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Whitman Offers Certified Vapor Intrusion Sampling Services for Real Estate Professionals

By Whitman

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Whitman, New Jersey's leading environmental and engineering management firm, has renewed its commitment to providing vapor intrusion services to real estate professionals and owners of commercial and industrial real estate. As a full-service engineering firm, Whitman is able to provide vapor intrusion sampling as well as designing and installing systems that can reduce or eliminate contaminants that would otherwise be transported throughout a variety of buildings, including commercial, residential and educational structures.

Vapor intrusion is caused by volatile organic compounds (VOCs), a class of chemicals that readily evaporate at room temperature. Often found in soil and groundwater contaminated by a variety of industrial chemicals, VOCs can be absorbed through cracks or holes in a building's foundation and can accumulate in basements, crawl spaces and living areas, eventually making their way throughout a building by means of HVAC systems. Building occupants exposed to these chemicals can experience both minor and major health problems, making it imperative that building owners and managers, as well as architects and other real estate professionals involved in the renovation process, ensure that VOCs are properly handled.

"Because of its storied industrial and manufacturing history, New Jersey is particularly at risk for vapor intrusion. What you see on a property today can be drastically different from what was there just 30 years ago," said Barry Skoultchi, president of Whitman.

"Gasoline, dry cleaning fluid, degreasing agents prevalent in the manufacturing process and paint thinners are all examples of VOCs that are found in New Jersey's soil. Whitman is uniquely qualified to help remediate environmental contaminants like these at the soil and groundwater level, but we are also capable of identifying and eliminating these compounds in existing structures."

Whitman is certified to perform vapor intrusion sampling, which includes testing for gas beneath the building and can lead to indoor air testing. If VOCs are found, Whitman's experienced engineers can design and install a variety of vapor intrusion systems that redirect VOCs away from the structure.

"These vapor intrusion techniques and services are more important than ever considering that more renovation and rehabilitation of buildings is occurring, as opposed to new construction," Skoultchi said. "Before a new building is constructed, we have the

opportunity to test the soil and remediate if necessary. With a building that is already in place, it's imperative to have an engineering team that understands VOCs and how best to remediate them without disrupting building occupants."

Whitman has completed design and installation of vapor intrusion abatement systems for both commercial and school facilities. The company was recently approved as an Indoor Environmental Health Assessment Consultant by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, allowing them to conduct indoor air quality testing at schools and daycares as well as evaluate other environmental concerns in buildings used for those purposes.

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