

CRCPD *Newsbrief*

Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.
A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

www.crcpd.org

October 2024

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS

By Lisa Bruedigan

Hello again.

As the seasons change and many of you struggle with unprecedented natural disasters, CRCPD continues working hard to represent you.

International Commission on Radiation Protections, Special Liaison Organizations Meeting

I had the privilege of representing CRCPD on September 10, 2024 at the International Commission on Radiation Protections, Special Liaison Organizations meeting, where topics such as the **Vancouver Call for Action, Sustainable Development Goals and the System of Radiological Protection** were discussed. Another key topic was **artificial intelligence (AI)** and what various organizations are working on for AI. I will be surveying some of them in the near future.

5th European Congress of Medical Physics

I also attended the 5th European Congress of Medical Physics, where innovation in radiation therapy and AI were a large part of the presentations.

CRCPD IS REPRESENTING YOU

"As the seasons change and many of you struggle with unprecedented natural disasters, CRCPD continues working hard to represent you."

Lisa Bruedigan

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

(continued)

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS

Insights from Visiting Federal Agencies

October was a significant month in our regulatory calendar, as the tri-chairs, Rikki Waller (past Chair), Pat Mulligan (Chair-Elect), Lisa Bruedigan (Chair), and Ruth McBurney (Executive Director), undertook the annual Federal Visits in DC.

This was a pivotal moment, especially for me as a first-time attendee, as I witnessed the profound impact and cooperative spirit of each organization we met with towards CRCPD. This event was of utmost importance, and I am excited to share the insights with you.

Meeting with NRC

The week kicked off with a joint visit by CRCPD and the Organization of Agreement States (OAS) to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). **This was not just a presentation but a highly interactive session, where many of you joined remotely to listen to the insights shared by CRCPD and OAS with the NRC Commissioners, followed by a stimulating Q&A session.** We then had the privilege to engage in one-on-one discussions with the Commissioners and other key members of NRC staff. The discussions were not just lively, but also crucial, covering numerous topics for everyone attending.

Some Topics of Discussion with NRC

- **The Advanced Act and Advanced Reactors**, including what radiological emergency preparedness (REP) looks like for the communities with advanced reactors.

JOINT VISIT BY CRCPD AND OAS WITH NRC

"We then had the privilege to engage in one-on-one discussions with the Commissioners and other key members of NRC staff. The discussions were not just lively, but also crucial, covering numerous topics for everyone attending."

Lisa Bruedigan

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

(continued)

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS

Some Topics of Discussion with NRC - continued

- One of the most invigorating discussions revolved around the potential of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and its application for licensees and regulators. We explored various options, such as using it with web-based licensing to identify trends faster than ever before. This forward-looking discussion left us all feeling optimistic and inspired about our work's future and its potential for our industry.
- **New technology involving radioactive material** and a reminder to reach out to various resources, including the NRC and other states, who can share any experience they may already have.
- Another significant discussion was about the **struggles we are all having with staff salaries and turnover**. It was reassuring to hear that several of the Commissioners are not only aware of this issue but also willing to talk with state leadership as needed, especially about the value of being an Agreement State.
- **Another significant proposal emerged for a mentor program for new Director Members**. This program, which includes ideas such as observing an Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP), attending basic inspection training, and learning more about OAS and CRCPD, underscores our commitment to supporting and nurturing our new members and other state programs. It demonstrates how our organizations can help them in various areas as they learn their new duties and support their teams.

INVIGORATING
DISCUSSION ON AI

"We explored various options, such as using it with web-based licensing to identify trends faster than ever before. This forward-looking discussion left us all feeling optimistic and inspired about our work's future and its potential for our industry."

Lisa Bruedigan

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

(continued)

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS

Meetings with ORS, NNSA and FEMA

CRCPD spent the next two days meeting with several other federal partners, including the Office of Radiological Security (ORS), the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These meetings covered a vast array of topics with highlights such as:

- ORS's push to assist the remaining six states still have **blood irradiators** to irradiators using x-ray sources.
- The discussion at NNSA involved **training needs**, including Radiological Assistance Program Training for Emergency Response (RAPTER), and the need for additional training across many of the states. This included a short conversation about observations between states with nuclear power plants and those without. **We also discussed the future of Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) for advanced reactors and the need to develop a standard message for the states.** A suggestion was made to hold a special session at the May CRCPD meeting to hear what the states need for guidance or input. The planning committee will consider this during the November planning meeting.
- At FEMA, we reviewed the **Radiological Operations Support Specialist Program (ROSS)** and the commitment from both parties to continue enhancing this program, as well as REP planning for advanced reactors and educational opportunities.

REP FOR ADVANCED REACTORS

"A suggestion was made to hold a special session at the May CRCPD meeting to hear what the states need for guidance or input. The planning committee will consider this during the November planning meeting."

Lisa Bruedigan

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

(continued)

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS

CRCPD Members in Additional Activities

As usual, other CRCPD members carried out additional activities, with **Ruth and Pat attending the Advisory Team** meeting in September and **Chris Moore serving as a subject matter expert at a meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency on Radiation Safety in High Background areas**. This is also an excellent reminder to keep your passports ready, as you never know if you will be the next expert we call on to represent the group at an international meeting.

The CRCPD Fall Board Meeting is November 19-21, 2024. One activity is planning the agenda for the 2025 CRCPD Annual Meeting in May in Tucson, AZ. So, **if you have any special requests, please send them to us as soon as possible.**

EPA Radon Grant

Lastly, a big shout out to Ruth, Kim Steves, and the team that worked diligently on the requirements to be considered and awarded one of the EPA Radon grants. **We have some great people working hard to advance this organization's goals and objectives**—read the additional information in Ruth's article.

Stay safe and stay engaged. Until next time.

CRCPD FALL BOARD
MEETING

November 19-21, 2024.

Planning the agenda
for the 2025 CRCPD
Annual Meeting in May
in Tucson, AZ.

Lisa Bruedigan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
MESSAGE

NEW OPPORTUNITIES, NEW CHALLENGES FOR CRCPD



Since September, CRCPD has had the opportunity to visit some of our key federal partners and has expanded its partnerships through a recent new grant award.

In October, the **Board leadership and the leadership team from the Organization of Agreement States briefed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on several key issues in controlling radioactive materials.**

Later that day, we met with each of the Commissioners separately and management staff. During the next couple of days, the CRCPD Board leadership members and I met with representatives from the **Environmental Protection Agency, the National Nuclear Security Administration's Consequence Management group and the Office of Radiological Security, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Office of Emerging Threats and the Technical Hazards Division.**

We had great discussions regarding continuing and expanding cooperation on important radiation protection projects and the challenges facing both federal and state programs, such as workforce development and addressing new technologies. We also plan to hold virtual visits with other federal partners soon.

MEETINGS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

"We had great discussions regarding continuing and expanding cooperation on important radiation protection projects and the challenges facing both federal and state programs."

Ruth McBurney

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
MESSAGE *(continued)*

NEW OPPORTUNITIES, NEW
CHALLENGES FOR CRCPD

EPA Cooperative Agreement on Radon Issues

CRCPD is also pleased to announce that we are one of six organizations out of thirty applicants who have been awarded a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to continue work on radon issues. The project is titled "Building Technical Capacity for Radon Risk Reduction" and will be for three years beginning October 1, 2024. The EPA press release announcing all of the cooperative agreement awardees, "EPA Awards \$1M to Address Asthma, Radon, and Indoor Air Risks," is available at <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-1m-address-asthma-radon-and-indoor-air-risks>

Volunteer for Working Groups

With new activities in the areas of emergency planning, environmental radiation, source security and radiation protection in the healing arts involving new technologies in both machine-based radiation and radioactive materials, **one of the challenges we face currently is the need for volunteers to serve in working groups.** Specifically, we have a need for volunteers who are interested and have experience in the following areas:

- Technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material
- Artificial intelligence as can be applied to radiation protection
- Workforce enhancement and training
- Use of new technologies in the healing arts.

If you are interested in any of these areas, we need you! Send an email to me or one of the Board members if you would like to volunteer.

Happy fall, ya'll!

EPA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ON RADON ISSUES

"The project is titled 'Building Technical Capacity for Radon Risk Reduction' and will be for three years beginning October 1, 2024."

Ruth McBurney

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E-25 COMMITTEE ON RADON CONTINUES EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE RADON RISK REDUCTION

by

Kim Steves, CRCPD

The CRCPD was well-represented by 64 attendees at the 2024 Indoor Environments Association (IEA) Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium, which was held September 16-18, 2024, in Orlando, FL. The IEA was formerly known as the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) but changed their organization name in 2023 to expand their work to include other contaminants in the built environment.

2024 INDOOR
ENVIRONMENTS
ASSOCIATION (IEA) RADON
AND VAPOR INTRUSION
SYMPOSIUM

Along with the CRCPD, attendees represented radon education and industry, federal partners, vapor intrusion professionals, and others.



The CRCPD E-25 Committee on Radon participated in the planning and program agenda development for the symposium, which included a separate track specific for state and tribal radon programs. E-25 held a meeting at the symposium to continue planning upcoming CRCPD radon activities.

E-25 Committee on Radon attending the 2024 Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium. Pictured from Left to Right: Eleanor Divver (UT), Leslie Smith (MI), Johna Boulafentis (Nez Perce Tribe), Kim Steves (CRCPD), Denise Bleiler (PA), Joshua Kerber (MN), Michelle Thompson (VT), Randy Lane (IA)

E-25 COMMITTEE ON RADON CONTINUES EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE RADON RISK REDUCTION - continued

E-25 MEMBERS HONORED WITH RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

RADON COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARDS

RADON HERO AWARD



Joshua Kerber (MN)

*Johna Boulafentis
(Nez Perce Tribe)*

*Both pictured with Kyle Hoylman, President
of the Board of Directors for Indoor
Environments Association, now Past President*

*Joshua Kerber (MN)
with Kim Steves (CRCPD),
Radon Hero Award (far left)*

E-25 MEMBERS PRESENTERS AND TOPICS

Joshua Kerber (MN)
"Why are My Utility
Bills So Much
Higher After Radon
Mitigation"

Eleanor Divver (UT)
"Utah's School
Curriculum for
Radon"

*Johna Boulafentis
(Nez Perce Tribe)*
"Consumer Grade
Radon Devices Panel
Discussion – Different
Approaches and
Perspectives"

Kim Steves (CRCPD)
"FHFA Radon
Policy Stakeholder
Education/
Monitoring"

CRCPD NOTIFIES WALMART.COM OF SAFETY AND REGULATORY CONCERNS RELATED TO HANDHELD X-RAY DEVICES FOR PURCHASE ON THEIR WEBSITE

by

Lisa Bruedigan (TX), CRCPD Chairperson

The H-7 Committee on Diagnostic X-rays recently learned that **you can purchase a handheld dental x-ray device online at Walmart.com**, and this was discussed during the monthly H-7 conference call. Joann Harthcock, Healing Arts Council Chair, brought the concerns to the Board of Directors, who unanimously agreed we needed to contact Walmart.com leadership to express our significant safety concerns and potential regulatory violations.

Joann drafted a letter that was approved by the Board and sent to Walmart.com on October 17, 2024. [The Board received a generic response from the Walmart Global Ethics and Compliance group on October 17, 2024, stating that they reviewed and processed the information. No x-ray devices were found during a search of their website on October 29, 2024.](#)

The CRPCD identified regulatory issues with the devices currently listed on Walmart.com, including a lack of shielding and inadequate source-to-skin distance. These issues would prevent a device from passing regulatory compliance in various states. It is also unclear if the devices have received FDA premarket clearance.

Thanks to everyone for helping us identify issues like this. Together, we make the world a little safer.

Excerpts from the letter sent to Walmart.com by CRCPD--

Be advised that devices that produce x-ray radiation are regulated by the FDA, must have a premarket clearance, and must meet specific health and safety regulations in individual states, which may be more stringent than what is required by the FDA premarket approval process. Additionally, the use of these devices requires a prescription order by a licensed dentist, per state dental board and state radiation control program regulations, and notification of installation (drop ship) of the device in accordance with 21 CFR 1020.30(d) to each state regulatory authority where the devices are sold.

SCATR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2024

By Mike Snee, CRCPD Technical Assistant

	1 st Quarter 2024	2 nd Quarter 2024	3 rd Quarter 2024	Year to Date*
Number of unwanted sources removed	4102	1043	972	6117
Activity of sources removed	60.244 Curies	18.388 Curies	82.695 Curies	161.327 Curies
Number of facilities assisted	47	60	50	157

*Prepared October 30, 2024

Information on SCATR can be found at [The CRCPD SCATR Program \(lanl.gov\)](https://lanl.gov/scatr) or contact Michael Snee at msnee@crcpd.org

IN MEMORIAM



Bureau
Chief of the
Radiation
Control
Program
in Texas,
Richard
had a focus
on team
building.

RICHARD ALLEN RATLIFF

Richard Allen Ratliff, P.E. passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024 at the age of 77. He was born on Oct. 9, 1947, to Charles Richard and Agnes Maria Ratliff in Leadville, Colorado. He was the son of a uranium miner, who followed the work from Leadville to Grants, New Mexico in 1959. Richard was the oldest of five sons and claimed to be “the oldest, the wisest, the most modest, and of course the most humble.”

Richard earned a Bachelor of Science degree (1970) in Electrical Engineering from Western New Mexico University in Silver City, New Mexico. It was a great educational opportunity with 10 students and five professors. Their focus was on how to build radiation survey meters. He also earned a Master of Science degree (1975) in Health Physics Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. Richard worked 44 years at the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control in Austin, Texas, until he retired on February 9, 2016.

When his dad died at the age of 46, Richard put his technical expertise to work and searched the records kept by the mining companies. A lawsuit settlement had established a compensation fund for mining widows whose husbands has been exposed to a specified level of radiation in the mines.

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD ALLEN RATLIFF

Richard was able to prove that his father had been exposed to four times that amount. "The money didn't do anything to bring back my father, but it sure helped my mother, a young widow with five sons."

You might ask, "Why on earth did Richard continue working in the field of radiation after all that?" "Because," explained Richard, "there are uncountable good uses of radiation. The health physics field specializes in protecting the health and safety of workers and the public. We choose to work in that field because we see the tremendous benefits of this technology and we want to make it as safe as possible to maintain and increase those benefits."

As Bureau Chief of the Radiation Control Program in Texas, Richard had a focus on team building. Unknown to many people, Richard and his division directors Ruth McBurney and Arthur Tate wanted to reward their employees but were unable to use state money to do so. So, they each contributed \$20 a month to a

reward fund for BRC employees. The employees were inspired by this and teams started challenging each other to contribute to the fund. Each year the fund was used for employee awards and recognition and an annual BRC picnic.

Richard was an active member of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, serving on numerous committees and the Board of Directors. He served as Chairperson of CRCPD during the 2003-2004 Conference year.

Richard was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Debra Gabitzsch Ratliff, his parents, and one brother. He is survived by three brothers, several sisters-in-law, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Richard and Debra were members of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Austin, Texas. Richard became a member of St. Louis Catholic Church after Debra's death. He participated in daily masses at St. Louis Church and other nearby churches. Richard leaves behind many friends and other relatives and he will be greatly missed by all.

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Kendall Greer (TN)

Abris Grimmatt (AL)

Tyler Hale (VA)

Matthew Hanselman (IA)

Lynn Hanson (KS)

Rob Haupt (MI)

Emilie Hawkins (TN)

Brishon Hanley (MI)

Mark Hernandez (WA)

Pamela Hession (NC)

Kevin Himmelwright (PA)

Angela Hoffman (ND)

Amanda Hughes (IA)

Carlie Jenney (NJ)

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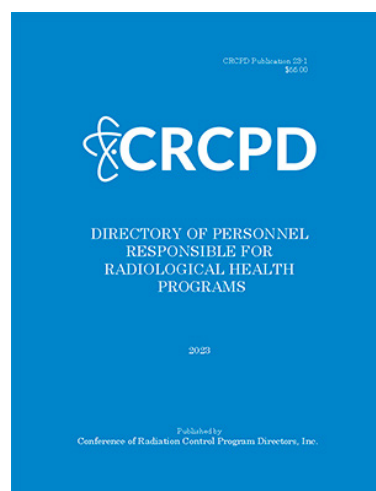
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Rebecca Milman (CO)
Frank Vermeiren (MD)

**TO APPLY FOR
MEMBERSHIP IN
CRCPD, SEE THE
ONLINE APPLICATION!**

[Apply Here.](#)

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Directory of Personnel Responsible for Radiological Health Programs is available online for members and our federal partners and is updated regularly. Visit [CRCPD](#).



CALL FOR NEWS

CRCPD is interested in what you are doing and would like to share your knowledge and experiences with other CRCPD members through a feature article in the *Newsbrief*.

If you would like to submit an article, please contact Ruth McBurney (rmcburney@crcpd.org) suggesting a topic you'd like to present.

The *Newsbrief* is published six times a year, in even numbered months. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month of publication.

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