

**Dec. 4 2008**

### **Major changes proposed for community health rules by Wilfong**

FLATWOODS – A state Department of Health task force rewriting rules for manufactured housing parks proposed Thursday to eliminate broad sections in current regulations that do not deal with health-related issues.

Many of the proposals to eliminate sections of the current rules were offered by park owner Kevin Wilfong of Fairmont, who is co-president of the West Virginia Housing Institute Inc. and owns Middletown Home Sales at White Hall. Wilfong is the industry representative on the task force.

He contended that many of the sections in the current regulations are overly broad or require expertise and knowledge for which county sanitarians are not properly trained. He questioned, for example, the qualifications a sanitarian has to examine electrical hookups or propane tank connections and installations.

The task force at its December meeting in Flatwoods completed its first review of the regulations that have been in effect since 1971.

Provisions the task force members believe should more properly be handled by the state fire marshal, Department of Environmental Protection, and others are being sent to them for review.

Final changes likely will be voted on by the task force in 2009. They then would be submitted to the Legislature, which has the option to accept, reject or modify any changes.