



Paul R. LePage, Governor

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Patrick Daniels
Chairperson, CRCPD E-25 Committee
Via Email

Mr. Daniels;

Thank you for your question about radon prevalence and radon regulations in Maine, and the need for Maine to continue receiving State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) funds.

Maine first learned of the hazards posed by radon in the mid-1950's, and used General Fund monies to learn about and develop an initial response to this carcinogen; which included education of the public and the early radon industry, and providing technical support to those groups as well as to state and local agencies. That early effort found that, statewide, approximately 1/3 of all Maine homes have high levels of radon; in some areas of the state 2/3 of homes have high levels of radon. It is common to find radon in homes at over 100 times the US EPA action level for radon of 4 pCi/l.

Due to the prevalence of radon in this state, Maine DHHS was given statutory authority to oversee all businesses and individuals providing radon services in Maine, and to continue the education technical support mission in 1989, and transitioned to Federal SIRG funds at that time. All state funds were withdrawn from future radon efforts, resulting in 100% of the required SIRG match being in-kind.

This means that past and current radon grants have provided virtually all the funding used by Maine DHHS to fulfill its statutory mandate to provide oversight and technical assistance for radon businesses in Maine (22 MRSA §771-784) and oversight of radon testing and mitigation (repair) required in residential rental property (14 MRSA §6030-D). Staff funded by SIRG also act as the radon information clearinghouse specified under 22 MRSA §771-784, which includes disseminating information to educate Maine residents about radon, answering general and technical questions for Maine residents and the radon industry, and interpreting test results for Maine residents. Radon staff also assist with setting and tracking Healthy Maine 2020 and Maine Cancer Plan radon testing and risk reduction goals. Radon staff also assist the Maine Technical Codes Board and local codes Officials with understanding and enforcing the radon requirements in the state-wide building code.

If you have additional questions, I can be reached at 207-287-5743, or by email to bob.stilwell@maine.gov

Sincerely;

Bob Stilwell, Radon Coordinator
Maine DHHS, Radiation control Program