

TO: Scarlett Messier-McLaughlin, P.G., Region Chief at the New York State Department of Health, scarlett.mclaughlin@health.ny.gov

Dear Ms Messier-McLaughlin, we are writing on behalf of community members engaged in reviewing the Court and Luquer Street Source Area Trackdown Study and the related Soil Vapor Intrusion (SVI) investigations in the Gowanus Canal area.

We understand that the Trackdown Study was conducted to better understand the subsurface sources and movement of chlorinated VOCs identified during the SVI investigations, and that the study concludes that follow-up actions related to potential exposure are being addressed through the ongoing SVI program. We appreciate the work that has been done to investigate these issues and to mitigate risk where indoor air exceedances have been identified.

As the community continues to review the findings, there is growing interest in understanding what follow-up steps are planned to ensure that residents remain protected—particularly in buildings that may be more vulnerable due to their proximity to groundwater contamination identified in the Trackdown Study. Specifically, community members are seeking clarity on:

- How the Department of Health, in coordination with NYSDEC, determines whether additional buildings should be contacted or encouraged to participate in SVI sampling following the identification of groundwater contamination;
- Whether buildings near the wells where chlorinated VOCs were detected have been, or will be, prioritized for outreach or further evaluation;
- How residents, including sensitive populations such as pregnant individuals, are informed about potential risks and available protective measures.

We recognize that participation in SVI sampling is voluntary, and we also understand that effective outreach and clear communication are essential to protecting public health. With that in mind, we would welcome the opportunity to assist, if helpful, in community outreach efforts—such as sharing information about SVI sampling, helping connect residents with the appropriate contacts, or facilitating communication through established community channels.

Our goal is to support the Department's work by helping ensure that residents have the information they need to make informed decisions about indoor air sampling and mitigation, and that any remaining gaps in coverage are addressed proactively.

Thank you for your time and for your continued efforts to protect public health in the Gowanus community. We would appreciate any information you can share regarding planned follow-up actions and opportunities for coordination.