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Radon: Pinpointing a Mystery



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All pollution isn't man-made. EPA's experience with the colorless, odorless gas, radon, demonstrates that fact. This issue of *EPA Journal* includes articles on the radon situation. The magazine leads off its report with a brief explanation of the radon problem. The Agency's Deputy Administrator, A. James Barnes, discusses strategies to deal with this unusual, nonregulatory

challenge. The specifics of EPA's Radon Action Program are spelled out by Richard J. Guimond, director of the Agency's efforts to deal with radon. Pennsylvania's 18-month battle against a radon threat is chronicled by Nicholas DeBenedictis, Secretary of the state's Department of Environmental Resources. The story of how one television series focused attention on the radon problem is related by Roberta Baskin, a reporter for

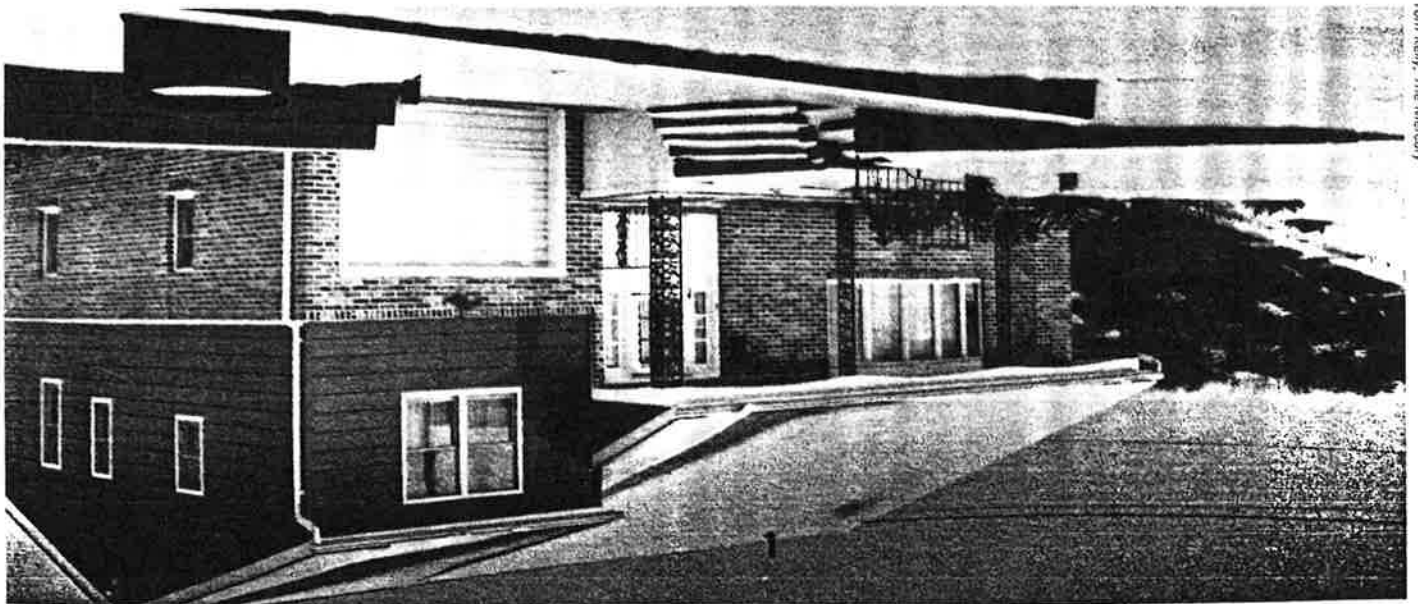
WJLA-TV in Washington, DC. The personal experience of an EPA Region 3 official working directly with people who have high radon levels in their homes is described. Excerpts from EPA guidance to homeowners about radon are featured. In a related story, Congresswoman Claudine Schneider (R-RJ) argues that indoor air pollution is putting an increasing burden on the modern home.

Other stories discuss EPA's role in answering questions that emerged following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and asbestos in the home. The issue concludes with two features—Update and Appointments/Awards. □

John Stricker, *The Mercury*



Top: The home of Stanley Watras and his family in Boyertown, PA. Discovery of high radon levels in this home has activated a national examination of the radon problem. Bottom: Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Watras attend a press conference in Pottstown, PA, in April 1985. Philadelphia Electric Co. and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources announced at the conference that they would cooperate to radon-proof the Watras home.



Tom Kelly, *The Mercury*