Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of different radon guideline values based on characterization of ecological risk and visualization of lung cancer mortality trends in British Columbia, Canada

Authors:

   Michael C Branion-Calles (mbcalles@uvic.ca)
   Trisalyn A Nelson (trisalyn@uvic.ca)
   Sarah B Henderson (sarah.henderson@bccdc.ca)

Version: 4 Date: 15 October 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over

October 1 2015

Editor Request: Please state in your manuscript whether the data used is openly available or whether you received permission (and from who) to use it.

We update the manuscript to clarify the public availability of the data employed in this research. At the end of the Background section we insert the following sentence to reflect the fact majority of the data used, including indoor radon concentration data, mortality data and smoking prevalence estimates are not available publicly:

“All data employed in this study are archived at the BC Center for Disease Control (BCCDC) and are not publicly available, except where indicated.”

We then indicate which datasets are publicly available.

The first sentence of second paragraph of section describing the independent variables we assert independent variables were constructed from publicly available data:

"The specific independent variables we constructed for each BDA were each derived from publicly available data and include:"

We also indicate that population estimates are publicly available:

"Estimates of the resident population for each BDA were made using data from the Dissemination Area (DA) level of the 2011 national census which are publicly available"