

Attendee Questions

How Illinois Got 10K Radon Tests and a Pending Real Estate Law

- 1. Have resources been pursued for low-income families with elevated radon levels or what are the thoughts on this?**

Patrick: We provide test kits for some based on the 1st kit results. We also provide data on each individual home to base mitigation strategy and Illinois specific guidelines/regulations, documents, and mitigation checklists. Post-mitigation, we also provide free inspections. While we do not provide funding, we do provide information on contacting a licensed mitigator.

- 2. What is the IL bill number, perhaps a link?**

House Bill 1425

- 3. What degree of certainty can be placed on the passage of the proposed legislation?**

John: We are 99 percent confident the legislation will be passed.

Gloria: We anticipate passage in the next day or two.

- 4. Since the release of the new map and the test kit giveaway, what's been the increase in mitigations in per cent terms?**

This is difficult to tell because in 2005 there were approximately 5500 mitigations and 6500 mitigations in 2006. The reason why there were a number of mitigations is hard to tell and there is no real firm number.

- 5. What was the return rate of the kits given away for free?**

Because the kits were bought in bulk to receive a better rate, it is hard to have a firm number. We estimate about a 50 percent return rate. We have asked recipients of kits to provide us with information but sometimes the kits are used until 2-3 months after they have been received. We have also given the kits to hospitals, American Lung Association and county health departments. From grant money this year, we hope to develop a survey to gauge a better estimate on the return rate.

- 6. Given the passage of the pending legislation, what are Gloria's plans?**

Not going to stop because there is so much to be done. I would like to work with the American Cancer Society to develop a Radon brochure on the facts of Radon gas and cancer. I would also like to work with doctors to encourage patients to test their homes for Radon and with realtors to encourage testing for clients.

- 7. Is there anything Pat would do differently to improve?**

Not sure what could have been done differently considering where we are at now. No one has opposed the house bill and have state-wide support. It would be nice to educate legislators and state representatives earlier on. The key to success is to have a team of advocates, partners when pursuing legislation. The industry also has to be aware.

- 8. Do you see a RRNC code being passed next?**

Under the Illinois Home Rule there is no statewide building code. Each municipality has the responsibility to develop building code. Many individual communities have passed RRNC and are beginning to work with private firms. These firms are pushing for a statewide code.

- 9. Our real estate agents are not as supportive. Are there any techniques you found worked well?**

There are 60,000 licensed realtors in Illinois. We approached the government affairs bureau with all data provided by IEMA that Radon wasn't going to go away. Radon is an issue in real estate transactions. While testing is reasonable, mitigation could cost upwards from \$800-\$1500 and this was a concern for realtors. We worked with the real estate professionals to comp up with a plan that was workable. This was an overall cooperative effort.