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HUDSON RIVER NAVIGATOR TO PRESENT
AIR QUALITY CONFERENCE

WHITE PLAINS – The Hudson River Navigator presents “A Regional Conference to Address Air Quality: Smart Fuels and Technology” at Pace University in White Plains on Wednesday, March 29, to discuss the environmental, health and economic benefits of cleaner fuels and technology. This forum will focus on real-world, achievable solutions and include discussion of current proposed regional legislation.

The Hudson River Navigator is hosted by The Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College and funded through the American Heritage Rivers Initiative. The Navigator’s mission is to identify complementary programs and resources to carry out the community’s vision for its river and surrounding communities. Hudson River Navigator Vinny Tamagna said, “We need to work regionally on a plan that will insure the protection of our natural resources; we need to be proactive in our stewardship over air quality. Certainly this conference will provide an open forum to discuss issues of energy consumption and production which impact everyone in the region. It is important for us to cooperate and recommend solutions to these challenges.”

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The first session will discuss New York's poor air quality and how it affects the health of residents. Adiel Gavish, program director of the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, said, "New York is in the 100th percentile for (poor) air quality in the country. Poor air quality can trigger asthma, exacerbate heart and lung disease and even cause premature death; children, the elderly and anyone with cardiovascular or respiratory ailments are most at risk."

The American Cancer Society (ACS) includes a special section on cancer and the environment in its 2006 Cancer Facts & Figures report. "Research continues to investigate possible links between environmental pollutants and cancer – ACS has funded nearly \$55 million in grants. There is mounting evidence linking diesel fuel emissions and lung cancer – enough to mobilize the American Cancer Society's efforts to help safeguard the public against known carcinogens, including dirty diesel fuels," said Peter Slocum, vice president of advocacy for the Eastern Division of the American Cancer Society.

In the second session, speakers with a variety of backgrounds will present from firsthand experience on how alternative fuels and technology can help save in long-term and maintenance costs while helping to diminish dependence on foreign oil.

The third session will discuss clean fuel initiatives from county legislators, how to successfully implement them and how they can play a role in pushing policies in the region that will clean air. "This session is an opportunity for county executives, legislators and municipal officials to send a clear message to Albany that we will be working together to clean our air, and that this is a priority issue throughout our region," said Gavish. Exemplary legislation will be available for review and discussion including bills addressing diesel fuel and home heating oil regulations.

“Air pollution makes people sick and cuts lives short,” said Peter M. Iwanowicz, vice president and chief policy officer for the American Lung Association of New York State. "Since we need all decision makers in the lower Hudson Valley and New York City metropolitan region to enact policies to reduce the threat, this conference could not happen soon enough.”

This conference is open to the public. Those interested in attending can contact The Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College at (845) 575-3052 to register. The cost for this all-day conference is \$30, which includes lunch. It will be held in the Tudor Room at Pace Law School in White Plains. Directions are available on the Navigator’s website at:

www.hudsonrivervalley.net/navigator/news.php.

Sponsors of this conference include American Heritage Rivers Initiative, Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College, American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Pace Law School, Environmental Defense, the Lower-Hudson-Long Island Resource Conservation & Development Council, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, Meter Service Providers Association of New York, Cornell Cooperative Extension of New York City, Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, and Genergy.

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