



NY-VIA

New York Vapor Intrusion Alliance

130 Creamery Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

New York Vapor Intrusion Alliance Supports

Private Well Testing Act A.7231

IN ASSEMBLY, BILL NUMBER 7231. INTRODUCED BY M. of A. Jaffee, Sweeney, Fields, Bradley, Calhoun, O'Donnell, Seminerio, Koon, Finch, Townsend, Spano, Rosenthal, Alfano (M-S)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, the public health law and the real property law, in relation to enacting the "private well testing act"

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

This bill would require drinking water from private wells to be tested upon the transfer of property for contaminants, including bacteria, nitrates, iron, manganese, pH, volatile organic compounds, and lead.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

It is estimated that over one million homeowners in New York State rely on private wells for their drinking water. Anyone can test their water, but too often this is not exercised. Many people buying new homes today do not test for anything more than bacteria. Bacteria testing is required by most mortgage agreements, but not by law.

Contamination from volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as industrial solvents and dry-cleaning chemicals has been discovered in private wells all over New York State. Many of these wells have been contaminated for approximately 30 years or longer. Exposure to these chemicals can cause many health problems including cancer. Additionally, contaminated water containing VOCs can cause vapor intrusion in homes and buildings. Vapor intrusion is a newly-discovered and very dangerous form of exposure. Locating contaminated private wells will help locate structures affected by vapor intrusion.

There are many reasons to test a private well no matter how rural the location is. In 2002, the *Poughkeepsie Journal* reported that about 10% of the public wells in Dutchess County were found to be contaminated. Rockland County has enacted its own private well testing law. During the first quarter of 2007, 63% of the wells tested in Rockland County failed some portion of the new well testing regimen.

The New York Vapor Intrusion Alliance strongly supports this legislation.

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