

# Proposed Radon in Drinking Water Rule

## Background

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments required EPA to establish several new, health-based drinking water regulations, including a multimedia approach to address the public health risks from radon.

Breathing radon in the indoor air of homes is the primary public health risk from radon, contributing to about 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States, according to a 1999 landmark report this year by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on radon in indoor air (BEIR VI). Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Based on a second NAS report on radon in drinking water, EPA estimates that radon in drinking water causes about 168 cancer deaths per year, 89 percent from lung cancer caused by breathing radon released from water, and 11 percent from stomach cancer caused by drinking radon-containing water.

## Proposed Regulations

- EPA proposed new regulations to reduce the public health risks from radon on November 2, 1999 in the Federal Register (64 FR 59246).
  - Technical Fact Sheet on Proposed Radon in Drinking Water Rule (815-F-99-006)
  - Consumer Fact Sheet on Radon in Drinking Water: Questions and Answers (815-F-99-007)
- The proposed standards will apply only to community water systems that regularly serve 25 or more people and that use ground water or mixed ground and surface water (e.g., systems serving homes, apartments, and trailer parks). They will not apply to systems that rely on surface water where radon levels in the water are very low. They also will not apply to private wells, because EPA does not regulate them.
- The proposal will provide states flexibility in how to limit exposure to radon by allowing them to focus their efforts on the greatest radon risks - those in indoor air - while also reducing the risks from radon in drinking water.
- The unique multimedia framework for this proposed regulation is outlined in the Safe Drinking Water Act as amended in 1996.
  - First Option: States can choose to develop enhanced state programs to address the health risks from radon in indoor air -- known as Multimedia Mitigation (MMM) programs -- while individual water systems reduce radon levels in drinking water to 4,000 pCi/L or lower (picoCuries per liter, a standard unit of radiation). EPA is encouraging States to adopt this option because it is the most cost-effective way to achieve the greatest radon risk reduction.
  - Second Option: If a state chooses not to develop an MMM program, individual water systems in that state would be required to either reduce radon in their

system's drinking water to 300 pCi/L or develop individual local MMM programs and reduce levels in drinking water to 4000 pCi/L. Water systems already at or below 300 pCi/L standard would not be required to treat their water for radon.

- The proposed regulation identifies four criteria that MMM program plans would be required to meet to be approved by EPA:
  - Public involvement in the development of the MMM plan;
  - Quantitative goals for reducing radon in existing and new homes;
  - Strategies for achieving these quantitative goals; and
  - A plan for tracking and reporting results.
- EPA sought extensive input from the states, water systems, environmental groups, and the general public in a series of public meetings over the past two years to design the proposed approach.
- EPA solicited formal comment by publishing the proposed regulation in the Federal Register for a review and comment period. The public comment period was open until February 4, 2000. For further information, see the Federal Register Notice or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, at 1 (800) 426-4791.

### **Additional Background Information**

- EPA published a Health Risk Reduction and Cost Analysis (HRRCA), signed on February 5, 1999, in the Federal Register for public comment. The HRRCA provided a neutral and factual analysis of the costs and benefits, and other impacts of controlling radon levels in drinking water. EPA received many comments and provided responses to significant comments in the proposed rule. The HRRCA has been revised and is now part of the "Regulatory Impact Analysis and Revised Health Risk Reduction and Cost Analysis" document. This document is available for review in the OW Docket (hard copy and electronic PDF file).
- A report, released September 15, 1998, by the National Academy of Sciences, "Risk Assessment of Radon in Drinking Water", is the most comprehensive accumulation of scientific data on the public health risks of radon in drinking water. The report provided scientific basis for EPA's development of the proposed drinking water standard for radon.
- EPA withdrew the 1991 proposed MCL for radon on August 6, 1997 (Federal Register: Volume 62, Number 151, page 42221-42222).

### **For More Information**

For general information on radon in drinking water, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, at (800) 426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time. For more information on radon in indoor air, contact the National Safe Council's Environmental Health Center's hotline at (800) SOS-RADON Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Or visit EPA's website on radon in indoor air for more information.

## **RADON IN DRINKING WATER: Questions and Answers**

F • A • C • T • S • H • E • E • T

### **What is radon?**

Radon is a gas that has no color, odor, or taste and comes from the natural radioactive breakdown of uranium in the ground. You can be exposed to radon by two main sources: (1) radon in the air in your home (frequently called "radon in indoor air") and (2) radon in drinking water. Radon can get into the air you breathe and into the water you drink. Radon is also found in small amounts in outdoor air.

Most of the radon in indoor air comes from soil underneath the home. As uranium breaks down, radon gas forms and seeps into the house. Radon from soil can get into any type of building – homes, offices, and schools – and build up to high levels in the air inside the building.

Radon gas can also dissolve and accumulate in water from underground sources (called ground water), such as wells. When water that contains radon is used in the home for showering, washing dishes, and cooking, radon gas escapes from the water and goes into the air. It is similar to carbonated soda drinks where carbon dioxide is dissolved in the soda and is released when you open the bottle. Some radon also stays in the water.

Radon is not a concern in water that comes from lakes, rivers, and reservoirs (called surface water), because the radon is released into the air before it ever arrives at your tap.



### **Why is radon in drinking water a health concern?**

Breathing radon in indoor air can cause lung cancer. Radon gas decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe it. As they break down further, these particles release small bursts of energy. This can damage lung tissue and increase your chances of developing lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. People who smoke have an even greater risk. Not everyone exposed to high levels of radon will develop lung cancer. However, radon in indoor air is the second leading cause of lung cancer. About 20,000 deaths a year in the U.S. are caused by breathing radon in indoor air.

Only about 1-2 percent of radon in the air comes from drinking water. However breathing radon released to air from tap water increases the risk of lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. Some radon stays in the water; drinking water containing radon also presents a risk of developing internal organ cancers, primarily stomach cancer. However this risk is smaller than the risk of developing lung cancer from radon released to air from tap water.

Based on a National Academy of Science report, EPA estimates that radon in drinking water causes about 168 cancer deaths per year: 89% from lung cancer caused by breathing radon released to the indoor air from water and 11% from stomach cancer caused by consuming water containing radon.

## Is there radon in my water?

Not all drinking water contains radon. If your drinking water comes from a surface water source, such as a river, lake, or reservoir, most radon that might be in the water will be released into the air before reaching your water supplier or home. Radon is only a concern if your drinking water comes from underground, such as a well that pumps water from an aquifer, though not all water from underground sources contains radon.

If you get your water from a public water system that serves 25 or more year-around residents, you will receive an annual water quality report. A major public right-to-know initiative of the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, these water quality reports will tell you what is in your water (including radon if it has been tested), where it comes from, and how to help protect it.



## What levels of radon in indoor air should I be concerned about?

There is no federal regulation for radon in indoor air. However, EPA does recommend that you take action to reduce your home's indoor radon levels if you test your home and find levels at or above 4 pCi/L (picoCuries per liter, a unit of measurement for radiation). EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that everyone test their homes (and apartments located below the third floor). In most homes, radon levels can be reduced to 2 pCi/L or less. In addition, new homes should be built radon resistant, especially in high radon areas.

For more information about how to test the air in your home for radon and fix the problem, contact the Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON. If you think the radon in your indoor air comes from the water, see **“How do I test for radon and how do I get rid of it?”**

## What levels of radon in water should I be concerned about?

There is currently no federally-enforced drinking water standard for radon. EPA is proposing to regulate radon in drinking water from community water suppliers (water systems that serve 25 or more year-around residents). EPA does not regulate private wells. EPA proposed the rule in October, 1999 and plans to finalize it in August, 2000.

EPA is proposing to require community water suppliers to provide water with radon levels no higher than 4,000 pCi/L, which contributes about 0.4 pCi/L of radon to the air in your home. This requirement assumes that the State is also taking action to reduce radon levels in indoor air by developing EPA-approved, enhanced State radon in indoor air programs (called Multimedia Mitigation Programs). This is because most of the radon you breathe comes from soil under the house. This option gives States the flexibility to focus on the greatest problems, by encouraging the public to fix radon in indoor air problems and build homes that keep radon from entering.

For States that choose not to develop enhanced indoor air programs, community water systems in that State will be required to reduce radon levels in drinking water to 300 pCi/L. This amount of radon in water contributes about 0.03 pCi/L of radon to the air in your home. Even if a State does not develop an enhanced indoor air program, water systems may choose to develop their own local indoor radon program and meet a radon standard for drinking water of 4,000 pCi/L.

EPA has set up this option, under the framework specified by the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, so that the overall risks from exposure to radon, both through air and water, are reduced.

## How do I test for radon and how do I get rid of it?

Because radon in indoor air is the larger health concern, EPA recommends that you first test the air in your home for radon before testing for radon in your drinking water. EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend testing all homes for radon in indoor air (and apartments located below the third floor). EPA recommends that you take action to reduce your home's indoor radon levels if your radon test result is 4 pCi/L or higher.

If you have tested the air in your home and *found a radon problem*, you may also want to find out whether your water is a concern:

- **If you get water from a public water system:** Find out whether your water system gets its water from a surface (river, lake, or reservoir) or a ground water (underground) source.
  - *If the water comes from a surface water source*, most radon that may be in the water will be released to the air before it makes its way to your tap.
  - *If the water comes from a ground water source*, call your water system and ask if they've tested the water for radon.
- **If you have a private well:** EPA recommends testing your drinking water for radon. Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) which can provide phone numbers for your State laboratory certification office or call the Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-RADON) which can provide phone numbers for your State radon office. Your State laboratory certification office or State radon office can direct you to laboratories which may be able to test your drinking water for radon.

If testing your private well shows that you have high levels of radon in your drinking water and you are concerned about it, there are some things you can do to improve the water. The most effective treatment you can apply is to remove radon from the water right before it

enters your home. This is called point-of-entry treatment. There are two types of point-of-entry devices that remove radon from water:

- Granular activated carbon (GAC) filters (which use activated carbon to remove the radon), and
- Aeration devices (which bubble air through the water and carry radon gas out into the atmosphere through an exhaust fan).

GAC filters tend to cost less than aeration devices, however, radioactivity collects on the filter, which may cause a handling hazard and require special disposal methods for the filter.

For more information on aerators and GAC filters, you should contact two independent, non-profit organizations: NSF International at (800) 673-8010 and the Water Quality Association at (630) 505-0160.



## I receive water from a public water supplier. How will EPA's proposed regulation affect me?

Your State may decide to develop a plan for an enhanced radon in indoor air program, which would require your public water supplier to reduce radon levels in the water supply to 4,000 pCi/L. Consumers may be interested in participating in their State's development of this plan, once the radon rule is finalized (expected in August, 2000). If your State or public supplier does not develop an enhanced radon in indoor air program, your public water supplier is required to reduce radon levels to 300 pCi/L. Under either option, your water bills may increase depending on the size of your water supplier and the radon levels in the drinking water in your area.



## How do I get more information about radon?

### **Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791):**

The Safe Drinking Water Hotline can provide you with more information about what EPA is doing to regulate radon in drinking water and refer you to your State drinking water program for information about your community water system. Or, visit EPA's web site on drinking water at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater> for more information.

### **Call your Local Water Supplier:**

Your local water supplier will have information about your local water supply and can answer any questions you have about your water. Look for the phone number on your water bill or in the government section of your phone book.

### **Call the Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-RADON):**

The Radon Hotline can refer you to your State radon office for more information, and can send you free publications about radon in indoor air, including: "A Citizen's Guide to Radon," "The Home Buyer's and Seller's Guide to Radon," and the "Consumer's Guide to Radon," which provide information on how you can test for radon levels in your indoor air and how indoor air radon problems can be fixed. Or, visit EPA's web site on radon at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/radon> for more information

# Proposed Radon in Drinking Water Rule

## T • E • C • H • N • I • C • A • L F • A • C • T • S • H • E • E • T

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing new regulations to protect people from exposure to radon. The proposed regulations will provide States flexibility in how to limit the public's exposure to radon by focusing their efforts on the greatest public health risks from radon - those in indoor air - while also reducing the highest risks from radon in drinking water. The framework for this proposal is set out in the Safe Drinking Water Act as amended in 1996, which provides for a multimedia approach to address the public health risks from radon in drinking water and radon in indoor air from soil. The Safe Drinking Water Act directs the EPA to propose and finalize a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for radon in drinking water, but also to make available an alternative approach: a higher alternative maximum contaminant level (AMCL) accompanied by a multimedia mitigation (MMM) program to address radon risks in indoor air. This framework reflects the unique characteristics of radon: in most cases, radon released to indoor air from soil under homes and buildings is the main source of exposure and radon released from tap water is a much smaller source of radon in indoor air. It is more cost-effective to reduce risk from radon exposure from indoor air, than from drinking water. EPA strongly encourages States to take full advantage of the flexibility and risk reduction opportunities in the MMM program.

### WHAT ARE THE PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS?

Radon is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas that emits ionizing radiation. National and international scientific organizations have concluded that radon causes lung cancer in humans. Most of the radon in indoor air comes from the breakdown of uranium in soil beneath homes. Breathing radon from the indoor air in homes is the primary public health risk from radon, contributing to about 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States, according to a 1999 landmark report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on radon in indoor air. The U.S. Surgeon General has warned that radon in indoor air is the second leading cause of lung cancer. EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend testing all homes and apartments located below the third floor for radon in indoor air. If you smoke and your home has high indoor radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high.

Radon from tap water is a smaller source of radon in indoor air. Only about 1-2 percent of radon in indoor air comes from drinking water. However breathing radon released to air from household water uses increases the risk of lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. Ingestion of drinking water containing radon also presents a risk of internal organ cancers, primarily stomach cancer. This risk is smaller than the risk of developing lung cancer from radon released to air from tap water. Based on a second 1999 NAS report on radon in drinking water, EPA estimates that radon in drinking water causes about 168 cancer deaths per year, 89 percent from lung cancer caused by breathing in radon released from water, and 11 percent from stomach cancer caused by drinking radon-containing water.

## WHO MUST COMPLY WITH THE PROPOSED RULE?

The proposed radon in drinking water rule applies to all community water systems (CWSs) that use ground water or mixed ground and surface water (e.g., systems serving homes, apartments, and trailer parks). The proposed rule would not apply to CWSs that use solely surface water, nor to non-transient non-community public water supplies and transient public water supplies (e.g., systems serving schools, office buildings, campgrounds, restaurants, and highway reststops).

## WHAT DOES THE RULE PROPOSE TO REQUIRE?

The rule proposes a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG), a maximum contaminant level (MCL), an alternative maximum contaminant level (AMCL), and requirements for multimedia mitigation (MMM) program plans to address radon in indoor air. The proposal also includes monitoring, reporting, public notification and consumer confidence report requirements, proposed best available technologies and analytical methods.

### Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), and Alternative Maximum Contaminant Level (AMCL)

The proposed MCLG for radon in drinking water is zero. This is a non-enforceable goal.

The proposed regulation provides two options for the maximum level of radon that is allowable in community water supplies. The proposed MCL is 300 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) and the proposed AMCL is 4,000 pCi/L. The drinking water standard that would apply for a system depends on whether or not the State or CWS develops a MMM program. The regulatory expectation of CWSs serving 10,000 persons or less is that they meet the 4,000 pCi/L AMCL and be associated with an approved MMM program plan – either developed by the State or by the CWS.

The enforceable MCL or AMCL would apply under the following circumstances:

#### **Small CWSs: Proposed regulatory expectation for systems that serve 10,000 or fewer people**

<i>Does State develop MMM program?</i>	<i>Does CWS develop local MMM program?</i>	<i>CWS Complies with:</i>
yes	not needed	AMCL: 4000 pCi/L*
no	yes**	AMCL: 4000 pCi/L

\* Small systems may elect to comply with the MCL of 300 pCi/L

\*\* Small systems may elect to comply with the MCL of 300 pCi/L, instead of developing a local MMM program.

#### **Large CWSs: Proposed compliance options for systems that serve more than 10,000 people**

<i>Does State develop MMM program?</i>	<i>Does CWS develop local MMM program?</i>	<i>CWS Complies with:</i>
yes	not needed	AMCL: 4000 pCi/L*
no	yes	AMCL: 4000 pCi/L
no	no	MCL: 300 pCi/L

\* Large systems may elect to comply with the MCL of 300 pCi/L

Monitoring Requirements

CWSs must monitor for radon in drinking water according to the requirements described in the table below and report their results to the State. If the State determines that the radon level in a CWS is below 300 pCi/L, the system only needs to continue meeting monitoring requirements and is not covered by the requirements regarding MMM programs.

Type	Frequency	Condition
Initial	Four consecutive quarters of monitoring for one year.	At each entry point to the distribution system which is representative of each well after treatment and/or storage
Routine	One sample per year	If running average from four consecutive quarterly samples is less than MCL/AMCL, and at the discretion of State.
Reduced	One sample every three years	If average from four consecutive quarterly samples is less than ½ the MCL/AMCL, no samples exceed the MCL/AMCL, and State determines the system is “reliably and consistently below MCL/AMCL.”
Increased	Four consecutive quarters of monitoring	If the MCL/AMCL for radon is exceeded in a single sample, when monitoring annually. Can return to one sample per year if meet routine monitoring conditions, listed above.
	One sample per year	If the radon level is less than MCL/AMCL but above ½ MCL/AMCL in a single sample, when monitoring once every three years. Can return to one sample per three years if average from four consecutive annual samples is less than ½ the MCL/AMCL.
Waivers	One sample per 9 years	Based on previous analytical results, geological characteristics of source water aquifer and if a State determines that radon levels in drinking water are reliably and consistently below the MCL/AMCL. All analytical results must be below ½ the MCL/AMCL.

Multimedia Mitigation (MMM) Program Plan Criteria

EPA has identified four criteria that State MMM program plans are required to meet to be approved by EPA. The MMM program is modeled on the National Indoor Radon Program implemented by EPA, States, and others to address radon in indoor air. The program has been successful in achieving indoor radon risk reduction through a variety of program strategies, which form the basis for EPA’s proposed MMM program plan criteria.

The MMM program is intended to provide a more cost-effective alternative to achieve radon risk reduction, by allowing States (or CWSs) to address radon in indoor air from the soil source, while reducing the highest levels of radon in drinking water. It is EPA’s expectation that most States will adopt State-wide MMM programs as the more cost-effective approach. Most of the States currently have indoor radon programs that are addressing radon risk from soil, and can be used as the foundation for developing MMM programs approved by EPA under the SDWA. EPA expects that State indoor radon programs will implement MMM programs under agreements with the State drinking water programs. MMM program plans developed by Indian tribes will be reviewed by EPA, according to these same criteria. In non-MMM States, CWSs may develop local MMM program plans meeting these criteria (in a manner appropriate to their

size and institutional capabilities), to be approved by the State.

Under the proposed requirements, an MMM program plan to address radon in indoor air must address four criteria:

1. Public involvement in development of the MMM program plan.
2. Quantitative goals for existing homes fixed and new homes built radon-resistant.
3. Strategies for achieving the goals.
4. Plan to track and report results.

#### *Best Available Technology (BAT) for Radon in Drinking Water Removal*

High-performance aeration is the proposed BAT for all systems. High Performance Aeration is defined as the group of aeration technologies that are capable of being designed for high radon removal efficiencies (up to 99.9% Removal), i.e., Packed Tower Aeration, Multi-Stage Bubble Aeration and other suitable diffused bubble aeration technologies, Shallow Tray and other suitable Tray Aeration technologies, and any other aeration technologies that are capable of similar high performance. In addition to listing BAT, which is based on technology evaluations for large systems, the SDWA directs EPA to list "Small Systems Compliance Technologies" (SSCTs): affordable and technically feasible technologies based upon technology evaluations for small systems. EPA is proposing that high performance aeration, granular activated carbon (GAC), and point-of-entry GAC be listed as SSCTs. Issues relevant to safe operation procedures and safe and legal disposal of spent GAC material are addressed in the preamble to the proposed radon rule. They will also be addressed in a guidance manual for small systems, to be issued in support of the final rule.

#### *Analytical Methods*

EPA proposes Liquid Scintillation Counting (Standard Method 7500-Rn) and de-emanation ("Lucas Cell") as the approved methods. The Liquid Scintillation Counting method designated "D 5072 - 92" by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) is proposed as an alternate method.

#### *Community Water System Public Notification and Consumer Confidence Report Requirements*

The proposed rule adds violation of the radon rule to the list of violations requiring public notice under the May 13, 1999, proposed public notification rule. Public notices must be distributed within 30 days after the violation of the MCL or AMCL is known (Tier 2 public notice). For violations of the MMM program plan, public notices must be distributed within a year of violation (Tier 3 public notice). In addition, the proposed rule adds special requirements to the consumer confidence report that are intended to encourage public participation in development of the MMM program plan. Specific language is provided.

#### *State Primacy, Record Keeping, and Reporting Requirements*

The proposed rule requires States to adopt several regulatory requirements, including public notification requirements and MCL/AMCL for radon. In addition, States and eligible Indian tribes will be required to adopt several special primacy requirements for the radon rule if they adopt the AMCL/MMM option. If the State adopts the MCL, the State would be required to review and approve CWS MMM program plans. The proposed rule includes additional reporting requirements for MMM program plans. The proposed rule also requires States to keep specific records in accordance with existing regulations.

**WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED COMPLIANCE DEADLINES?**

EPA proposes to require that CWSs begin their initial monitoring requirements (one year of quarterly monitoring) for radon by 3 years after publication of the final rule in the *Federal Register*. However, CWSs in States that submit a letter to the Administrator committing to develop an MMM program plan, in accordance with the statute (due 90 days after publication of final regulation in *Federal Register*), are required to begin one year of quarterly monitoring 4.5 years after publication of the final rule. If monitoring data collected after proposal of the rule are consistent with the requirements specified in the regulation, then the State may allow the systems to use those data to satisfy the monitoring requirements for the initial compliance period. Systems opting to conduct early monitoring will not be considered in violation of the MCL/AMCL until after the end of the initial monitoring period applicable to their State (i.e., 4 years after publication of the final rule; 5.5 years after publication of final rule if State submits letter of commitment to MMM). In a non-MMM State, CWSs would need to notify the State of its intention to develop and submit a local MMM program plan to the State by 4 years after the final rule is published and implement a local program by 5.5 years after the final rule. EPA plans to publish the final rule by August, 2000.

Activity	Compliance Deadline*	
	State submits commitment letter on MMM to EPA – 90 days after final rule (State MMM/AMCL)	State does not submit 90-day commitment letter on MMM Program (system MMM/AMCL, or MCL)
States submit primacy applications and notify CWSs of decision on MMM/AMCL	August, 2002 (include MMM program plan in primacy application)	August, 2002
Rule Effective (systems begin initial monitoring)	February, 2005	August, 2003
States implement MMM	February, 2005	Not applicable
Systems complete initial monitoring	February, 2006	August, 2004
Systems notify State of intent to submit local MMM program plans	Not applicable	August, 2004
Systems submit local MMM plan to State for approval	Not applicable	August, 2005
Systems implement local MMM programs	Not applicable	February, 2006

\*Proposed compliance date if final rule published August, 2000.

## WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF THE PROPOSED RULE?

Under this proposal, States, CWSs, and the public will have flexibility in how to limit the public's exposure to radon. The AMCL/MMM approach is the more cost-effective way to reduce the risks from radon exposure. States will be able to set goals that focus on the more significant risk of radon in indoor air, and to reduce the highest risks in drinking water which will protect public health. EPA estimates the costs to States and community water systems of the more cost-effective approach, i.e., reducing radon in indoor air while implementing the 4000 pCi/L drinking water standard, to be approximately \$80 million a year. Treating drinking water from ground water sources to 300 pCi/L, would cost States and systems about \$407.6 million a year.

## HOW CAN I COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED RULE?

EPA is soliciting public comment on the proposed radon in drinking water rule. EPA must receive comments, in writing, by 60 days after the publication date of the proposed rule in the *Federal Register*. For specific instructions, see the *Federal Register* notice's "Addresses" section. A copy of the *Federal Register* notice of the proposed regulation can be obtained by contacting the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. It is also posted on EPA's drinking water web site at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.

## HOW CAN I GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

For general information on radon in drinking water, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, at (800) 426-4791, or visit EPA's web site on radon in drinking water at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/radon.html>. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

For more information on radon in indoor air, contact the National Safety Council's Environmental Health Center's hotline at (800) SOS-RADON. Or visit EPA's web site on radon in indoor air at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/radon/>.

For technical inquiries regarding the proposed regulations, contact Sylvia Malm, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (mailcode 4607), 401 M Street, SW, Washington DC, 20460. Phone: (202) 260-0417. E-mail: [malm.sylvia@epa.gov](mailto:malm.sylvia@epa.gov). For inquiries regarding the proposed multimedia mitigation program, contact Anita Schmidt, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (mailcode 6609J), 401 M Street, S.W, Washington, DC, 20460. Phone: (202) 564-9452. E-mail: [schmidt.anita@epa.gov](mailto:schmidt.anita@epa.gov).