



Wednesday, March 15,
2006

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East Fishkill crusader testifies at Albany brownfields hearing

Debra Hall, a founder of Hopewell Junction Citizens for Clean Water, has been pushing for remedies to water and air pollution at her home and others in the vicinity of the Hopewell Precision contamination site, is testifying in Albany today.



Hall

Hall is speaking at a state Department of Environmental Conservation brownfields hearing.

She said the DEC let the community down in 1994 when it de-listed the site even after the state Department of Health asked them not to.

“It seemed that the soil was not tested and three monitoring wells were the wrong depth, but still, they had closed the site and residents continued to drink water and breath indoor air that was contaminated by TCE,” she said.

At the present time, Hall said 123 homes have water contamination, 51 have carbon filtration systems, 141 homes measured vapor intrusion in their sub slab and 46 homes have vapor mitigation units installed, all by the EPA.



Thursday, February 16,
2006

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Hinchey blasts state Health Department over TCE

Congressman Maurice Hinchey yesterday sharply criticized the New York State Health Department for its “failure to revise air safety guidelines to protect state residents from TCE chemical contamination.

TCE contamination is a problem in the Endicott area of Broome County in his district. There is also a problem of TCE contamination in the Hopewell Junction area of Dutchess County.

Hinchey said Wednesday the state has not acted to lower the threshold to address the problem, even though the federal EPA five years ago determined TCE to be five to 65 times more toxic than originally thought.

“We are pressing hard to get them to recognize how dangerous TCE is and to bring about a responsible standard that will protect people who may be living with particular poison in their homes as a result of inappropriate disposal of this toxic substance by manufacturing agencies,” he said.

Hinchey yesterday send a letter to state Health Commissioner Dr. Antonia Novello, urging her to take immediate action to remediate the problem.

[Congressman Hinchey's letter](#)

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On the Web

The Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation's report, "Vapor Intrusion of Chemicals: An Emerging Public Health Concern," can be read online. Go to www.assembly.state.ny.us/comm and click on Environmental Conservation "News."

Friday, February 3, 2006

Protection against toxic fumes urged

State needs to take steps, report says

By Dan Shapley
Poughkeepsie Journal

The state must be more aggressive in protecting people from the toxic fumes that can seep into buildings from polluted groundwater, according to a report from the state Assembly's Committee on Environmental Conservation.

Vapor intrusion has been recognized as a potential health threat only since the late 1990s.

At the Hopewell Precision federal Superfund site in East Fishkill, 46 homes are being ventilated because of concerns about airborne trichloroethylene, or TCE, an industrial solvent.

The state has identified at least 27 other known hazardous waste sites in Dutchess and Ulster counties where vapor intrusion may be a problem. The number indicates the extent of volatile organic compound contamination in groundwater.

New construction at many old industrial sites, known as brownfields, may also require ventilation.

Experts give input

The committee's report, released Thursday, was based on expert testimony during several hearings, including one in Hopewell Junction that focused on the elevated risk babies and children face from contaminated air. While the report acknowledges a firm scientific understanding of health effects from contaminated air is elusive, the potential effects are serious and warrant aggressive steps to protect human health.

The cost of implementing the recommendations was not estimated.

"We certainly should have a serious discussion on the costs of such drastic changes, but when you're dealing with the public health, our decision should be based on science and health and not on the cost," said Assemblyman Patrick Manning, R-East Fishkill, a member of the Assembly's Committee on Environmental Conservation and a candidate for governor. "I would never want to tell someone who contracted a potentially fatal illness that it was the cost involved that held us back."

Specifically, the report called on the state to:

Set its cleanup guideline for airborne TCE 250 times lower.

Ventilate any building that shows signs of vapor intrusion. In most cases, the cost of monitoring is comparable to the cost of installing a ventilation system.

Test any building near a hazardous waste site that may be affected by vapor intrusion, if the owner or resident requests testing.

Treat polluted groundwater aggressively to reduce the potential for vapor intrusion.

Expand its research and community outreach related to vapor intrusion and its health effects.

The state departments of health and environmental conservation had no immediate response to the report. The agencies would review the recommendations, spokespeople for the departments said.

"Our efforts for addressing soil vapor intrusion in people's homes are some of the most aggressive actions in the nation," said Jeffrey Hammond, spokesman for the state Department of Health. "We will consider the Assembly report as we develop our response to comment on the vapor intrusion guidance and our expert peer review panel report on TCEs."

Debra Hall, who lives at the Hopewell Precision Superfund site and has been an advocate for tougher standards, said the report was "right on."

"I'm hoping that everybody gets protected that has TCE in the air in their homes," she said. "I know for a fact that the units work. Just install them. Why do you have to test and test and test and waste all that money?"

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**Thursday, February 2,
2006**

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Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee urge DEC, DOH to mitigate all homes with TCE

Calling vapor intrusion – the contamination of indoor air by toxic volatile chemicals from polluted soil and groundwater – one of the most significant public health threats posed by contaminated Superfund and Brownfield sites, Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli of Great Neck, Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo of Endwell and Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton today released a final report from a series of public hearings held across the state on the issue, and called on the departments of Environmental Conservation and Health to take a preventive approach to eliminating the toxic exposures caused by vapor intrusion.

Hopewell Junction resident Debra Hall, a homeowner with TCE, praised the committee’s findings and said filtration units should be installed as a precaution, regardless of the level found. “This is a very scary thing and it has to be taken care of,” she said. “The units do work, but they have to be installed. As long as they are not installed, people will keep breathing this stuff and that has to be rectified as soon as possible.”

DiNapoli, chairman of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, held a series of three hearings in Endicott in Broome County, Ithaca in Tompkins County and Hopewell Junction in Dutchess County over the past year. Testimony was gathered from government officials, public health and environmental experts and citizens representing affected communities.

“DEC and DOH should adopt a general presumption that all homes will be mitigated where contamination is detected and may be caused by vapor intrusion,” DiNapoli said. “A large number of findings from the committee’s hearings support this recommendation, including the difficulty of accurately measuring vapor intrusion; the controversy regarding TCE toxicity, and the comparable cost of mitigation and monitoring.”

While DEC, DOH and the United States Environmental Protection Agency have all issued draft guidelines pertaining to various aspects of vapor intrusion, no guidelines have been finalized. In New York, recent efforts to revisit sites with a potential for vapor intrusion have led to the discovery of vapor contamination at several Superfund sites, including the IBM Facility site in Endicott, the Emerson Power Transmission site in Ithaca, the federal Hopewell Precision Area site in Hopewell Junction and the Jackson Steel site on Long Island.

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Editorial

Sunday, January 15, 2006

Don't ignore tainted water

Through years of neglect and foul business practices, Dutchess County's water sources have been placed in jeopardy.

More chemical spills are identified each year. The situation is intolerable. Government and private citizens have to work together to prevent these spills — and to halt the spread of contaminants already in the ground and in the air.

Two more examples have recently come to light, joining a litany of locales in need of cleanups. One involves primarily businesses in the hamlet of Pleasant Valley, the other a plaza in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

In Pleasant Valley, the water contaminant Freon-22 exceeds federal safety levels in six wells and requires filtration. Owners of other tainted wells in the area have been advised to take similar precautions. Even a church has been affected and now must rely on bottled water.

In the Town of Poughkeepsie, some businesses in the Nine Mall Plaza on Route 9 are coping with contaminated air caused by pollution in groundwater that has seeped up from the soil and into the atmosphere. While health officials say customers aren't at risk, workers could be, since they are vulnerable to long-term exposure.

The state believes inappropriately disposed waste from a now-defunct cleaning business is the source of that contamination. Environmental officials are reviewing the plaza owner's cleanup proposal, along with test results.

These spills were discovered because the state requires testing of small public water systems, but that is not the case when it comes to private water wells. Health officials concede private wells outside their jurisdiction could be tainted as well.

Regular private-well tests are a must

Residents should have their wells tested periodically to ensure they not suffering the fate of hundreds of homeowners in Dutchess. These residents have come to discover that spills — started decades ago mostly by businesses — have worked their way through the soil and into private, residential wells.

This year, Dutchess is scheduled to start addressing this issue in a limited way by mandating private wells be tested for certain chemicals whenever a home is sold in the county. Landlords would test wells every six years as well. These tests will go beyond the normal checks for bacteria that most banks require. The county Legislature has put \$125,000 into a reserve fund to start the program, but the county Department of Health needs to work out the details.

The county has run up a depressing list of places that require cleanup, including two federal Superfund sites. Neither government nor the public can afford to be complacent in this fight to protect our water sources.

www.poughkeepsiejournal.com

Saturday, December 3, 2005

EPA to test more homes for toxic vapors Effort boosted at Superfund site

By Dan Shapley
Poughkeepsie Journal

HOPEWELL JUNCTION — The Environmental Protection Agency will soon test the air for toxic vapors in dozens of additional homes as part of an expanded effort to address pollution at the Hopewell Precision Superfund site in East Fishkill, officials said at a meeting Thursday night.

In a process called vapor intrusion, gases from polluted groundwater can seep up through soil and accumulate in homes.

Groundwater in the neighborhood was polluted, the EPA believes, when a metal cabinet manufacturer on Ryan Drive, Hopewell Precision, dumped degreasing solvents in the 1970s and 1980s.

The EPA has already installed ventilation systems at 47 homes, and water filters at 37 where indoor air or drinking water was tainted with trichloroethylene, or TCE.

The new tests will focus on homes overlying groundwater polluted by a second chemical, trichloroethane, or TCA. The state Department of Environmental Conservation has installed water filters at 14 homes with TCA in well water.

"We have boots on the ground," resident Bill Borell said, expressing satisfaction that the EPA was working aggressively.

Studies predict exposure to the chemicals could cause health problems, including cancer, liver and kidney damage and other ailments.

The additional testing is possible because the site was made a Superfund site in April, expanding EPA's mandate — and the federal dollars available. Since it discovered contaminated wells in 2003, the EPA had acted under an emergency re-sponse program.

The EPA has spent more than \$2 million at the site. Hopewell Precision has not paid anything, and lacks money to contribute significantly, Don Graham, the emergency response project manager, said. The EPA is investigating whether any other individuals or companies might be responsible and able to pay.

Next month, the EPA will begin a detailed study of the pollution, human health and environmental effects from it, and strategies for remediating it. The study is expected to take until late 2007 to complete.

"It's not a quick process," said Angela Carpenter, the EPA's Superfund program section chief for this area. "We're in for the long haul."

EPA action at similar sites suggests work will take years:

Contaminated water at the Mohonk Road Industrial Plant Superfund site near High Falls in Ulster County was discovered in 1994. A groundwater treatment system was installed in 2000, and a public water system is under construction.

The Shenandoah Road Superfund site in East Fishkill was discovered in 2000, and a water system isn't expected to be completed before sometime in 2007.

Some Hopewell Precision residents want to see faster action to provide public water to the neighborhood, particularly since there are many homes with very low levels of contaminated water that do not have filters.

"It will be in excess of five years, for sure," Hopewell Precision site resident Joe Koestner said. "There are a lot of people concerned about the impact not only on health but real estate."

John Hickman Jr., the town supervisor-elect, said East Fishkill is looking at ways to extend public water to the area as soon as possible.

"We're not going to wait," he said.

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Sunday, October 16, 2005

Restore source for Superfund

New Yorkers should be acutely aware why the federal cleanup program known as Superfund was created — and why it is needed even more today.

Legislation initiating the fund was passed 25 years ago; its origins stem from the public outcry over the hazardous waste dumping at Love Canal in western New York.

Hundreds of families were evacuated from the polluted neighborhood in Niagara Falls; that area has since come back following a massive \$400 million cleanup.

In fact, more than 300 sites have been taken off the government's toxic waste site since Superfund started. But the program has been greatly compromised. Superfund is not being adequately replenished, mainly because Congress foolishly let an important component expire a decade ago.

There are several important aspects to Superfund. When polluters can be identified, they must pay for the cleanup. But, when it started the fund, Congress recognized there would be times when polluters couldn't be pinpointed or may have already gone out of business or bankrupt. So, an "orphan" fund was created to take care of those situations. It was financed through a small tax on industries handling petroleum and hazardous chemicals most often found on polluted sites. But the tax expired in 1995, and Congress hasn't seen fit to reinstitute it. Instead, it is funding "orphan" cleanups through annual appropriations in the federal budget.

This won't do. Not surprisingly, the pace of cleanups has slowed.

Local sites on the list

The Citizens' Environmental Coalition of New York recently compiled a report detailing some of the federal sites that need remedies in this area.

They include the Hopewell Precision site in East Fishkill where dozens of homeowners have discovered their water wells are polluted. TCE, or trichloroethylene, is the main pollutant in these wells following a chemical spill. And drinking small amounts of it for long periods may cause liver and kidney damage, as well as other health problems.

The EPA considers Hopewell Precision Inc., a cabinet manufacturer on Ryan Drive, a "potential responsible party" for the chemical spill.

The agency has been studying the company's finances to determine how much it should contribute to the cost of the cleanup and to provide an alternative source of water to the residents. The company's president has said none of the current employees was working at the facility when the spill apparently occurred decades ago. These matters will take time to sort out.

The EPA must have the resources to move forward on this cleanup and so many more like it across the country. Relying on annual appropriations from a shaky federal budget won't suffice. Steadily replenishing the Superfund program by reinstating the industry tax on pollution makes more sense.

www.poughkeepsiejournal.com

October 8, 2005

EPA pushed to get tough on pollution

TCE cleanup standards sought

By Dan Shapley

Poughkeepsie Journal

Pressure is growing on the Environmental Protection Agency to tighten standards for cleaning up TCE, a toxic chemical that can seep into the air in homes that sit above polluted groundwater.

Responding to the concerns of residents living at polluted sites, several senators and members of Congress are pressing the EPA to set an interim health standard for the chemical. That would lead to more-intensive and expensive cleanups at sites across the country.

The EPA has installed dozens of ventilations systems in homes in one such neighborhood in East Fishkill, where the cabinet manufacturer Hopewell Precision has been accused of dumping trichloroethylene years ago.

"I don't understand why the EPA is being so hard-headed about it," said Debra Hall, who lives at the Hopewell Precision Superfund site, where the EPA has used the most protective standards for cleaning the air. "I want to see everyone with this problem get taken care of."

Without a national standard, cleanup guidelines vary from state to state. Those standards vary even within the boundaries of East Fishkill, where the EPA has used different guidelines for assessing Hall's neighborhood and the nearby Shenandoah Road Superfund site.

The EPA is in the midst of a politically-charged study about how TCE affects the human body. The EPA uses such health-risk analyses to set cleanup standards at polluted sites.

A draft of a health-risk analysis completed in 2001 found TCE was potent at minute concentrations, and that it could contribute to a wide range of health problems, including cancer. Children are among the most susceptible.

The EPA asked the National Academy of Science to review its analysis after controversy erupted over the study. The opposition came from industries and other government agencies that would face greater cleanup costs. The review could take more than a year.

Slow pace criticized

Elected officials have scolded the EPA for its pace.

"Today, thousands of Americans may be exposed to unhealthful levels of TCE," reads a letter dated Wednesday to EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson, signed by Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., and six other senators. They urged the EPA to set an interim health standard for cleaning up sites, based on the 2001 analysis.

An EPA spokeswoman could not be reached in time for this report. In the past, the agency has said it is carefully reviewing the science before setting a new national standard. The EPA says it protects human health at polluted sites by evaluating the needs on a site-by-site basis.

TCE is a widespread contaminant found in at least 325 of the 1,242 EPA-listed Superfund sites. Besides the two federal Superfund sites in East Fishkill, toxic vapors

could be seeping into buildings at 27 smaller hazardous waste sites in Dutchess and Ulster counties the state has yet to investigate. The state has identified sites where chemicals like TCE are present in groundwater, but it has yet to investigate air quality in nearby buildings.

Cause not proven

Recent government health studies in Endicott, Broome County, showed residents had elevated rates of testicular and kidney cancers, newborn heart defects and low birth weights. The studies could not prove TCE contamination there was to blame.

"I see what it's done over in Endicott, and I pray that we don't have the same kinds of illnesses here in the neighborhood," Hall said.

The cleanup standards used by the state in Endicott are not as restrictive as those used at the Hopewell Precision Superfund site.

U.S. Reps. Maurice Hinchey, D-Hurley, and Sue Kelly, R-Katonah, recently called for House hearings on the health effects of TCE.

Hinchey also wrote legislation that will require the EPA to establish an interim plan for responding to TCE contamination, until it completes its health risk analysis.

During a recent congressional subcommittee hearing, Kelly grilled EPA officials about its TCE policies. The EPA pledged to work with her to address her concerns.

"Why is there not a greater sense of urgency to finalize a nationwide standard for TCE assessment?" Kelly said, according to text provided by her office. "Why can't you expedite the current TCE health risk assessment process?"

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Congresswoman Sue Kelly

House Transportation Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment

Hearing exchange with Ben Grumbles, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water

September 29, 2005

REP KELLY: Administrator Grumbles, I appreciate your joining us today to discuss the use of pesticides and fire suppressants near drinking water. This is an important issue and deserves the attention it is receiving today. However, constituents in my Congressional district are concerned with a different troubling industrial contaminant - TCE (trichloroethylene).

As the Assistant Administrator for Water, I'm sure that you are familiar with the toxicity and detrimental effects of exposure of TCE. Drinking or breathing in TCE may cause nausea, liver damage, unconsciousness, impaired heart function, and even death.

In fact, in 2001, the EPA determined that TCE is actually 5 - 65 times more toxic than previously believed. Yet, despite this determination and the risks I just cited, the EPA has passed the buck and asked the National Academy of Sciences to "re-review" the finding of its 2001 assessment.

My constituents who live at a recently named Superfund site in Dutchess County and are forced to live everyday with contaminated groundwater, soil and air, can't afford to wait the years it would take for the results of your outsourced "re-review." They want a clear national standard for addressing TCE contamination and they want it now.

The Hopewell Junction Citizens for Clean Water - a coalition formed by the residents of this Superfund site - wants the EPA to do everything within its authority to investigate and respond to TCE contamination based upon protective, provisional standards and to finalize the draft assessment for TCE.

Let me read from a letter from one of my constituents: "People who are breathing this stuff can't wait for the federal bureaucracy to take action at its normal pace."

Why would we let red tape get in the way of good environmental policy?

My constituents and I feel that the EPA has been very responsive on the ground, and very helpful to them in New York. But the EPA here in Washington, I feel and my constituents feel, is not finalizing the draft assessment for TCE as urgently as it should. Americans are increasingly exposed everyday to TCE in their water and air - with no clear EPA standard for these exposures.

Why is there not a greater sense of urgency to finalize a nationwide standard for TCE assessment? Why can't you expedite the current TCE health risk assessment process?

ADMINISTRATOR GRUMBLES: Congresswoman, I appreciate your remarks and the sense of urgency and the concerns of your constituents and others.

What I can tell you is that I will certainly relay that sense of urgency to my colleagues and the Superfund office and the Administrator's office. I think we share your passion for source water protection and protecting water quality in the drinking water because it involves the health of the citizens. It's a public health statute and program.

I know that we are committed to science-centered, results-oriented approaches to these water-quality issues. I know that your concerns about red tape have caused us to act in similar areas to try to reduce regulatory confusion and uncertainty in the context of this permitting issue.

On this important issue of TCE, I can't speak to the specifics of the scientific questions. But I certainly understand the need for urgency and to try to get resolution. I would be happy to follow up with you directly on that and confer with those in the agency who are more closely working on the TCE challenge.

REP KELLY: Mr. Grumbles, you have been in my district. You know our water quality issues. You know that we protect one-third of all the drinking water from New York City. You also probably know that in this new Superfund area, part of this flow of TCE is headed in that direction. I know you didn't come here this morning to talk about TCE. But I hope we can work with you to get a very rapid determination. TCE is affecting many more people than just the people that are living in this Superfund site - these people have been fighting for a long time. We need help and we need help fast. I hope that you will give it to me and I hope that we can work together. Thank you very much. I appreciate your concern.

Recently a few neighbors contacted us asking about the attorneys working for the residents. If you did not get any correspondence from the attorneys, Williams, Cuker & Berezofsky, you NEED to contact them ASAP! Their phone # is [215-557-0099](tel:215-557-0099). It is best to call than to email them. Please do not wait! Email us if you have questions. You can also read their website at <http://www.wcblegal.com>.

We would also like to remind you that the meeting held on January 24th at the Holiday Inn was a big success. Seventy-Four residents heard the lawyer, Gerald Williams from the law

firm, Williams, Cuker & Berezofsky, talk about our issues and answer questions. They had a very big response and many homes are signed up. Please call them so you can get the information you need.

Poughkeepsie Journal
May 20, 2005

www.poughkeepsiejournal.com

Chemical hurts children most, speakers agree

TCE discussed in East Fishkill

By Dan Shapley

Poughkeepsie Journal

HOPEWELL JUNCTION — Children are more susceptible than adults to cancer and developmental problems after exposure to TCE, a chemical found at polluted sites in Dutchess County, a doctor and an environmental epidemiologist testified at a hearing Thursday.

The hearing in East Fishkill focused on the evolving science related to the effects of toxic vapors that can seep into buildings from polluted groundwater, and the best way to reduce them.

"We don't have as much information as we'd like to have, but what we do know is of great concern," said Kathleen Burns, a member of the International Society of Environmental Epidemiologists with 20 years of experience studying TCE.

TCE, or trichloroethylene, is a solvent long used by industry to dissolve grease. In the human body, it can dissolve the fats and proteins that cells use to control what substances enter or leave, Burns said. Once in the cell, it can damage DNA, the genetic material essential to cell replication, leading to cancer or developmental problems.

Sought by leaders

The hearing was held at the request of Assemblyman Patrick Manning, R-East Fishkill. Manning and Thomas DiNapoli, D-Great Neck, Nassau County, chairman of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation, heard testimony from several experts, agency officials and residents.

The committee has already issued a report calling on the departments of health and environmental conservation to quickly test sites where "vapor intrusion" could pose health risks, and to set conservative guidelines for acceptable levels of contaminants to protect residents.

Thursday's hearing will contribute to an amended report, and potentially, future legislation.

Children are particularly susceptible to the effects of TCE, or any other harmful chemical, because they breathe and drink more than adults do relative to their body weight, said Dr. Nathan Graber, a scientist in the Department of Pediatric Environmental Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine's Center for Children's Health and the Environment in New York City. Children's brains also develop fast until the age of two, and TCE can accumulate there.

"Children's exposure to TCE would be much higher than adults," Graber said.

TCE can also pass from mother to child via the placenta or breast milk, he said, causing birth defects and developmental problems.

Asked if the state's guideline for removing TCE from the air inside homes was protective enough, Graber said no.

"It needs to be lowered," he said, to match the average "background" concentration of the chemical found in the area, "not some arbitrary standard."

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Friday, May 20, 2005

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Vaporization of soil, water contamination under Assembly EnCon microscope

The third in a series of State Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee hearings into the issue of indoor air contamination caused by tainted soil and groundwater was held in East Fishkill yesterday with local residents who are impacted by the problem and experts on the subject testifying.

William Borell, one of the local leaders of the fight to rid homes of the toxic chemical TCE, testified that there is some movement forward. "The effort has been clearly shown by the New York State Department of Health that progress is being made, and we realize too that as citizens, it can't be done over night, it's going to take and we have to be somewhat patient with the New York State Department of Health," he said. "But, when you have been exposed to it at the levels we have been exposed to it at the levels we have been exposed for quite some time, you can understand our anxiety."

Debra Hall is another East Fishkill resident whose home has been tainted with both water well and air contamination, said her air has cleared up somewhat since the US EPA installed a filtration system. "My husband, since the TCE n the air has gone down to a decent level, his liver enzymes have also gone down to normal, coincidence maybe, I don't know," she said.

The whole issue of water quality in private wells points up the need for more oversight, said EnCon Committee Chairman Thomas DiNapoli of Long Island. "One of the issues do we have it done on a local level; Dutchess County is considering that," he said. Assemblyman Patrick Manning of East Fishkill and DiNapoli have been working on state legislation to do that, he said.

The well water and interior air contamination in East Fishkill has been pinpointed to two areas of the town and two sources.

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Press Release

Region 2 - New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Contact: James Haklar 212-637-3677

EPA Adds Hopewell Junction Site to the Superfund List

For Release: Tuesday, April 26, 2005

(#05041) NEW YORK - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today

announced the listing of the Hopewell Precision Area Contamination site in Hopewell

Junction, New York to its National Priorities List (NPL) of the most hazardous waste

sites. EPA has already installed drinking water treatment systems at 37 homes and air

ventilation systems at 42 homes to address the worst contamination at the site.

"Hopewell Junction is a community where we were able to take quick action to protect people from an immediate risk," said Acting EPA Regional Administrator Kathleen C.

Callahan. "This listing ensures that this site will continue to get the attention it needs."

The Hopewell Precision Area Contamination site is in a predominantly residential area, which is served by private wells and septic systems. In February 2003, EPA began

sampling tap water of homes served by private wells in the vicinity of Hopewell

Precision, Inc., a manufacturer of sheet metal parts and assemblies.

The Agency found volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including trichloroethylene

(TCE), at concentrations up to 250 parts per billion, which is above the federal drinking

water standard of 5 parts per billion. Additionally, the TCE levels found in the drinking

water at 37 homes were either above or close to the federal drinking water standard.

To address the immediate threat at the 37 homes, EPA installed carbon filter treatment

systems for removing VOCs from the well water.

The Agency also found 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA) in the tap water at concentrations up to 11.7 parts per billion, which is below the federal drinking water

standard of 200 parts per billion but above the New York State ground

water standard

of 5 parts per billion. EPA provided the New York State Department of Environmental

Conservation (NYSDEC) with the Agency's sampling results for 1,1,1-TCA, and the

NYSDEC responded by installing treatment systems at 14 homes where the levels of

1,1,1-TCA exceeded the state ground water standard.

EPA has more recently sampled vapors beneath homes where VOCs from the ground water could enter from underneath the house slab. Based on the concentrations of TCE under the homes, EPA installed air ventilation systems at 43 residences, and is continuing to evaluate the need to install additional air ventilation systems. EPA periodically proposes sites to the NPL and, after responding to public comments, designates proposed sites as final. Sites that are designated as final are eligible for funds to conduct long-term cleanups. The addition of this site brings the total number of NPL sites in New York to 90. The notice of the listing of the Hopewell Precision Area Contamination site, as well as other site-related information, can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/current.htm>.

290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007-1866 - www.epa.gov/region2

Note: An audio copy of the hearing is available upon request. Please contact TCEINWELLWATER@optonline.net .

**Thursday, October 6,
2005**

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Clinton urges EPA to issue protective standard for TCE

Senator Hillary Clinton and six other US senators yesterday sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency calling on them to issue a health-protective “interim standard” for trichloroethylene vapor intrusion in order to protect the health and well-being of our communities.

Hopewell Junction, Endicott and Ithaca are known to be contaminated with volatile organic compounds where TCE is also known to be present.

Debra Hall owns a home in the Hopewell Precision Superfund site in East Fishkill, a home that is contaminated with TCE. She has been one of the leaders in the charge to have the feds develop a game plan to remediate the water and air pollution. A draft standard was written five years ago, but Hall said no decisions have been made since then.

“Even though it has said that trichloroethylene is five to 65 times worse than previously thought, none of the standards or guidelines have changed since then,” she said. “It needs to change so people can get the protection in the water and in their air that they deserve.”

The other senators signed onto the letter to the EPA are Barbara Boxer, Christopher Dodd, Frank Lautenberg, Joseph Lieberman, Gordon Smith, and Ron Wyden. Hall said she was disappointed that Senator Charles Schumer, New York’s other senator, did not sign the letter after a staffer assured her that he would.

HEAR today's news on MidHudsonRadio.com, the Hudson Valley's *only* Internet radio news report.

October 5, 2005

Senator Clinton Urges EPA To Issue Protective Standard For TCE

Washington, DC — Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today calling on them to issue a health-protective “interim standard” for trichloroethylene (TCE) vapor intrusion in order to protect the health and well-being of our communities. Endicott, Hopewell Junction and Ithaca are known to be contaminated with volatile organic compounds where TCE is also known to be present.

In addition to Senator Clinton, six other senators signed onto this letter including Senators Barbara Boxer, Christopher Dodd, Frank Lautenberg, Joseph Lieberman, Gordon Smith, and Ron Wyden.

[Please see attached letter]

October 5, 2005

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator

United States Environmental Protection Agency
> Ariel Rios Building - 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We are writing to urge the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish health-protective "interim standards" for vapor intrusion of trichloroethylene, better known as TCE. TCE is a widespread contaminant found in at least 325 of the 1,242 EPA-listed Superfund sites, and is known to cause cancer and damage the nervous and immune systems. Children and seniors are especially vulnerable to TCE's toxic effects.

As you are aware, the EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) published a TCE Health Risk Assessment report in August 2001, which included a reassessment of existing and recent scientific studies. This report, which was peer reviewed and lauded by the EPA's own Science Advisory Board, found that TCE is considerably more harmful to human health than previously believed and proposed to increase protections against TCE. The EPA incorporated the Assessment's findings into its Draft Guidance for Evaluating the Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air in November 2002. Unfortunately, the EPA appears to have abandoned the 2002 TCE Vapor Intrusion Guidance recommendations. Instead, the EPA is in the process of again reevaluating TCE's toxicity through the National Academies of Science, which may take years.

Delaying a national standard is a major constraint in evaluating potential health concerns at toxic waste sites. Some current federal and state TCE standards are more than two orders of magnitude less protective than the EPA's 2001 reassessment concluded was needed to protect human health. Today, thousands of Americans may be exposed to unhealthy levels of TCE.

We, therefore, strongly urge the EPA to adopt health-protective "interim standards," or provisional screening levels set forth in the 2002 Draft Guidance and use technologies that detect TCE at such levels. The EPA should protect public health by eliminating TCE resulting from vapor intrusion in homes, as field experience suggests that the costs of mitigation and monitoring are comparable.

TCE is a widespread pollutant in the United States and vapor intrusion is known to be a significant pathway of exposure. Guidelines have been established to address this important environmental and health problem. The EPA needs to act now to establish safe, protective "interim standards" in order to ensure the health and safety of our children and our communities.

Thank you very much for your attention in this matter. We look forward to your response

and action.

Sincerely,

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Barbara Boxer
Christopher J. Dodd
Frank Lautenberg
Joseph I. Lieberman
Gordon Smith
Ron Wyden

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Senator Schumer sent a letter similar to Senator Clintons letter to the EPA asking to take a proactive approach and develop strict standards for TCE vapor intrusion. Here is the letter:

The Hopewell Junction Citizens for Clean Water contacted Congresswoman Sue Kelly asking her to conduct congressional hearings to determine why the EPA cannot adopt a protective interim approach to TCE exposure. While it is true that the Hopewell Precision Superfund Site is using a guideline of .38 micrograms per meter cubed, and in our view that is an acceptable protective guideline, many other sites in NYS and across the country are not getting the same protection.

We are extremely lucky and thankful that Congresswoman Sue Kelly continues to treat our neighborhood as if it is her neighborhood. She continues to respond quickly to our needs!

Tuesday,
August
30,
2005

Dutchess County woman brings her environmental concerns to Albany

Day two of New York State Health Department hearings is under way today with a panel of experts reviewing the state's Trichloroethylene, or TCE, air criteria document. Just last week, a state Health Department report talked of TCE in Endicott and illnesses in that Binghamton suburb.

Debra Hall of East Fishkill in Dutchess County; owns a home in the Hopewell Precision Superfund Site. Sixty-five homes have TCE vapors beneath them and about 48 homes have ventilation systems.

"Everybody hears about Endicott, Endicott; but they forget about Hopewell Junction and I am here to make sure they don't forget about us," she said.

Hall told the panel yesterday that the health assessment in her area has not been completed yet, "but it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that we are in the same boat as Endicott. And our real similarity is Trichloroethylene."

Kelly urges EPA to speed up TCE assessment

Mid-Hudson News

June 26, 2005

Congresswoman Sue Kelly of Katonah Friday urged Environmental Protection

Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson to speed up the process to address

water and air contamination from the chemical TCE. That chemical, which

is believed to be carcinogenic, immunotoxic and neurotoxic, is

believed
to have contaminated homes in East Fishkill and other areas of
the
Hudson Valley.

In a letter signed by 12 other House members, Kelly wrote that
the EPA
drafted a Human Health Risk Assessment in 2001 that
determined TCE is
five to 65 times more toxic than previously believed. "Based
upon the
assessment, EPA regions developed new, more protective
provisional
screening level, and some even began using these provisional
standards
in the field," the lawmakers wrote.

However, other federal agencies considered the new levels
"overly
conservative," and EPA agreed to send the scientific issues
raised by
the assessment to the National Academy of Sciences' National
Research
Council for re-review.

The lawmakers told Johnson it could take years before EPA
finalizes its
TCE risk assessment, "and Americans are constantly being
exposed to this
and similar toxic substances." They are urging the EPA to adopt
a
protective interim approach until a new risk assessment is
completed.

TCE's effects on the human body

This chart shows how the body may be affected by exposure to trichloroethylene, or TCE. The chart reflects studies of people who worked with high levels of TCE, studies of rats and mice exposed to high levels of TCE and a few studies of people exposed to lower levels of TCE in drinking water. The information comes from a draft risk assessment released by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2001. After controversy erupted over its findings, the National Academy of Sciences was asked to review the report.

Exposure

Once a person is exposed to TCE – by drinking, breathing or touching the chemical – it is distributed via the circulatory system throughout the body, where it can accumulate in fat and other tissues.

Liver: TCE can be toxic to the human liver, and has been linked to increased risk of liver cancer. Mice exposed to TCE developed tumors, but rats did not.

Pancreas: A possible increased chance of pancreatic cancer has been identified.

Kidney: Workers showed signs of kidney damage. TCE was associated with increased cancer risk in some human and animal studies.

Brain: TCE was once used as an anesthetic. In short, high doses, it has a similar effect to other solvents, alcohol, ethers, petroleum distillates and other halogenated solvents. It has been associated with dizziness, headaches, sleepiness, nausea, confusion, blurred vision, and weakness in several human studies.

Lymphatic system: In humans, TCE was associated with an elevated, but not statistically significant, risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Exposure was associated with lymphoma in mice.

Immune system: TCE is linked to immune system damage and increased incidence of autoimmune diseases.

Development: There is evidence of heart abnormalities in human and animal offspring exposed in the womb. Rat pups showed heart and eye malformations and behavioral changes.

Reproductive system: Some male workers showed possible reproductive effects, like reduced sperm counts. Links have been drawn to cervical and prostate cancer.



Female reproductive organs

Male reproductive organs

Susceptibility

Besides the size and duration of the dose of TCE, several

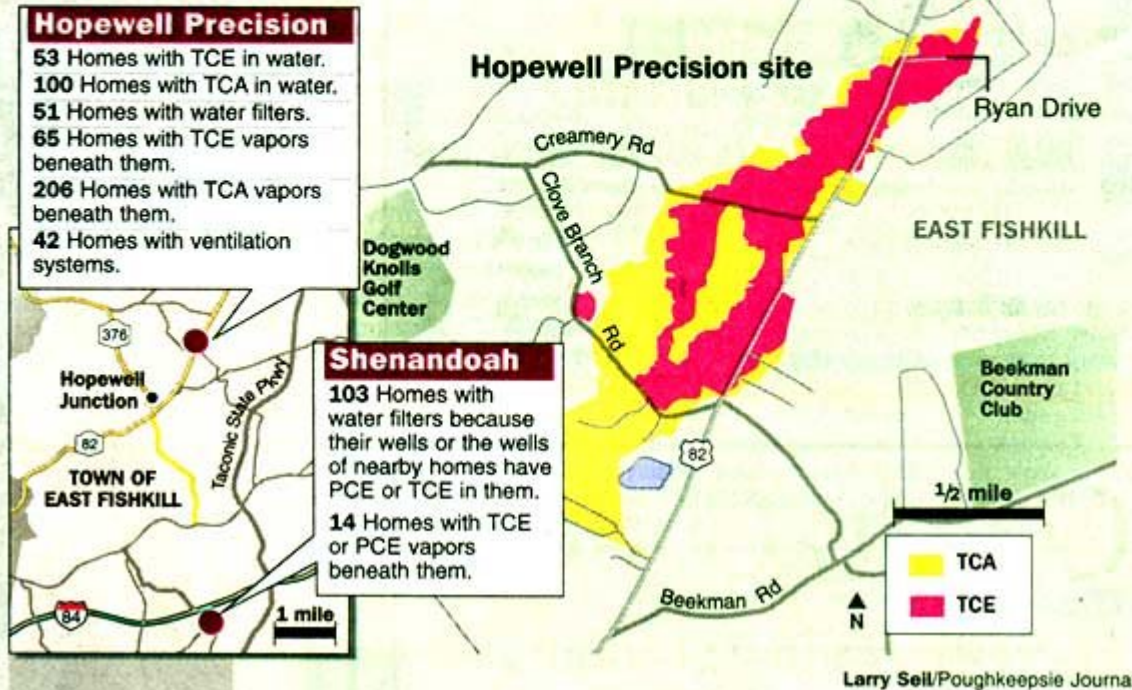
■ Some people's genetic makeup will make them more or less likely to be affected.

■ Children could be more affected than adults because they breathe, drink and eat more than adults, relative to

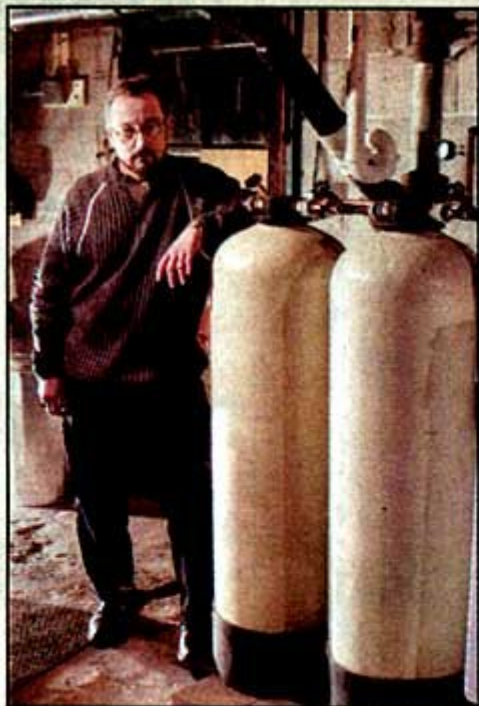
■ Exposure to different chemicals, like other chlorinated solvents and alcohol, may increase

Polluted water flows underground

These maps show two neighborhoods in East Fishkill where polluted groundwater has contaminated wells, and polluted vapors have seeped into homes. The large map shows groundwater pollution originating from Ryan Drive and flowing generally southwest through part of the Town of East Fishkill known as the Hopewell Precision site. Two chemical solvents are in the groundwater there: trichloroethylene, or TCE, and trichlorethane, or TCA. In Shenandoah, tetrachloroethylene, or PCE, and, to a lesser extent, TCE, pollute the groundwater.



Larry Sell/Poughkeepsie Journal



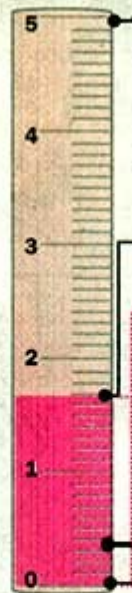
Darryl Bautista/Journal file

William Borell stands near water filters that remove solvents from the drinking water at his home at the Hopewell Precision site in East Fishkill.

TCE in the air

Fumes from chemicals can seep in from polluted groundwater and enter homes.

Measurements in micrograms per cubic liter



5.0 New York's guideline for cleaning indoor air.

1.7 At this dose, one in 10,000 people will get cancer, according to the EPA's draft risk assessment study.

EPA sets its cleanup goals to reduce the risk of cancer to between one in a million and one in 10,000.

.38 Smallest amount the EPA can detect.

.37 Estimated average concentration of TCE in the air across the United States, according to the EPA's Cumulative Exposure Project.

.017 At this dose, one in 1 million people will get cancer, according to the EPA's draft risk assessment study.

How TCE is measured

- The concentration of contaminants in air is measured in units of mass of contaminant per volume of air.
- Mass is measured in

micrograms – a millionth of a gram. A typical breath mint is about a half a gram.
 ■ Volume is measured in liters. There are 35,300 liters in a cubic foot.

