



State of Utah

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Department of  
Environmental Quality

Alan Matheson  
Executive Director

Brad T Johnson  
Deputy Director

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

Eleanor Divver  
Radon Coordinator  
Office: 801-536-0091  
Cell: 801-558-4053  
[edivver@utah.gov](mailto:edivver@utah.gov)

**Radon Takes Center Stage at DEQ-Hosted Conference**

*EPA Regional Meeting to Discuss Health Impacts of Radon, New Research Findings*

SALT LAKE CITY – About 100 people around the Intermountain West will gather here on Thursday, April 7 to learn about the latest radon research when the Utah Department of Environmental Quality hosts the Environmental Protection Agency’s annual radon conference in its Board Room, 195 North 1950 West.

Utah’s efforts to raise public awareness of the dangers posed by radon made Salt Lake the natural choice for this year’s two-day conference. Notable speakers will include Dr. Wallace Akerley, oncologist at the Huntsman Cancer Institute; Michael Siler from the American Cancer Society, Government Relations; Randy Jepperson from Green and Healthy Homes; and Cancer Survivors against Radon President Gloria Linnertz.

Many experts believe that non-smoking-related lung cancer is likely caused by exposure to radon. “When people live in homes with elevated radon levels, it is like living in a smoker’s room,” Dr. Akerley said.

On the first day, attendees will learn more about research conducted at BYU, Davis County and other locations. For instance, research at local fish hatcheries showed that radon in the water inside the hatcheries was being released into the air and exposing employees to radon levels well above the EPA action level of 4pCi/L of air. On the second day, the conference will offer educational opportunities and training for certified home inspectors and radon mitigators.

“Testing your home for radon is a simple public health measure that all Utah residents can take for \$7.95,” explains Radon Coordinator Eleanor Divver. “This meeting will allow people in the field to become more knowledgeable and better equipped to assist the public in reducing their exposure to radon.”

Meeting presentations will be posted at: [www.radon.utah.gov](http://www.radon.utah.gov).

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**About DEQ**

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah’s air, land and water. For more information, visit [www.deq.utah.gov](http://www.deq.utah.gov), follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.