



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

Date/Time: October 7, 2021 10:00 AM

Location: UAlbany School of Public Health,
Rensselaer, NY

ATTENDEES

Cindy Costello, NYSDOH, Task Force Liason
Alex Damiani, NYSDOH
Christine Dobert, NYSDOH
David Ohehir, NYSDOH
Gary Ginsburg, NYSDOH Designee
Christopher Chin, NYSDOH Law
Selica Grant, NYSDOL Designee
George G. Schambach
Richard “Dick” Kornbluth
John Addario, Secretary of State Designee

AGENDA

Purpose of the task force

- Examine the need for interagency coordination of public education and outreach and prevention programs
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- Examine the need for training, education and possible, education and possible licensing of radon services providers
- Review of any other related information that the commissioner of health may deem necessary or relevant in carrying out such study of radon in indoor settings.

Discussion

- Interagency coordination of public education and outreach
- Licensure/certification of radon testers and mitigators performing work in NYS.
- Optional appendix F “Passive Radon Gas Controls” to the international Residential Building Code
- Radon testing (and mitigation, if needed) in schools
- Radon testing in daycare facilities
- Radon testing and mitigation as part of all real estate transactions
- Financial assistance and/or incentives for persons to test and mitigate their homes for radon.
- other

Notes:

- Meeting started at 10:17 AM by Gary Ginsburg
- Introductions
- No Real Estate representative was selected for Task Force
- Final report extension requested for December 2022
- NYS has no licensing or regulation for mitigation and testing
- Proposed Legislation

Purpose of the task force

- Examine the need for interagency coordination of public education and outreach and prevention programs
 - o Radon program has been in existence for 32 years
 - o What agencies to include?
 - o Proposed Legislation
 - o Community target outreach pending radon testing results
- Examine the need for training, education and possible, education and possible licensing of radon services providers
- Review of any other related information that the commissioner of health may deem necessary or relevant in carrying out such study of radon in indoor settings.

Discussion

- Interagency coordination of public education and outreach
- Licensure/certification of radon testers and mitigators performing work in NYS.
- Optional appendix F “Passive Radon Gas Controls” to the international Residential Building Code
 - o Building code for houses
 - o Appendix F requires houses to be built with passive systems
 - o Two towns in Livingston County that has adopted appendix F
- Radon testing (and mitigation, if needed) in schools
 - o Regulation is schools need to be responsible and aware for Radon risk potential
 - o Facility planning guidance- “should consider” radon indoor air quality
- Radon testing in daycare facilities
 - o OFCS requires daycares to do environmental hazard testing, including radon
 - Dependent on zones with locations with 4.0pCi/l average
- Radon testing and mitigation as part of all real estate transactions
 - o Proposed for Radon testing and mitigated to be required
- Financial assistance and/or incentives for persons to test and mitigate their homes for radon.
 - o Minimal available programs for financial assistance
 - o Proposed for Health insurance due to mitigation health preventative measure
 - Use money from Health Savings Account
 - o Colorado uses a fund from recycled tires, excess money is used to financial aid for radon mitigation
 - o USDA have some funds
 - o What are gaps?

- Radon in well water
 - Action level is 40,000 pCi/l
 - Some states have regulations for public water radon levels
 - Studies are looking for the effect radon in water and stomach cancer
 - Uranium and Radium (parent isotopes) in water is regulated
 - Outreach Public Education
 - Radon Action month
 - DOT highway signs promoting radon testing
 - Real Estate
 - Disclosure- If home is radon tested, results should be required to be made known to both parties
 - No requirement for real estate transactions if mitigation system is needed, money not earmarked specific for mitigation
 - Some banks require Radon testing
 - Rental/ Tenants
 - Units not required for radon testing/ mitigation
 - Housing codes/ regulations?
 - HUD funding housing units are required to test 100% ground units 10% above ground for final loan process
 - Effective as on March 7th, 2021
- George Schambach Presentation “Radon Risk Potential in New York State Maps of Radon Test Data from Labs New York State- by County 2008-2017at 11:26am
 - How many houses are being tested and what are the results?
 - Real estate transactions vs concern owners
 - Receiving data from state provided tests, home testers, public labs
 - Radon Mitigation
 - Training, education, and credentialing of Radon service providers
 - “Measurement and mitigation are being performed by individuals who either do not know the industry standards or choose to not abide by them”- Colorado study
 - Voluntary Certification is insufficient
 - Define certifications V. Specialist
 - Certifying boards
 - NRSB, NRPP, AARST
 - AARST develops the standards, NRPP provides the certification
 - Recommendations
 - Regulation through Certification
- Meeting adjourn at 2:40 PM
 - For next meeting
 - How to address certifying, licensing, and enforcement
 - Budget
 - Outline other states timeline of licensing and certification
 - New Construction
 - Meet again November 4 2021
 - Future discussions
 - Comment period from outside agencies and community