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Kathy Cooper

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2016 7:00 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; eregop@pahousegop.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; gvitali@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; apankake@pasen.gov
Cc: ra-epmsdevelopment@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Radiological Health and Radon Certification Fees; Pennsylvania Radon Mitigation System Tag and Fee



Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Radiological Health and Radon Certification Fees; Pennsylvania Radon Mitigation System Tag and Fee.

Commenter Information:

Nathaniel Burden
PA chapter AARST board member (nateburden@msn.com)
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Comments entered:

I am against the fees being raised for the PA DEP radon program for radon testers and radon mitigators.

KEY SUPPORTING POINTS

1. Radon testing and radon mitigation industry is real estate driven. Period.
2. The majority of the radon testers do not solely, do just radon testing as their means of income and business services. Many of the radon testers are home inspectors.
3. If the fees increase as proposed, many home inspectors will simply stop providing that service. You have eliminated through the proposed fee increase a large majority of radon testers that service the PA communities.
4. There are no increased value or services to Pennsylvania radon industry or the Pennsylvania public. The general consensus of the PA radon industry, the fee increase is to finance further audits and fining actions by the PA DEP. PA DEP has not proposed any value-added services or programs that would provide pro-active technical assistance to the radon businesses in PA. Other states, such as Ohio and Illinois have provided these type of programs and technical assistance as a mandate directive as to how they do their state radon program. This has not been done in PA.
5. Bottom line: The proposed fee increases, if passed on to the PA customer (homeowner, schools, and other buildings) would significantly increase fee tests and even radon mitigation costs to the PA homeowner consumer. Many homeowners across PA, along with many PA realtor organizations are very concerned and alarmed, what these fees will do to the buyers and sellers. It is almost like the state taxing the buyer and seller through pass-through secondary taxation.
6. The radon industry is truly dedicated to serving the Pennsylvania, even to the point, that the

majority of the radon outreach education is done by them at their community and grass root levels. This is a value added service the PA radon industry provides, that in reality does cost time, money and sacrifice. These proposed increased fees threaten that critical mission of outreach.

7. The proposed fees do not address the critical mission of radon outreach in a "zone 1 high radon potential state". The programs the PA DEP do not reach out to minority and low-income communities.

8. The proposed PA DEP Radon Section fee increases also would impede and cripple in many cases the efforts of PA AARST chapter in real radon outreach to the PA communities in educating and encouraging radon testing, even in non-real estate situations. The majority of people are not selling or buying homes.

9. These fees were prospered without proper representation and due diligence by the PA DEP Radon Section to the PA radon industry. PA AARST was not approached or asked to participate in the discussion and logistics of the fee increases. PA AARST represents the radon industry. One person does not speak for or even knows the whole PA radon industry.

10. The proposed fee structure would drastically impact the radon mitigation industry. If a radon mitigation business owner had 4 crew mitigation personnel working for him. The increase firm cost, the increase individual working cost and the applied tag tax cost could increase the business overhead to over \$10,000 a year. This proposed fee changes has the potential if directly passed on to the consumer up to a \$200+ cost increase. This has the potential to cause homeowners to weigh if a radon mitigation can be afforded, especially for non-real estate mitigations.

11. This cost fee increase could even impact the quality and features of the radon mitigation system installation. I done enough mitigation bids to know that even a \$50 or \$100 difference is enough to lose a job and does not even matter how much better designed your radon mitigation is to many consumers.

12. There was no cost/economic impact study performed. This is considered not proper due diligence on the part of the PA DEP Radon Section.

13. The fee increases are bunched in with the licensed radioactive materials licenses and services. The Radon industry does not deal with licensed radioactive sources. The priorities and critical mission are different. The radon industry is not controlling those licensed radioactive sources or homeland security. In fact the radon industry is the exact opposite. We detect and mitigate the second leading cause of lung cancer and the largest natural radiation exposure to the public. The radon industry business structure and operations is totally different. This also points to the consideration of a need for cost/economic impact study before any kind fee increase can occur, along with the participation of the radon industry as the major stakeholder.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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