



Virtual Conference

October 13-15, 2020

SESSION TITLE: Prevalence and Distribution of Radium in Iowa Groundwater: Managing Radionuclides in Private Drinking Water Wells and Small Public Water Systems

DESCRIPTION:

In Iowa, combined radium surpasses nitrate and total coliform as the most frequently reported violation for public water systems (PWSs) regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Simultaneously, awareness of drinking water quality issues in unregulated private wells is increasing. Critical data for assessing radium in groundwater is limited because of infrequent PWS reporting and sparse groundwater monitoring wells across Iowa. A large-scale survey for radium in private wells in ten Iowa counties was completed in fall 2019. Results will be shared with policy recommendations for meeting safe levels of radium in water for private wells and communication strategies applied in engaging with well owners about radium contamination. Distinct differences in assessing treatment strategies for homeowners with private wells and small PWSs necessitate new conceptions of whole-aquifer management of Iowa groundwater to solve emerging and legacy geologic water quality challenges.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Speaker 1 / Point of Contact:

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PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

Provide at least two objectives.

1. Share results from fall 2019 and ongoing fall 2020 Iowa private well survey of radium in groundwater.
2. Engage Iowa environmental health stakeholders in finding solutions to elevated levels of naturally occurring radionuclides in private well water.