

September 14, 2018

Dr. James Tomarken
Commissioner
Suffolk County Department of Health Services
3500 Sunrise Highway
Suite 124
PO Box 9006
Great River, NY 11739-9006

RE: Underground Propane Tank Separation

Dear Dr. Tomarken:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 26, 2018 relating to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services decision regarding the minimum separation requirements of underground propane tanks to private potable wells and changing the minimum distance to 100ft. It is understood that the department has received a propane guidance determination from the New York State Department of Health for this purpose.

At a meeting of propane and building representatives held with officials of the New York State Department of Health on September 11th, the State Department of Health referenced data supplied by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services starting in 2009 relating to the request for a change in the separation distance by the State Department of Health. I have enclosed a Freedom of Information Request which requests all of the information sent to the State Department of Health by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services since 2009 in relation to propane separation distances, including the number of tests performed, the contractor performing the tests and the results of such tests. In this way, independent review of the materials supplied can be performed to determine whether the request was granted by the State Department of Health according to the rules and regulations contained in the New York State Administrative Procedure Act.

Thank you very much for the continued cooperation of your department in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Mitchell H. Pally
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: New York State Propane Association
New York State Builders Association