP)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING IN RADON?
I've been working in radon measurement and program coordination for about 2 years.

DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND HOW YOU GOT INTO RADON MITIGATION/ MEASUREMENT
I entered the radon field through community-based housing and environmental health work. In my role at Healthy Housing, I conduct radon testing, manage device deployment and retrieval, oversee quality assurance, and coordinate mitigation referrals when elevated levels are found. My work focuses on helping families understand radon risks and ensuring testing is done accurately, ethically, and in compliance with state and federal standards. Radon became a natural extension of my commitment to healthy homes and prevention-focused public health.

DESCRIBE WHAT A TYPICAL WORKDAY LOOKS LIKE.
A typical day includes deploying and retrieving radon monitors, verifying closed-house conditions, documenting results, uploading data to state systems, coordinating with mitigation contractors, and communicating results to clients in a clear and supportive way. I also manage compliance documentation, quality control checks, and follow-ups to ensure families understand next steps.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WORKING IN THE RADON PROFESSION?
I appreciate that radon work is preventative and evidence-based. It's deeply satisfying to know that accurate testing and education can prevent long-term health risks and empower families to make informed decisions about their homes.

ANY CHALLENGES SO FAR? IF SO, EXPLAIN.
One challenge is addressing misinformation or lack of awareness around radon, especially in communities that have historically been under-informed or under-resourced. Another challenge is balancing technical accuracy with compassionate communication, especially when families are already overwhelmed.

WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET CERTIFIED?
I received my NRPP certification in 2024.

WHY DID YOU GET CERTIFIED?
I wanted to ensure that my work met national standards and that families could trust the accuracy and integrity of the testing being conducted in their homes.

WHY NRPP?
NRPP is widely recognized for its rigorous standards, accountability, and credibility in the radon industry. Certification through NRPP reinforces professionalism and public trust.

WHAT BENEFIT(S) DID CERTIFICATION BRING?
Certification strengthened my technical knowledge, improved quality assurance practices, and increased confidence from partners, contractors, and clients. It also opened the door to program expansion and cross-state compliance work.

ANY ADVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSIDERING A CAREER IN RADON?
Be prepared to combine technical skills with strong communication. Radon work isn't just about numbers, it's about education, trust, and public health impact.

ANY ADVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSIDERING CERTIFICATION?
If you're considering certification, it's a strong sign you're already headed in the right direction. Don't let the process overwhelm you. Learn your study habits, understand how you retain information best, and approach certification with intention. With consistency and the right preparation style, success is absolutely achievable.

Vapor Intrusion Standards

New Projects under Development

The Consortium is preparing for a significant expansion of VI standards development work. While the VI Chair has not yet been seated and formal drafting has not begun, the Executive Standards Committee (ESC) has approved moving forward with two new ANSI/AARST standard project proposals that will form the foundation of the Association's first dedicated VI standards. These early steps signal the beginning of a coordinated effort to build consensus standards addressing vapor intrusion investigation and decision-making.

The first project, **VI-MA**, focuses on vapor intrusion measurement and sampling of indoor air and sub-slab soil gas. The previously filed Project Initiation Notification System (PINS) **BSR/AARST VI-MA-202x (VIMA)** has received a revised scope that establishes minimum requirements and guidance for measurement and sampling practices, explicitly linking these activities to conceptual site model (CSM) procedures used to evaluate potential human health and environmental risks. The newly proposed second project, **VI-CSM,** establishes a uniform conceptual site model framework for vapor intrusion sites. Its draft scope emphasizes clarity and consistency in guiding recommended and required actions associated with addressing vapor intrusion health concerns. Together, these two projects complement the soil gas mitigation standards and set the stage for the Consortium's additional VI standards work that will begin once the VI Chair is seated, the necessary consensus seats are created, and the right experts are seated to carry these consensus-based standards forward.

Oversight for Consumer Radon Monitors

The Quality Assurance (QA) Standards Committee is evaluating whether to develop standardized oversight for **consumer digital radon monitors (CDRMs)**, an area of growing interest as more homeowners and real-estate professionals rely on consumer-grade devices. This could be considered to supplement the **CRCPD E-25** guidance released late last year. With the rapid expansion of consumer radon technology, establishing consistent expectations for accuracy, performance, and quality control is becoming increasingly important.

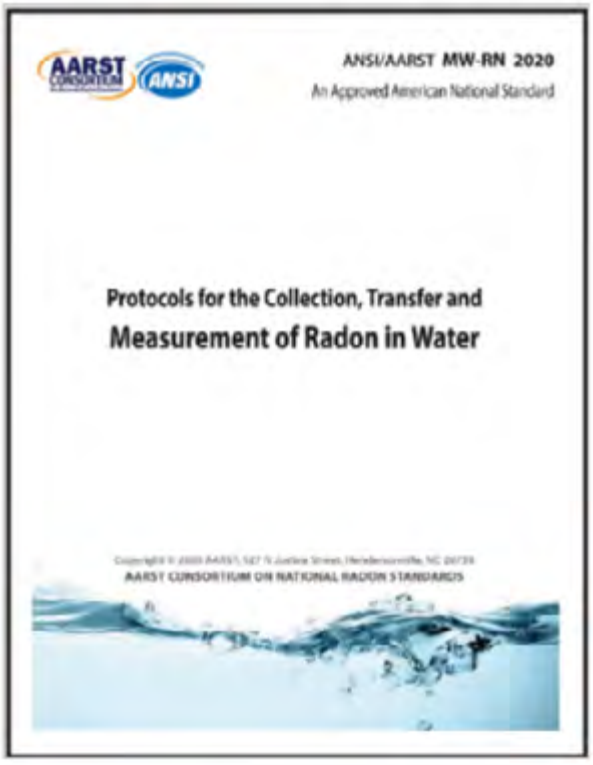
ANSI/AARST Water Standard Revisions out for Public Review

Protocol for the Collection, Transfer and Measurement of Radon in Water

The proposed revisions for publication include various changes in redline/cross-out style that are mostly for clarity as reviewed by the current consensus body. A new Section 3 and revisions to 5.3 and 5.4 were previously publicly reviewed.

This standard of practice contains minimum requirements and guidance for measuring radon in water that enters a building through groundwater supplies for determining if mitigation is necessary to protect current and future occupants of dwellings and other buildings. This standard includes procedures for the collection and transport of water samples, as well as protocols for the quantitative transfer of the sample to a measurement device to determine radon concentrations in water.

Deadline for comments: May 25, 2026



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