

**Meeting Minutes
Environmentally Triggered Chronic Illness Commission
October 23, 2019**

Present: Sen. Tom Sherman; Rep Charles McMahon; Rep Gary Woods; Katheleen Bush, PhD; Mike Wimsatt, NHDES; Rep. Jeff Salloway, PhD; Amy Costello, UNH; M. Messmer; Rep. Nancy Murphy

Presentations by: Owen David: Radon Specialist, Health Homes Radon Program; Lance Bouscher: American Lung Association

Sen. Sherman: He called meeting to order at approximately 10 AM

Rep. Salloway: He moved to approve previous minutes.

Mindi Messmer: She seconded Rep. Salloway's motion.

Unanimous Commission vote in favor of approval.

Mindi Messmer: She volunteered to be temporary clerk.

Rep. Woods: He nominated Mindi Messmer as clerk.

Sen. Sherman: He seconded Rep. Wood's motion.

There was a unanimous vote for Mindi Messmer for clerk

Sen. Sherman:

- He introduced to the commission the topic of radon in New Hampshire.
- He was asked to create a commission via legislation during a stakeholder office meeting.
- He suggested that this Commission could possibly look at radon exposure instead of forming a new commission.

Owen David:

- He said radon work has been dormant in New Hampshire since 2011.
- He said he will send the commission the DHHS slides.
- He said that the water and air in one's home is radioactively unstable and naturally occurring.
- There is an average of 1.4 pico curies/L of radon inside New Hampshire homes.
- Radon has no odor, no taste, and no color.
- Radon is tied to lung cancer via inhalation.
 - Breaks down w/polonium on dust particles
 - Stomach cancer via ingestion
- Other cancers are currently being studied. This has been a known issue for quite some time.

- There are two testing procedures: short term and long term.
 - Short term is 48 hours and long term is 90 days.
- Testing measures gamma radiation - decay products of gamma radiation- radon emits an alpha particle that is a DNA disruptor which causes cancer - inhaled in lungs – possess a real risk to health.
- EPA 4pCi/L -is action limit - based on technology limitation.
- Remediate in homes by sub slab depressurization
- Construction changes - radon resistant new construction policy changes - new building code
- 10,000 :1 transfer water to air
- Private wells pose an issue, but it is not fully understood or known what the depth of the problem is.

Mindi Messmer: She asked Mike Wimsatt how many public water systems are above 2,000 Pi/L.

Mike Wimsatt: He said he will provide answers to the commission.

Rep. Salloway: He asked what is the RR of exposure.

Mindi Messmer: She answered 4Pi/L - RR exposure above 4 from USEPA (2003), based on an assumed average equilibrium fraction of 40% between radon and its decay products and an indoor occupancy of 70%, the estimated risks from lifetime exposure at the 4 pCi/L action level are: 2.3% (all), 4.1% (ES), and 0.73% (NS).

Owen David:

- In New Jersey every radon test gives the state \$10 so the state can take data
- New Jersey has the strictest laws on construction and school testing
- There is radon in schools
- 19 New Hampshire schools were tested

Amy Costello: She asked what was the number of schools that declined testing.

Owen David:

- He said he didn't find too many.
- He suggested perhaps a policy focus on school testing and mitigation.
- In schools the average was above 4 PiC/L.
- He went to science classes to educate children.

Amy Clark and Marjorie Shumaker:

- They said that years of construction are important. Newer schools with HVAC systems are not as much a problem.
- Children work at higher rate of inspiration and are closer to the ground
- SEAU 48 used short term test kits.
- The focus on health impact on children may be important.

- There is a 10-20-year latency for lung cancer.
- Cancer registry - occupation and residential risk
- Bill Field Iowa professor - radon risk
- As smoking rates go down, there is an expectation for higher rates of lung cancer from other environmental triggers

Lance Bouscher: He said 10% of deaths are directly radon related

Rep. McMahon:

- Disclosure about the issue in New Hampshire. Is this the right commission to address this?
- Commission consensus was yes, this is the appropriate place to address this issue.
- Title 5 for septic in Massachusetts
- Fire fighters - in Massachusetts and Colorado there is fire and egress
- What is critical answer on what is needed?

Sen. Sherman:

- January meeting will be dedicated to radon issue in radon awareness month.
- Owen and Lance will bring back - policy and legislative proposals for us to address the issue.
 - Construction codes on homes and schools?
 - Schools testing program and possible policy changes?

Katie Bush:

- Community Health Tracking program
- Community Health outlooks

Nick Shonka:

- New EPHTS NHDHHS scientist
- Lead there has been an increase in testing kids under 2 upward trajectory - discuss at next meeting?

Amy Costello:

- Commented that the EHPTS work is amazing. Have come so far in 2 years since this Commission started. Supported by Mindi Messmer.

Mindi Messmer:

- She suggested future meetings presentation from Amy Costello on UNH work on costs with conditions. On NIEHS summary outcomes.

Next meeting:

November 22, 2019-

- Salloway - full page of thoughts,

- Discussion on charge and brain storming
- Cancer discussion from NHDHHS

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

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