



State of Utah

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The Fight against In-door Radon Gains Momentum in Utah

“EPA Region 8 Stakeholders Radon Meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah”

Salt Lake City, Utah – The fight against in-door radon gained momentum in Utah last Thursday, April 12, as the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Radiation Control kicked-off the third annual EPA Region 8 Stakeholders Radon Meeting in Salt Lake City. DEQ Deputy Director Brad Johnson welcomed over a hundred guests from Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Utah.

Renowned speakers included EPA representative Michael Wenstrom, Senior Director of Community Oncology Research and Professor of Medicine at Huntsman Cancer Institute Dr. Wallace Akerley, Director of the Midwest Universities Radon Consortium William J. Angell, the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists President Carolyn Allen, and Cancer Survivors against Radon President Gloria Linnertz.

Angell explicated findings from recent radon research. Linnertz presented legislative accomplishments in Illinois, and Dr. Akerley offered a physician’s perspective, “Non-smoking related lung cancer appears to have a different natural history compared to smoking related lung cancer. The cause of these cancers is likely due to radon. Non-smoking related lung cancers are treated differently than smoking related lung cancers.”

The 2-day event culminated Friday with classes for radon professionals. Doug Kladder, Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CERTI), conducted an 8-hr CE credit course on mitigation systems in new building construction and Trudy Smith, Spruce Environmental, conducted an 8-hr CE credit course on radon measurement.

“This was an important event for Utah,” said Radon Program Coordinator Christine Keyser. “There was a synergistic affect; people left more knowledgeable and better equipped to assist the public in reducing radon exposures.” Meeting presentations will be posted soon at: www.radon.utah.gov.