



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

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Radon Takes Center Stage at DEQ-Hosted Conference

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

SALT LAKE CITY – Utah continues its leadership in the fight against indoor radon and it gains momentum in Utah Thursday, April 18 when the Utah Department of Environmental Quality hosts an EPA conference at the Viridian Event Center in West Jordan. Over 100 attendees from around the Intermountain West will learn about the latest radon research as well as strategies for getting the word out about the dangers of indoor radon exposure.

Notable speakers will include Dr. Wallace Akerley, oncologist at the Huntsman Cancer Institute; Dr. Scott Collingwood, director of Pediatrics at the U of U, Dr. John Beard, Professor of Environmental Health at BYU, EPA speakers, and local speakers will light up the conference.

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

On the first day, attendees will learn more about research going on at BYU, Utah County and other locations. One interesting research project on 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 mitigators.

“Testing your home for radon is a simple public health measure that all Utah residents can take for \$8.95,” 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: radon.utah.gov.

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) mission is to safeguard and improve Utah’s air, land and water through balanced regulation. 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 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.