

NMPC Hosts Remote Methane Leak Detector (RMLD) Demonstration to NY PSC Staff
DCD 3/15/04

On March 3rd, as part of the NGA's GOAC committee meeting, NYSEARCH in conjunction with its commercial partner, Heath Instruments and its contractor, Physical Sciences, Inc. presented information to the NY PSC on a near-commercial tool that can potentially revolutionize the way leak survey is currently done in the natural gas industry. Directly following the presentation, NMPC hosted a live demonstration at a nearby location.

The RMLD has been developed through the NYSEARCH program with guidance by its funding members and GOAC since its inception in 2001. This tool can improve the leak survey by accessing hard-to-reach areas and by improving productivity by 30% to 50%. The RMLD does not require that the tool is inside the leak plume to get an accurate reading. Rather, it can detect concentrations as low as 5 ppm-m at distances up to 100 ft.

After extensive field testing in 2003 and with participation from funding members of NYSEARCH along with Heath, the commercial partner, the data was presented to New York Department of Public Service (PSC) Staff, Gavin Nicoletta and James Crowley. Both the presentation and the demonstration went well and started what is expected to be a formal dialogue with the NY PSC staff in granting regulatory approval in New York for use of this tool. While the commercial tool is not expected to be available until late '04 or early '05, GOAC has been and plans to remain instrumental in the dialogue with the PSC. NYSEARCH members and staff will work with GOAC and the PSC to insure that the NY members are able to use the tool as soon as it is commercially available. NYSEARCH also intends to work with funding companies from other states who need assistance in gaining regulatory approval for this new type of leak survey tool. For further information, please contact Daphne D'Zurko or Angelo Fabiano at (212) 354 4790.



Gavin Nicoletta, Gas Safety Head of NYPSC Staff uses RMLD in Albany while David Zielinski, Superintendent of Operations, NMPC, and Graham Midgley, President, Heath look on.