

Reducing Radon in Tribal Homes Through Collaboration



General overview of the Partnership

- This project came out of the blue at the beginning of last October.
- The UW folks reached out to our clinic first about this project.



Bad River Tribal Radon Program

In partnership with
Carbone Cancer Center
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Test Kit Number: _____ Date Test Kit Distributed: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you live within the boundaries of the Bad River Reservation? Yes No

Do you live in a Bad River Housing Authority Home? Yes No

Have you tested your home for Radon before? Yes No

- If Yes, when was the last time your home was tested? _____
- If Yes, what were that results? _____

Do you have a mitigation system? Yes No

- If Yes, how old is it? _____
- If Yes, is it operating well? _____
(If no, give them Zakk Zander's contact information)


Office Use:

Date test kit distributed	Date test kit started	Date test kit ended
Date mailed	Date test results received	Results
Notes:		

Outreach events

- We hosted a lunch and learn for the clinic staff to introduce them to the project That night we also held a community listening session
- Elder lunch and Breakfast
- Fortunately this year was our biannual Natural Resources open house.





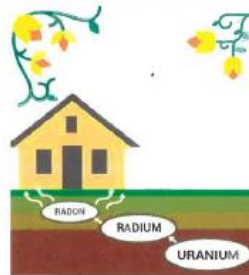
Bad River & Radon

What Community Members Should Know


You **CANNOT** see or smell radon. You **CANNOT** know if radon is in your home until you test it. Luckily, testing is **EASY** and **FREE**.

The University of Wisconsin and Bad River Health & Wellness Center have partnered to offer **FREE radon testing and mitigation** to Native American homes within the boundaries of the Bad River Reservation.

What is radon?



- Radon gas comes from the natural radioactive breakdown of uranium in the ground.
- Radon gas can enter a building through cracks in its foundation.
- Radon levels of 4 units (picocuries per liter) or more are harmful to health and require mitigation (fixing).
- Radon mitigation systems direct radon gas away from homes to lower indoor radon levels.



A radon mitigation system installed on a home.


How does radon affect health?

#1 Radon exposure is the **#1 cause** of lung cancer in people who don't smoke.

10x If you are exposed to high radon *and* smoke, your risk for developing lung cancer is **10 times greater**.

7% of Bad River Tribal homes had high radon in past tests. Many Bad River homes have not yet been tested.

Sources: Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, CDC, Wisconsin Cancer Collaborative, Bad River Tribe



HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT A FREE TEST KIT?

This opportunity has limited funds and is only available while funds last.

To obtain a free test kit, pick one up from the Bad River Health & Wellness Center or contact **Nona Crowe** at n.crowe@badriverhwc.com or 715-682-7133 ext. 4812.

For questions about radon, testing, or mitigation in the Bad River community, contact:
Zakk Zander, Bad River Radon Specialist
AirQualitytech@badriver-nsn.gov | 715-682-7133 ext. 1553.

For questions about the project with the University, contact:
Dr. Noelle LoConte, Project Lead
ns3@medicine.wisc.edu | 608-265-5883

Outreach activities

- Nixle
 - Boozhoo this is a reminder to place your Radon kits if you have not already. They should be deployed for 3-7 days then returned by mail
- Four days later we sent a reminder
- Boozhoo this is a reminder to pick up your Radon kits if you have not already. They should be deployed for 3-7 days then returned by mail
 - Door to door
 - Scan door hanger and other outreach things developed





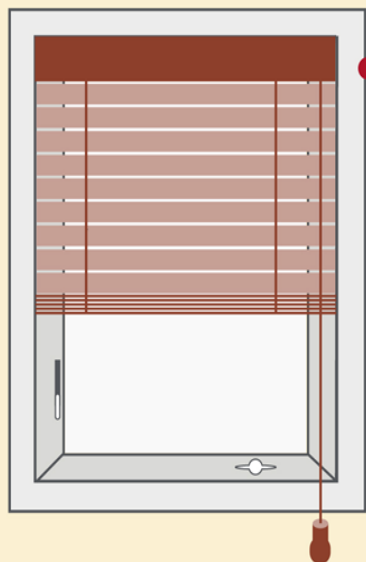
Boozhoo, spring is nearly here which means time is short on deploying test kits. They should be deployed for 3-7 days then sent in by mail.

Boozhoo, spring weather is here and the oziisigobimizh are starting to pop, It is time to pick up your radon test kits and send them in.



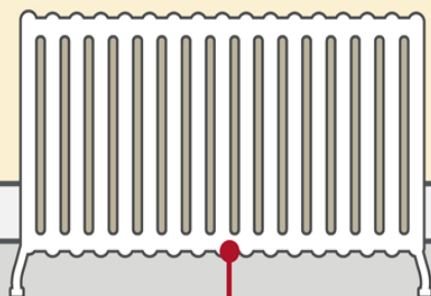






3 feet or more
from exterior
windows or
doors

At least 12 inches
from ceiling



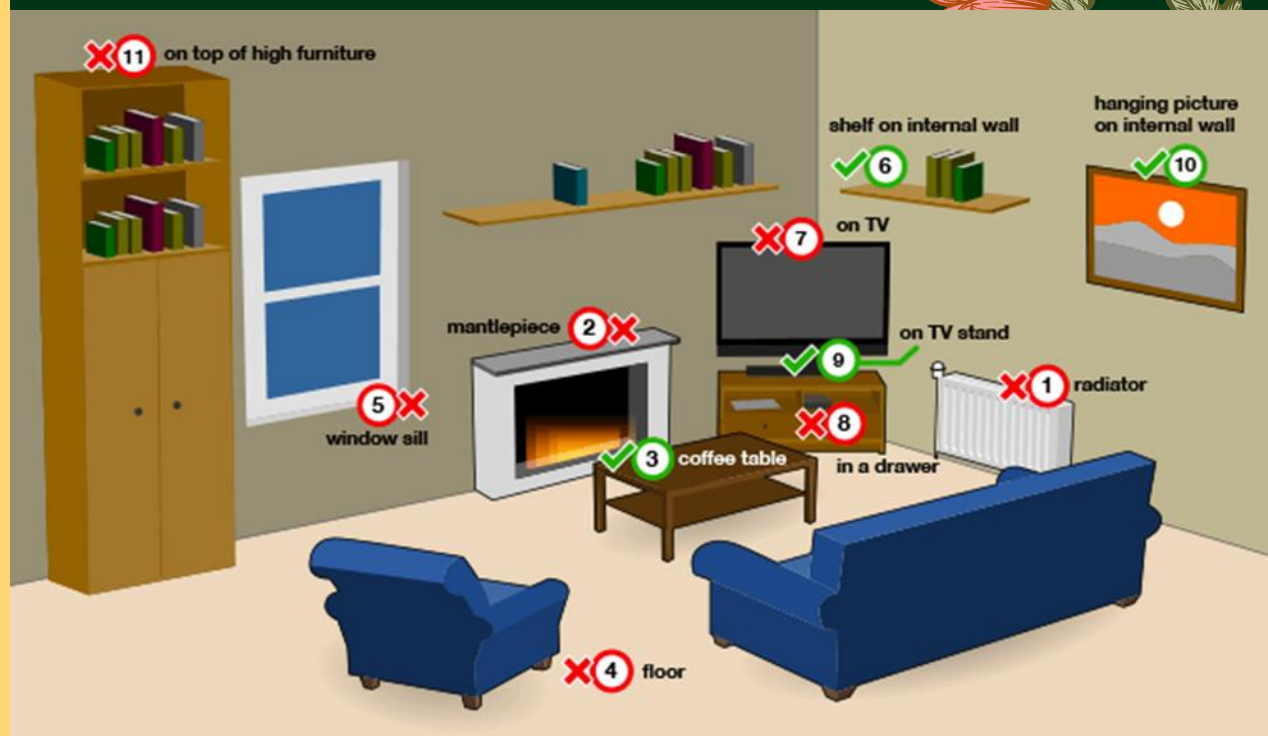
Keep away from heat sources



20 inches or
more above
floor

1 foot or more from
exterior walls

4 inches from other
objects or radon
tests



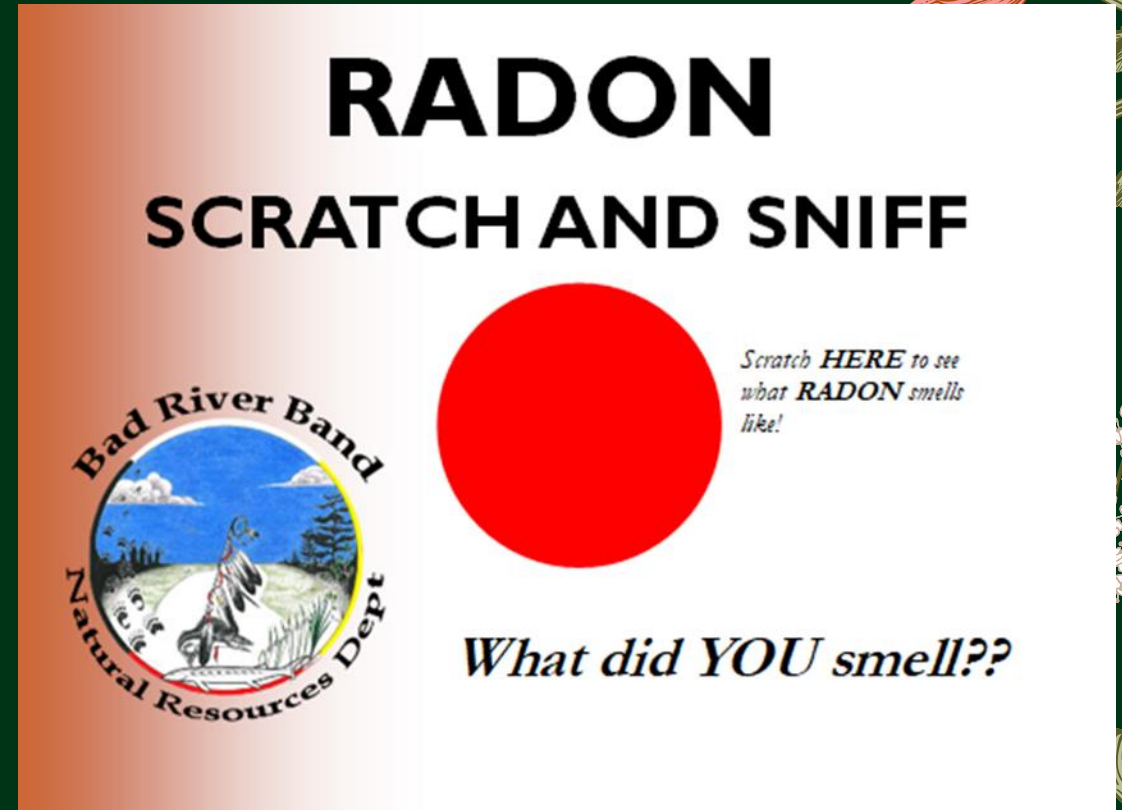
Challenges

- Lower than wanted return rates in this first year.
 - Roughly 20% return rate
 - Plus one forgotten about long term device.
- Having to create new forms for private homeowner consent.



Successes

- Lots of interest in the project from community members.
- This project has opened the door to work more with the clinic.
- Finding a certified radon mitigator.



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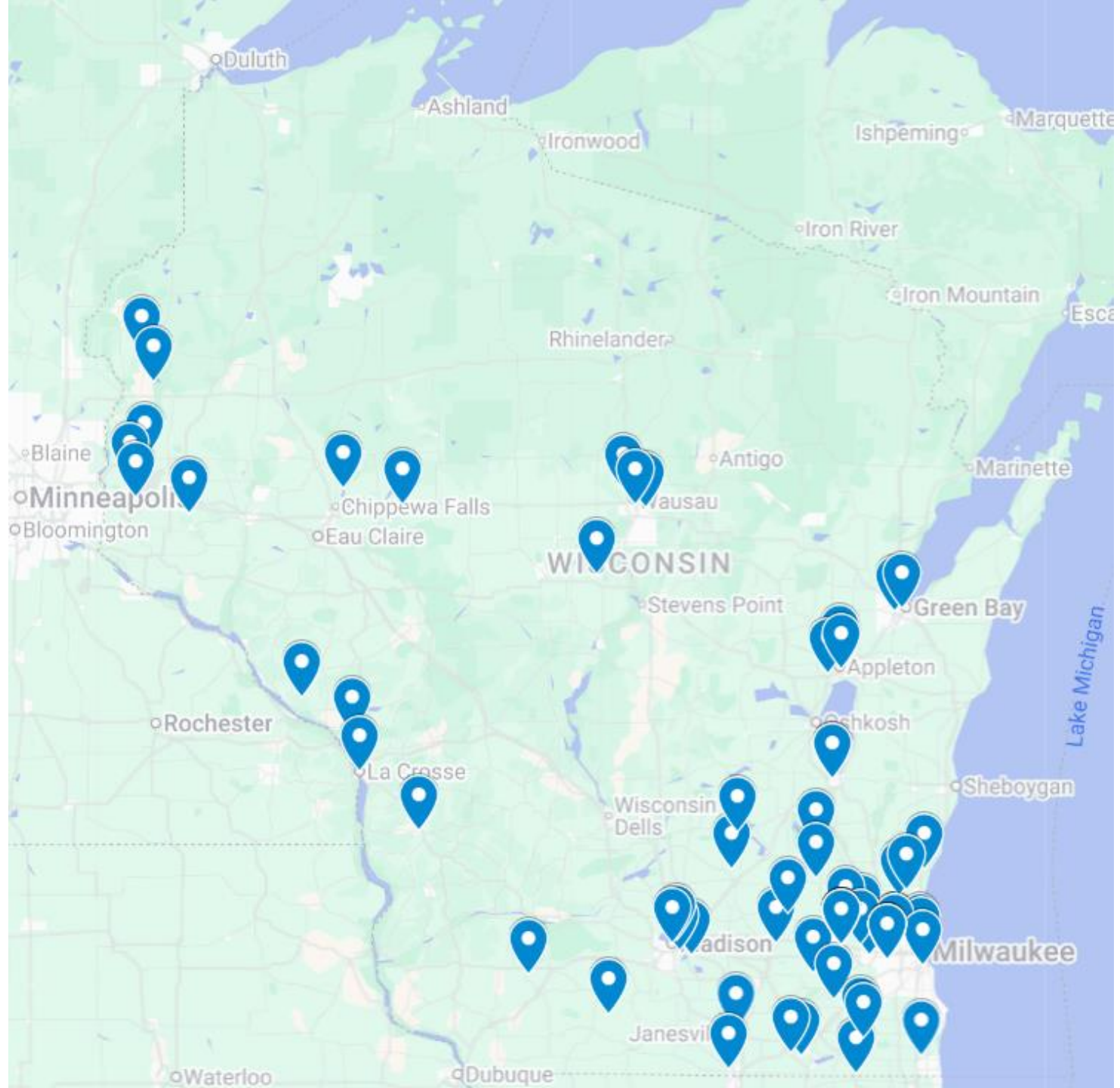
Zakkary Zander
Pronouns: They/Them
MNRD Air Quality Technician &
Tribal Indoor Radon Program Manager
Ph: 715-682-7123 x1553
Email: airqualitytech@badriver-nsn.gov

Dealing with a Radon Service Desert

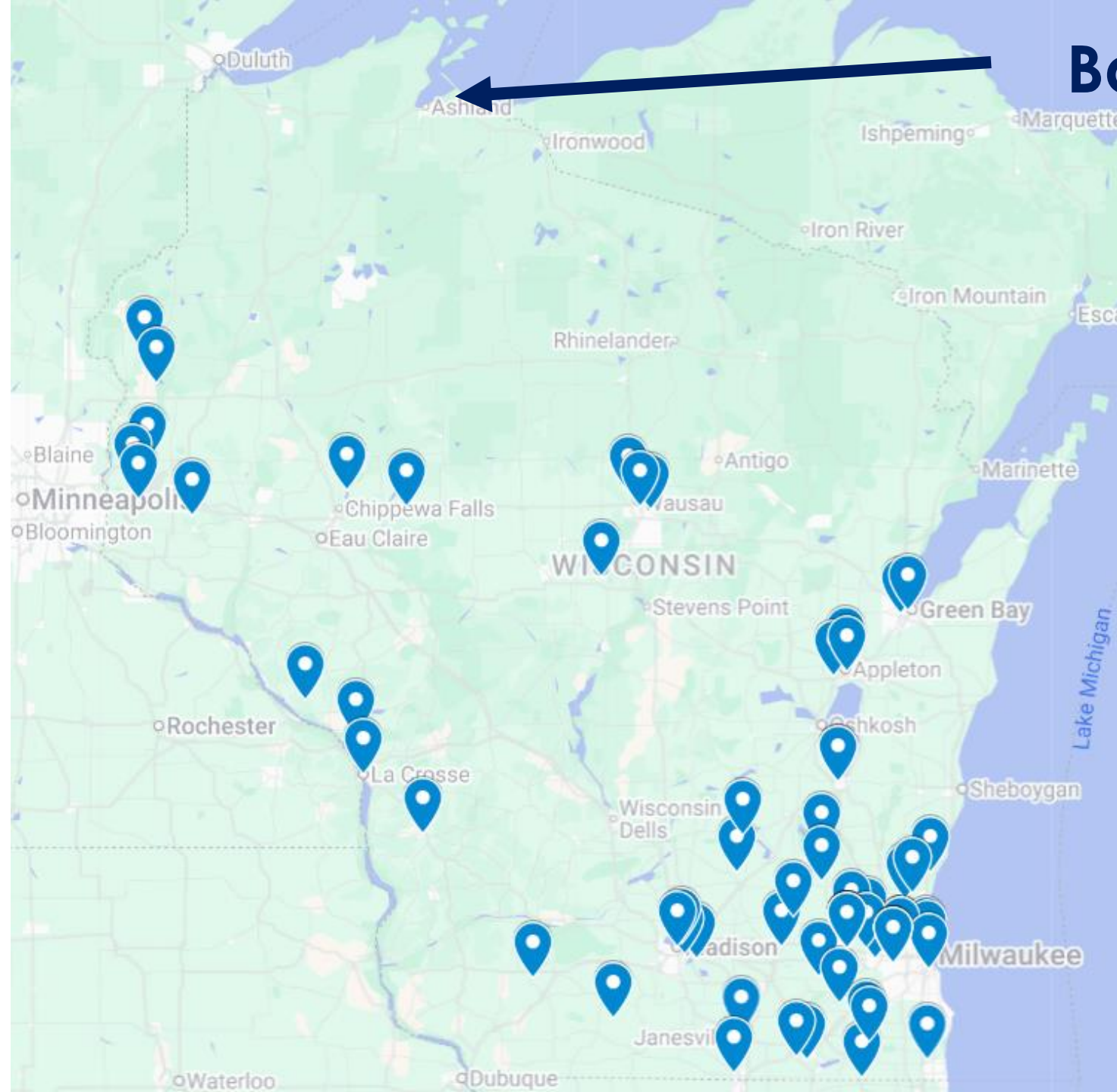
Region V Meeting | July 15, 2025

Amanda Koch, MPH
Radon Program Manager
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

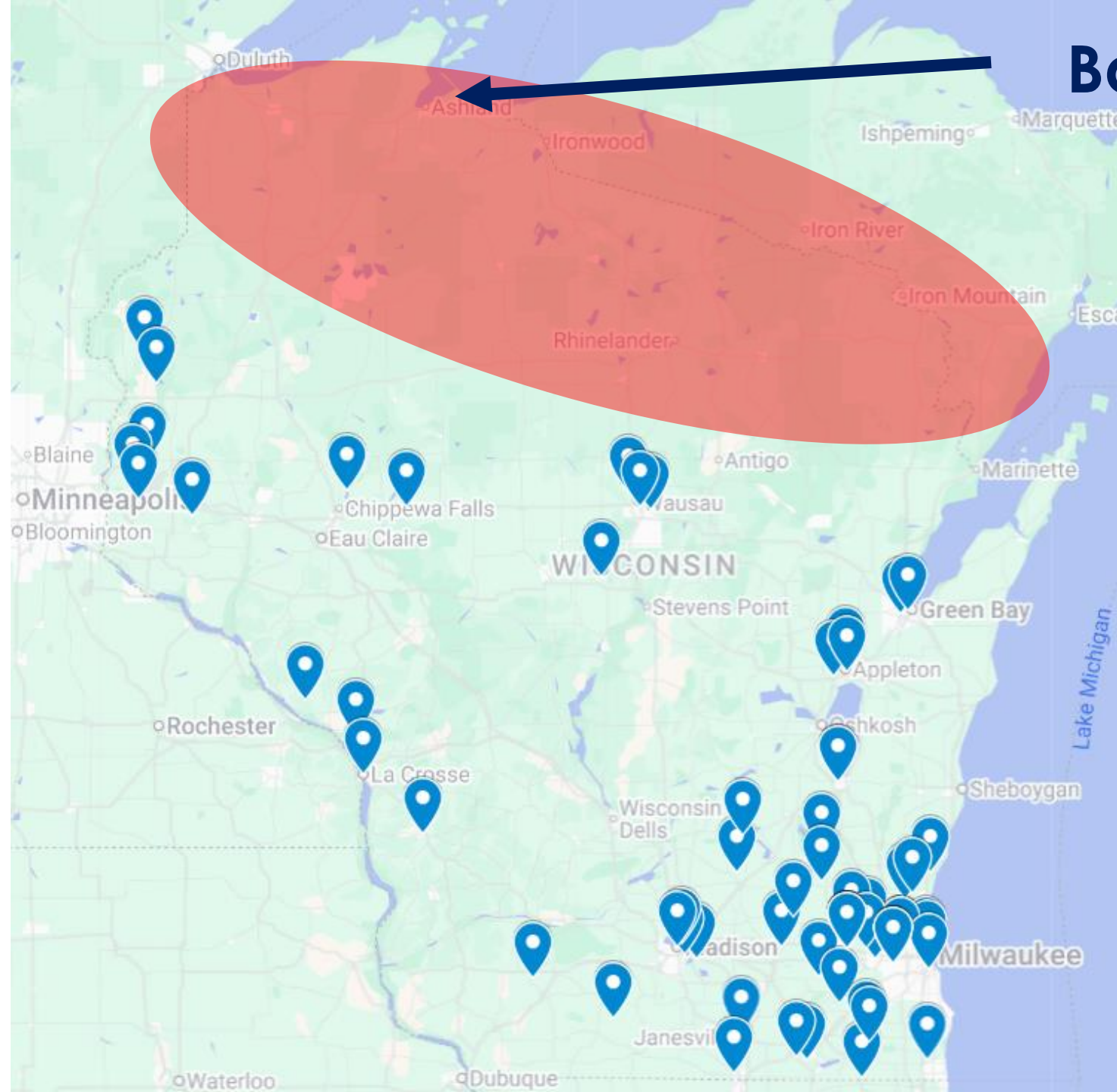




Bad River



Bad River



Request for Mitigation Services on Tribal Reservation



Koch, Amanda A - DHS

To

Cc DHS Radon

Hello,

You are receiving this message as an NRPP-certified mitigation specialist or installer working within the State of Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is assisting the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center and Bad River Tribe in a project on radon in homes on the Bad River Reservation. Due to a lack of available radon mitigation services in the area, we are looking for 2 or more mitigators who are interested in traveling to the Ashland, Wisconsin area and mitigating homes that have high radon.

What is the project?

These services will be part of a UW Carbone Cancer Center outreach project looking at radon levels in homes on the Bad River Reservation. The project will involve educating the Tribal community on radon and its health risks, testing up to 200 homes, and mitigating homes that result high. The project is led by [Dr. Noelle LoConte](#), a medical oncologist with the UW Carbone Cancer Center.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for 2 or more NRPP-certified mitigators with an interest in mitigating homes on the Bad River Reservation near Ashland, Wisconsin. Candidates should have an interest in bringing radon mitigation expertise to a radon service desert area and a willingness to work with Tribal Nations.

When is the work expected to take place?

We expect mitigation services to be needed during Spring and Summer 2025. Our goal is to consolidate mitigations to minimize travel and long-term accommodations.

Why should you participate?

- You will be compensated. The opportunity will help pay for your service fees, travel, and accommodations.
- You will bring needed expertise to a radon service desert area in Wisconsin.
- Your name and company will be formally acknowledged in presentations about the project.

Who can you contact for more information?

If you are interested in this opportunity and want to learn more, please reply directly to this email or call Amanda Koch, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Radon Program Manager, at 608-267-2487.

Thank you,

Amanda Koch, MPH

Indoor Air & Radon Program Manager
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
Division of Public Health | Wisconsin Department of Health Services
P1: 608-267-2487 | P2: 608-405-2292 | E: Amanda.Koch@dhs.wi.gov
Test. Fix. Save a life. Learn more at dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon.

Authentic

Short-and-sweet
(332 words)

Organized (FAQ-style)

Interesting

Enticing

Results

103

mitigators were
reached out to via
email

10

interested mitigators
responded to the
email and/or called

Results

Of those 10:

- All had active NRPP certifications.

- 3 indicated that they had previous experience working with Tribes.

- One noted, “Business has been slow. I saw an opportunity for better business and a chance to see a different part of Wisconsin.”

- Project team selected one.

Remaining Questions

Does Wisconsin *truly* have a radon service desert, particularly for mitigation services?

How far would “border” mitigators travel to fix a single home?

In the works: Mitigator Travel Survey

What is the furthest distance you're willing to travel to mitigate a home?

What is the furthest distance you've ever traveled to mitigate a home?

What is the furthest city where you've mitigated? How did the trip go?

What types of costs, and how much, is typically added to your trip when traveling far for work?

DHSradon@dhs.wi.gov



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES