



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ROGER L. LANDE, DIRECTOR

Frequently Asked Questions about Septic System Inspections

When did the law take effect?

Iowa's time of transfer inspection law (SF261) was passed in April of 2008 and took effect July 1, 2009. That means that any property that has a septic system and will transfer title on or after July 1 must be inspected.

What does the law require?

The new law requires that every home/building served by a septic system have that septic system inspected prior to the sale or deed transfer of the home/building. Those systems that are inadequate must upgrade at time of sale or transfer.

What is the purpose of the law?

Iowa has an estimated 100,000 buildings with septic systems that do not function adequately. The primary purpose of the program is to eliminate systems with no secondary treatment. These are the septic systems that have a septic tank, but do not have a leach field, sand filter or other secondary treatment device. Generally, these are the systems that pipe raw sewage directly into a road ditch or tile drain that flows to a ditch or stream. These systems are illegal and have been for many years.

Why are properly functioning septic systems important?

A single septic system can deliver between one million and 100 million colony-forming units of bacteria per 100 milliliters of effluent. Put another way, extremely high levels of bacteria come from inadequately performing septic tanks. If discharged directly into a stream or road ditch, these high levels have the potential to expose people, primarily children, and pets to possible pathogens carried in the fecal material. The material coming from poorly functioning septic systems are also high in organic matter. As this material enters a stream it pulls oxygen out of the water as it decomposes, posing a hazard to fish and other aquatic life. As the material is diluted and carried downstream, it is also a potential pollutant for drinking water supplies that draw water from that stream.

What if my system is working, but it is old and not up to code?

If your septic system is working properly when inspected, it will not have to be upgraded to meet today's code. Older systems may not have adequate capacity to meet current code, but still have a leach field or other secondary treatment that is working. These systems are less hazardous than those that have no secondary treatment and carry raw sewage to a ditch or stream.

Are there any exceptions to the requirement?

There are some exemptions in the law for foreclosure, father to son family transfers, divorce settlements and administration of an estate. For specifics, contact your attorney.

Who can do inspections?

A person with the appropriate experience and training can become a Certified Time of Transfer Inspector. To ensure uniformity of inspections, inspectors must be certified through a DNR training program. For more information about upcoming trainings, see www.wastewatertraining.com.

How do I know that inspections will be uniform from county to county?

As part of the certification training, inspectors are taught to use a uniform inspection procedure. They must also use a standard inspection worksheet throughout the state. The inspection law requires that all inspections are conducted according to Department procedures.

How many inspectors are there?

DNR has been working hard to prevent delays in sales and ensure that there are enough inspectors to complete all needed inspections. As of July 1, 2011, there were 367 certified inspectors.

Where can I find a list of inspectors?

Check the following Web sites maintained by the DNR and the Onsite Wastewater Training Center of Iowa: www.onsiteiowa.com or www.wastewatertraining.com

Can I check an inspection report for a property that I am interested in buying?

Inspection reports must be provided to the County Environmental Health staff (sanitarian) and the DNR. A copy of the inspection report must be attached to the Groundwater Hazard Statement before the deed can be transferred. Contact your county environmental health office.

What if I am buying a home that has an inadequate septic system? Will that hold up the sale?

There are basically two options if a property you are buying has a septic system that is not adequate. Option 1 is for the seller to fix the problem by upgrading the system prior to the sale. Option 2 is for buyer and seller to negotiate on price and who will fix the system. The sale can still go forward if there is a binding acknowledgment between the buyer and the County Board of Health that the system will be inspected and updated if necessary.

What if weather has caused a delay in the inspection?

The Groundwater Hazard Statement has been modified to include a disclosure of septic systems on the property and whether an inspection has been completed. Provisions have been included for weather-delayed inspections. A binding acknowledgement between the buyer and the County Board of Health to conduct the inspection at the first possible opportunity must be attached to the Groundwater Hazard Statement.



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CHUCK GIPP, DIRECTOR

Frequently Asked Questions
The Groundwater Hazard Statement (GWHS)
& Time of Transfer Septic System Inspections
www.onsiteiowa.com

The GWHS is required when a DOV is required and in any other case in which a private sewage system inspection is required (if there are any such cases), regardless of the date on the real estate transfer document. The most current form of the GWHS is dated July 18, 2012.

There are two different versions of the Time of Transfer inspections for private sewage systems forms. Rather than give out a copy of the form, please note that the proper form will be 542-0191. The Department does not have this form on their website to avoid fraud. All certified inspectors have copies of this form or they can obtain them from the Department. A list of inspectors can be found on the DNR website: www.onsiteiowa.com. Choose the time of transfer tab. The Department has also developed binding agreements for weather delays, demolitions and future installations. These can also be found on the website.

1. We have a property in the name of three trusts. One trust is giving their interest to the other two trusts and there is consideration. Do they need an inspection?

The law exempts any transfer by a fiduciary in the course of administration of a trust. The existence of consideration is not relevant. No inspection is required.

2. A mortgage company received the property by voluntary foreclosure. NOW the mortgage company is selling the property. Do they need an inspection?

The law exempts a transfer by a mortgagee who has acquired the property through voluntary foreclosure. No inspection is required.

3. Does the time of transfer form have to be an original when it is filed with the groundwater hazard statement to the County Recorders?

No, the original is not required.

4. If we have a Building on Leased Land (BOLL), do we need a GWHS? For example, a garage in a mobile home park usually comes in on a Bill of Sale with a DOV and transfer tax. Or – a cabin on leased land which would also transfer by Bill of Sale. We do require a DOV when we get a bill of sale for a BOLL, but some counties don't require any kind of recorded document to transfer a BOLL.

Yes, if a DOV is required then a GWHS is required and the Septic inspection question must be answered because the DNR is considering a cabin on leased land as a transfer of ownership of the building which requires an inspection per the code.

In conversation with Assistant Attorney General Michael Bennett, in a 1971 opinion of the Iowa Attorney General indicates that DOV's are required with a bill of sale for a building. This would seem to address the only exception that we thought existed where a time of transfer inspection is required but we thought a DOV wasn't. It appears a DOV is required in these circumstances.

5. Are short sales covered under exemption #2 (foreclosure) of when a septic inspection is required?

Short sales are a close relative of foreclosure, but they have not been exempted. An inspection will be required. The main justifications for foreclosures being exempt are that the bank doesn't have knowledge and never occupied the structure. It is also a protection from making them put more money into the property.

6. Define Lineal Line of Consanguinity

Generally defines blood relatives in the lineal line from grandparents to parents to children etc.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER - GROUNDWATER HAZARD STATEMENT
TO BE COMPLETED BY TRANSFEROR

TRANSFEROR:

Name _____

Address _____

Number and Street or RR

City, Town or P.O.

State

Zip

TRANSFeree:

Name _____

Address _____

Number and Street or RR

City, Town or P.O.

State

Zip

Address of Property Transferred:

Number and Street or RR

City, Town, or P.O.

State

Zip

Legal Description of Property: (Attach if necessary) _____

1. Wells (check one)

- ☐ There are no known wells situated on this property.
- ☐ There is a well or wells situated on this property. The type(s), location(s) and legal status are stated below or set forth on an attached separate sheet, as necessary.

2. Solid Waste Disposal (check one)

- ☐ There is no known solid waste disposal site on this property.
- ☐ There is a solid waste disposal site on this property and information related thereto is provided in Attachment #1, attached to this document.

3. Hazardous Wastes (check one)

- ☐ There is no known hazardous waste on this property.
- ☐ There is hazardous waste on this property and information related thereto is provided in Attachment #1, attached to this document.

4. Underground Storage Tanks (check one)

- ☐ There are no known underground storage tanks on this property. (Note exclusions such as small farm and residential motor fuel tanks, most heating oil tanks, cisterns and septic tanks, in instructions.)
- ☐ There is an underground storage tank on this property. The type(s), size(s) and any known substance(s) contained are listed below or on an attached separate sheet, as necessary.

5. Private Burial Site (check one)

- ☐ There are no known private burial sites on this property.
- ☐ There is a private burial site on this property. The location(s) of the site(s) and known identifying information of the decedent(s) is stated below or on an attached separate sheet, as necessary.

6. Private Sewage Disposal System (check one)

- ☐ All buildings on this property are served by a public or semi-public sewage disposal system.
- ☐ This transaction does not involve the transfer of any building which has or is required by law to have a sewage disposal system.
- ☐ There is a building served by private sewage disposal system on this property or a building without any lawful sewage disposal system. A certified inspector's report is attached which documents the condition of the private sewage disposal system and whether any modifications are required to conform to standards adopted by the Department of Natural Resources. A certified inspection report must be accompanied by this form when recording.
- ☐ There is a building served by private sewage disposal system on this property. Weather or other temporary physical conditions prevent the certified inspection of the private sewage disposal system from being conducted. The buyer has executed a binding acknowledgment with the county board of health to conduct a certified inspection of the private sewage disposal system at the earliest practicable time and to be responsible for any required modifications to the private sewage disposal system as identified by the certified inspection. A copy of the binding acknowledgment is attached to this form.
- ☐ There is a building served by private sewage disposal system on this property. The buyer has executed a binding acknowledgment with the county board of health to install a new private sewage disposal system on this property within an agreed upon time period. A copy of the binding acknowledgment is provided with this form.
- ☐ There is a building served by private sewage disposal system on this property. The building to which the sewage disposal system is connected will be demolished without being occupied. The buyer has executed a binding acknowledgment with the county board of health to demolish the building within an agreed upon time period. A copy of the binding acknowledgment is provided with this form. [Exemption #9]
- ☐ This property is exempt from the private sewage disposal inspection requirements pursuant to the following exemption [Note: for exemption #9 use prior check box]: _____.
- ☐ The private sewage disposal system has been installed within the past two years pursuant to permit number _____.

Information required by statements checked above should be provided here or on separate sheets attached hereto:

**I HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE REVIEWED THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS
FORM
AND THAT THE INFORMATION STATED ABOVE IS TRUE AND CORRECT.**

Signature: _____ Telephone No.: (____) _____
(Transferor or Agent)

GROUNDWATER HAZARD STATEMENT

ATTACHMENT #1

NOTICE OF WASTE DISPOSAL SITE

a. Solid Waste Disposal (check one)

- ☐ There is a solid waste disposal site on this property, but no notice has been received from the Department of Natural Resources that the site is deemed to be potentially hazardous.
- ☐ There is a solid waste disposal site on this property which has been deemed to be potentially hazardous by the Department of Natural Resources. The location(s) of the site(s) is stated below or on an attached separate sheet, as necessary.

b.. Hazardous Wastes (check one)

- ☐ There is hazardous waste on this property and it is being managed in accordance with Department of Natural Resources rules.
- ☐ There is hazardous waste on this property and the appropriate response or remediation actions, or the need therefore, have not yet been determined.

Further descriptive information:

**I HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE REVIEWED THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS
FORM
AND THAT THE INFORMATION STATED ABOVE IS TRUE AND CORRECT.**

Signature: _____ Telephone No.: (____) _____
(Transferor or Agent)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING GROUNDWATER HAZARD STATEMENT

The transferor of real property is required to complete this form. The purpose of the statement is to satisfy legal requirements for filing instruments of conveyance of real property with the county recorder (Iowa Code Section 558.69). The Department of Natural Resources does not approve or disapprove of property transfers based on these statements. The statement must be signed by one of the persons transferring the property interest or that person's agent. An agent signing this form represents the information from transferor to be correct.

For the most part the information requested is clear (name, address, etc.). One statement under each of the numbered items (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) must be checked, and if one or more of the statements checked requires the transferor to provide additional information, that information is to be provided on a separate sheet. Relate the additional information to the specific category of facility (well, etc.) by numbering it with the corresponding number (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6). When describing the location of a facility on the property, be reasonably precise, such as a specific distance and general direction from a landmark or corner of the property. A professional survey is not necessary. The following definitions are for use in completing the form.

1. Wells – A “well” is any excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, augered, washed, driven, dug, jetted or otherwise constructed for accessing groundwater or for diverting surface water into the ground, including abandoned wells. “Well” does not include an open ditch or drainage tiles which discharge to the surface.

If a well is an “abandoned well” or an “agricultural drainage well,” this must be identified and the status of the well with respect to Iowa Code sections 455B.190 and 159.29, respectively, must be stated. An “abandoned well” is a well no longer in use or in such state of disrepair that continued use is unsafe or impracticable. Abandoned wells are to be properly plugged in accordance with chapter 39 of the rules of the Department of Natural Resources. (567 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 39)

An “agricultural drainage well” is a well constructed for the purpose of draining, or which drains, water from agricultural land to an aquifer (underground), excluding drainage tile intakes which outlet to the surface. Agricultural drainage wells are required to be registered with the department by September 30, 1988, and the owner of the well and of the land drained by the well are to develop a plan proposing alternatives to the use of the well by July 1, 1998 (See Iowa Code Section 159.29.)

2. Solid Waste - “Solid waste” means garbage, refuse, rubbish and other similar discarded solid or semisolid material. It does not include dirt, stone, brick, or similar inorganic material used for fill, as long as no other solid waste is included. See 567--100.2(455B), Iowa Administrative Code (I.A.C.) for further definitions. A “disposal site” is any area on the property on, in, or under which solid waste has been disposed, whether or not the disposal is or was regulated by the department.

If the transferor or agent has not received notice from the Department of Natural Resources that the disposal site has been deemed to be potentially hazardous, there is no duty to inquire to the department.

Information in regard to a solid waste disposal site shall be included in Attachment #1.

***Note** The land application of sludges or soils resulting from the remediation of underground storage tank releases accomplished in compliance with Department of Natural Resources rules

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING GROUNDWATER HAZARD STATEMENT

without a permit is not required to be reported as the disposal of solid waste or hazardous waste. (See Iowa Code Section 558.69)

3. Hazardous Wastes - "Hazardous waste" is defined in Iowa Code section 455B.411, 567—141.2 (455B), I.A.C., and federal regulations referenced therein. It is generally defined as waste that poses a threat to human health or the environment. It includes wastes which are ignitable, corrosive, toxic, explosive, violently reactive, or specifically listed as hazardous in the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 261). EXCLUDED are household wastes, agricultural wastes returned to the soil as fertilizers or soil conditioners, agricultural chemicals applied or disposed of by a farmer in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, triple-rinsed agricultural chemical containers disposed of by farmers (where the rinsate is used as makeup water in the tankmix and applied at appropriate rates), and other specific materials. Persons are legally required to be aware of hazardous waste laws.

Information in regard to a hazardous waste disposal site shall be included in Attachment #1.

4. Underground Storage Tanks - "Underground storage tank" means one or a combination of tanks, including underground piping connected to the tanks, used to contain an accumulation of regulated substances, and the volume of which is 10 percent or more beneath the surface of the ground. "Regulated substances" include petroleum products and hazardous or toxic materials identified in 567--135.2(455B), I.A.C. Underground storage tank does not include:

- a. Farm or residential tanks of 1,100 gallons or less capacity used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial purposes. But See 455B.473(4))
- b. Tanks used for storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where stored.
- c. Residential septic tanks.
- d. Pipeline facilities regulated by state or federal law.
- e. A surface impoundment, pit pond, or lagoon.
- f. A storm water or wastewater collection system.
- g. A flow-through process tank.
- h. A liquid trap or associated gathering lines directly related to oil or gas production and gathering operations.
- i. A tank in an underground area such as a basement or mine, if the tank is on or above the surface of the floor.
- j. Pipes connected to the above exclusions.

"Tank type" means the material of construction (steel, fiberglass reinforced plastic [FRP], or other [specify]), and any internal or external protection such as a protective coating or wrapping, or cathodic protection. Identify the capacity in gallons and the substance stored in each tank.

5. Private Burial Sites - "Private Burial Site" means one or more graves containing human remains. For each site the transferor shall state the location of the site. For each decedent buried on the property the transferor shall state all known identifying information of that decedent including name, date of death, and date of birth.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING GROUNDWATER HAZARD STATEMENT

6. Private Sewage Disposal Systems – Beginning July 1, 2009, prior to any transfer of ownership of a building where a person resides, congregates, or is employed that is served by a private sewage disposal system, the sewage disposal system serving the building shall be inspected. In the event that weather or other temporary physical conditions prevent the certified inspection from being conducted, the buyer shall execute and submit a binding acknowledgment with the county board of health to conduct a certified inspection of the private sewage disposal system at the earliest practicable time and to be responsible for any required modifications to the private sewage disposal system as identified by the certified inspection. For the purposes of this subsection, "transfer" means the transfer or conveyance by sale, exchange, real estate contract, or any other method by which real estate and improvements are purchased, if the property includes at least one but not more than four dwelling units.

However, "transfer" does not include any of the following:

(1) A transfer made pursuant to a court order, including but not limited to a transfer under chapter 633 or 633A, the execution of a judgment, the foreclosure of a real estate mortgage pursuant to chapter 654, the forfeiture of a real estate contract under chapter 656, a transfer by a trustee in bankruptcy, a transfer by eminent domain, or a transfer resulting from a decree for specific performance.

(2) A transfer to a mortgagee by a mortgagor or successor in interest who is in default, ~~or~~ a transfer by a mortgagee who has acquired real property as a result of a deed in lieu of foreclosure or has acquired real property under chapter 654 or 655A,

(3) A transfer by a fiduciary in the course of the administration of a decedent's estate, guardianship, conservatorship, or trust.

(4) A transfer between joint tenants or tenants in common.

(5) A transfer made to a spouse, or to a person in the lineal line of consanguinity of a person making the transfer.

(6) A transfer between spouses resulting from a decree of dissolution of marriage, a decree of legal separation, or a property settlement agreement which is incidental to the decree, including a decree ordered pursuant to chapter 598.

(7) A transfer for which consideration is five hundred dollars or less.

(8) A deed between a family corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or limited liability company as defined in section 428A.2, subsection 15, and its stockholders, partners, or members for the purpose of transferring real property in an incorporation or corporate dissolution or in the organization or dissolution of a partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or limited liability company under the laws of this state, where the deed is given for no actual consideration other than for shares or for debt securities of the family corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or limited liability company.

(9) A transfer in which the transferee intends to demolish or raze the building..A legally binding document verifying that the building will be demolished shall be attached to the form.

(10) A transfer of property with a system that was installed not more than two years prior to the date of the transfer.

(11) A deed arising from a partition proceeding.

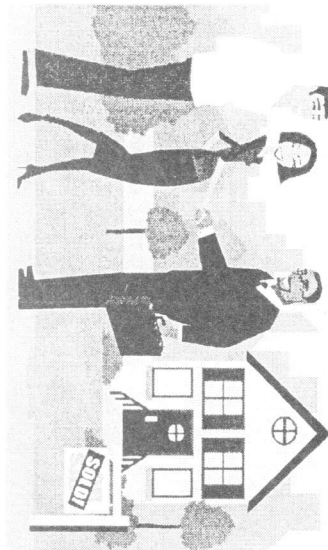
(12) A tax sale deed issued by the county treasurer.

7. Filing - This form must be presented to the county recorder when the document to be recorded is filed. The Recorder shall forward the original to the transferee when the recorded instrument is returned. The Recorder is not required to keep any copies.

Time of Transfer Inspection Exemptions
Iowa Code 455B.172(11)

For the purposes of this subsection, "transfer" means the transfer or conveyance by sale, exchange, real estate contract, or any other method by which real estate and improvements are purchased, if the property includes at least one but not more than four dwelling units. However, "transfer" does not include any of the following:

- (1) A transfer made pursuant to a court order, including but not limited to a transfer under chapter 633 or 633A, the execution of a judgment, the foreclosure of a real estate mortgage pursuant to chapter 654, the forfeiture of a real estate contract under chapter 656, a transfer by a trustee in bankruptcy, a transfer by eminent domain, or a transfer resulting from a decree for specific performance.
- (2) A transfer to a mortgagee by a mortgagor or successor in interest who is in default, or a transfer by a mortgagee who has acquired real property at a sale conducted pursuant to chapter 654, a transfer back to a mortgagor exercising a right of first refusal pursuant to section 654.16A, a nonjudicial voluntary foreclosure procedure under section 654.18 or chapter 655A, or a deed in lieu of foreclosure under section 654.19.
- (3) A transfer by a fiduciary in the course of the administration of a decedent's estate, guardianship, conservatorship, or trust.
- (4) A transfer between joint tenants or tenants in common.
- (5) A transfer made to a spouse, or to a person in the lineal line of consanguinity of a person making the transfer.
- (6) A transfer between spouses resulting from a decree of dissolution of marriage, a decree of legal separation, or a property settlement agreement which is incidental to the decree, including a decree ordered pursuant to chapter 598.
- (7) A transfer for which consideration is five hundred dollars or less.
- (8) A deed between a family corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or limited liability company as defined in section 428A.2, subsection 15, and its stockholders partners, or members for the purpose of transferring real property in an incorporation or corporate dissolution or in the organization or dissolution of a partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or limited liability company under the laws of this state, where the deed is given for no actual consideration other than for shares or for debt securities of the family corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or limited liability company.
- (9) A transfer in which the transferee intends to demolish or raze the building. A legally binding document verifying that the building will be demolished shall be attached to the form.
- (10) A transfer of property with a system that was installed not more than two years prior to the date of the transfer.
- (11) A deed arising from a partition proceeding.
- (12) A tax sale deed issued by the county treasurer.



Licensed radon measurement specialists in Iowa can be found by going online to www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/radon.asp and searching the lists of certified radon measurement specialists by county or by license number. Additional radon information is available from the state radon program at 800-383-5992, EPA's Web site www.epa.gov/radon and the American Lung Association Web site at www.lungusa.org.

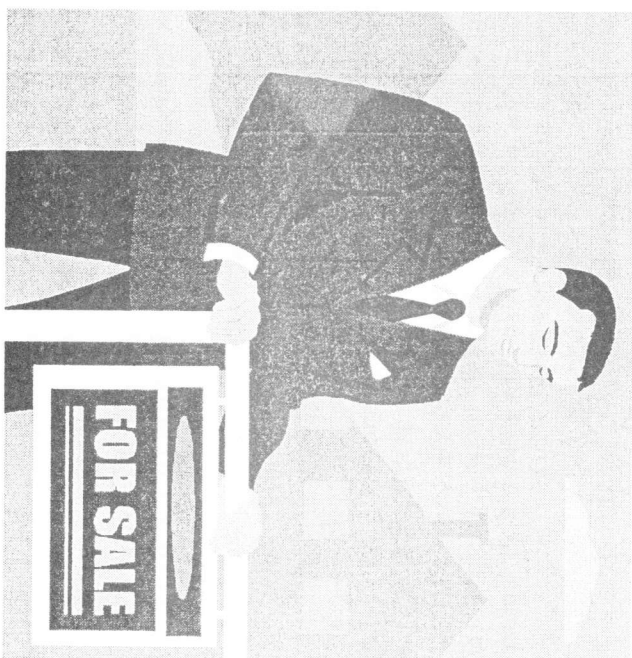
6/2009



Iowa Department of Public Health
Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans

IOWA RADON HOME- BUYERS AND SELLERS

FACT SHEET



What is Radon?

Radon gas occurs naturally in the soil, and is produced by the radioactive breakdown or decay of uranium and radium. Long ago, glacial activity left behind ground-up deposits of many minerals such as uranium in the soil or upper crust in Iowa. Because radon is a gas it can seep into buildings, including homes. It is an odorless and invisible gas that is also radioactive and harmful to humans when inhaled.

Where is Radon found in Iowa?

EPA has identified all counties in Iowa as Zone 1. Zone 1 counties have a predicted average indoor radon screening level of more than 4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter). The total average indoor radon level in Iowa is 8.5 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of air, and in the United States it is 1.3 pCi/L of air. Average radon levels of 4 pCi/L are considered elevated, and remediation is recommended.

The primary source of high levels of radon in homes is in the soil below and soil surrounding the home. It is found in new and old homes, and in homes with and without basements. **Based on data collected from radon home tests, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) estimates that as many as 5 in 7 homes (or greater than 50-70%) across Iowa have elevated radon levels.** Radon levels can vary from area to area and can vary considerably from house to house, even on the same street and neighborhood. A high and low level of radon can be found in homes directly next to each other.

How does Radon get into a home?

Warm air rises, creating a small vacuum in the lower areas of a house. Radon moves through and into the home as air moves from a higher pressure in the soil to a lower pressure in the home. Radon gas seeps into a house the same way air and other soil gases enter: from the soil around and under the home and through cracks in the foundation, floor or walls; hollow-block walls; and openings around floor drains, pipes and sump pumps; and through crawl spaces.

What are the Health Effects of Radon?

There is overwhelming scientific evidence that exposure to elevated levels of radon causes lung cancer in humans. Radiation emitted from

radon can cause cellular damage that can lead to cancer when it strikes living tissue in the lungs. Radon is the first leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers, and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall. It is responsible for about 21,000 deaths every year in the US. EPA also estimates that long-term exposure to radon potentially causes approximately 400 deaths each year in Iowa.

How do Home Buyers in Iowa find out if a home they are purchasing has elevated levels of Radon?

Home buyers interested in purchasing a home can test the homes for radon by contacting a licensed or certified radon measurement specialist. They can find a list of licensed radon measurement specialists by going online to www.idph.state.ia.us/ch/radon.asp and searching the list of Iowa radon measurement specialists by county, or by contacting a real-estate professional for help on finding a radon testing professional. **Remember, the IDPH, the Environmental Protection Agency, the American Lung Association, and the Surgeon General recommend radon testing all new and existing homes for radon in Iowa before they are sold or before they are transferred to a different owner.**

How can elevated levels of Radon be fixed?

Licensed or credentialed radon mitigation contractors can install a radon mitigation system that provides a permanent solution. A typical radon mitigation system includes a suction point that addresses the soil underneath the structure. A home that has been mitigated will usually have a much lower radon level than the EPA's action level of 4 picocuries per liter. Addressing residential radon issues is an excellent step toward assuring good indoor air quality. A list of licensed radon mitigation contractors can be obtained from the state radon program by going online to www.idph.state.ia.us/ch/radon.asp and then clicking on the list of Iowa credentialed radon mitigation specialists by county. A radon information packet can also be obtained by calling 1-800-383-5992.

Additional Information:

Additional information about radon is available from the state radon program at 800-383-5992, and EPA's Web site, www.epa.gov/radon or the American Lung Association Web site at www.lungusa.org.