



NY-VIA

New York Vapor Intrusion Alliance

130 Creamery Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

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Clean Water & Air*

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Vapor Intrusion Alliance Introducing Policy Agenda to Lawmakers

The New York State Vapor Intrusion Alliance (NYVIA) will meet in Albany on January 28, 2008 to speak with members of the NYS Assembly, Senate and Governor's office to introduce its policy agenda.

NYVIA is a newly formed alliance of civic groups, environmentalists, and recognized non-governmental agencies from the length and breadth of the state. In addition, a foremost national authority on the topic serves as technical adviser. Each member brings unique knowledge and insight gained from personal experiences in their respective community. Collectively, the group plans to increase awareness and strengthen regulations for vapor intrusion in New York State.

Specific Action Levels for Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC's) - While New York State has established guidelines for vapor intrusion there needs to be a more aggressive approach in dealing with this public health threat. Vapor intrusion refers to the migration of volatile chemicals from the subsurface into overlying buildings. NYVIA will be pursuing the most protective standard available when these contaminants are detected. A uniform detection level needs to be established and implemented for detection, mitigation, management and tracking of VOC's.

The Landlord Notification Bill - Landlord notification would require disclosure of environmental investigations and testing to all renters in the state. According to the US Census Bureau, more than 43% of housing in New York State is rental property. It is frightening that almost half of state households are not allowed access to information that could protect their families from harm. Insuring that these households have access to this vital information should be a priority for all of us.

Private Well Testing Act - The New York State Department of Health estimates that over one million homeowners in the state currently utilize private wells for their drinking water. These residents may be drinking contaminated water without knowing it. There is no current requirement for having private wells tested except in Rockland and Westchester Counties, and the Towns of East Fishkill, Fishkill and Wappingers in Dutchess County, where testing has been required by county law since November 2007. To provide all citizens in the state with information on the quality of their drinking water, water from private wells should also be subject to the type of testing done regularly for public water supplies. After a similar law was passed in New Jersey in 2001, it was discovered that 1 in 4 private drinking water wells was contaminated above state drinking water standards.