



Bethpage Water District
25 Adams Avenue
Bethpage, NY 11714

BOARD OF WATER COMMISIONERS

William J. Ellinger, Chairperson
John R. Sullivan, Treasurer
Gary S. Bretton, Secretary

Michael J. Boufis, Superintendent

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., weekdays
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www.bethpagewater.com

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FINALLY!

Settlement reached with U.S. Navy after years of negotiations.

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer's words have become a reality to the tune of \$14 million dollars. After years of tedious and at times heated negotiations, the Bethpage Water District has finally received a \$14 million dollar settlement from the U.S. Navy as compensation for the Park Lane water treatment plant that the BWD was forced to build. The settlement also provides for 30 years of operation and maintenance at no additional cost to the consumer. Additional compensation will be sought from Northrop Grumman for their part in the cleanup.

In a television interview with CBS New York Channel 55's Richard Rose, Bethpage Water District Superintendent Mike Boufis stated, "\$14 million is a start. It reimburses us for costs we have already incurred. We can now build a state of the art facility to remove the increasing levels of contamination that we're receiving now."

Mr. Boufis was quick to point out that despite the increasing levels of contaminants from deeper levels, Bethpage water "is 100% safe to drink. We removed all the plume containments."

The infamous plume is expanding and dates back to World War II and Cold War eras when the U.S. Navy operated the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Bethpage. The by-products of the treatment processes were collected in settling ponds, an action that was legal as Northrop Grumman continually voices. However, those actions, legal or not, eventually contaminated the groundwater and soil with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The most notable compound being TCE, Trichloroethene, a chlorinated hydrocarbon commonly used as a cleaning solvent and cooling agent.

Further Action vs. Northrop Grumman

"Legal action will soon be taken against Northrop Grumman to pay for the upgrading of our Plants 4, 5 and 6," Commissioner Ellinger said. "These improvements will be significant in size and scope and are projected to be in the millions of dollars to complete."



U.S. Senator Charles Schumer leads a Bethpage congregation of Water District commissioners, employees and local residents to announce the settlement reached between the U.S. Navy and Bethpage Water District.

“The Navy created the mess...the Navy should clean up the mess and not force ratepayers here to pay for something that was not their doing.”

- New York Senator Charles Schumer

Superintendent Boufis and the BWD Board of Commissioners agreed that Northrop Grumman has employed stall tactics in negotiations, a situation that is intolerable and unacceptable.

"We sample routinely from all our well sites for a myriad of potential contaminants as per the Department of Health regulations," Commissioner Bretton stated. "Upon analysis of results, we saw the levels of contaminants increasing."

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Message from the Superintendent

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter of the Bethpage Water District.

Thank you to all our loyal consumers for supporting us throughout our legal battle with the U.S. Navy. Finally, after years of heated negotiations, we've agreed to a compensation settlement for the ongoing clean up and for the water treatment facility that we were forced to build because of the impending Grumman plume. Your voices were heard, and our town hall meetings created action! We thank U.S. Senator Charles Schumer for his support, we could not have reached this agreement without it. The fight is not over, but we're in a better place today than we were yesterday.

I'd also like to extend a big thank you to the Bethpage Water District employees for their unwavering dedication during Superstorm Sandy. Many people may not know this, but our staff worked around the clock for days on end, keeping our water supply up and running without interruption during and after the storm. Their efforts ensured that our consumers would have clean and safe water to drink at all times. Although power outages impacted several plants and facilities, a series of emergency backup generators kept the District's water supply pumping on a normal schedule...some for up to two weeks! As a result, there were no interruptions to your water.

Also during the storm, BWD worked in conjunction with WARN (Water/Waste Water Agency Response Network), and we served in mutual aid to neighboring Districts, especially to Mill Neck Estates. As an active board member of WARN, I'm thankful for my colleagues and neighboring Districts working together during such an arduous time, and it's important that we all pitch in and work together to maintain the delivery of quality water to all residents and consumers.

On a final note, remember to observe water conservation ordinances during the summer. Please water wisely following odd/even days and no watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Enjoy a happy, healthy and fun summer!

- Michael J. Boufis, Superintendent



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Online Bill Pay Fast, Secure and Convenient



Starting this summer, consumers will have the ability to pay water bills online utilizing a secure third-party provider. All major credit cards will be accepted, and a nominal convenience fee will be issued by the bank to process the payment. All electronic payments are made through an Automated Clearing House (ACH) Network to help reduce errors, speed payment, save resources...and a stamp!

Look for this addition to our website at www.BethpageWater.org.

BWD Resources are a URL Away at: www.BethpageWater.org

On the first anniversary of our new website's launch, we want to remind all consumers to take advantage of the site for any information that you may need regarding the District. The site features a "News" section on the home page which we update regularly to keep you informed of all the latest developments.

The site also provides information regarding ordinances, public notices, budgets, billing, and "Frequently Asked Questions". Past newsletters and Annual Water Quality Reports are posted online, and we will be adding an electronic payment feature in the near future (see adjacent article).



"It is the District's goal that all consumers will utilize our new site," said Commissioner Bretton. "In just one year, it has quickly become a valuable community resource."

Continuing Infrastructure Upgrades & Maintenance

Maintaining our infrastructure is the single most important factor in controlling costs and keeping quality water flowing to all of our consumers.

You may not know that some of our infrastructure dates back to World War III! So it's not a surprise that we need to upgrade our system and keep everything in check at all times.

Bethpage Water District Commissioner John Sullivan commented, "Our preventive maintenance program never stops. Our capital campaign program extends to modernizing equipment and facilities throughout all delivery systems across the District. Preventative maintenance and upgrading are always necessary and always conducted at no additional cost to the taxpayer."

Improvements, upgrades and enhancements to the District include, but are not limited to:

Improvements to Grumman Road

At the request of the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), BWD will add LED lighting to the top of the Grumman Road tank for planes and helicopters to see while flying overhead. The tank is 150 feet tall and holds 1.5 million gallons. This project will commence this fall and be completed by spring 2014.

New Facility at Grumman Road

We will also be constructing a garage facility at the Grumman Road Plant and relocate facility management on-site. This new garage will store all of the District's vehicles and service equipment. This is a much better location for our needs, and the area is tucked away in an industrial area with no residential clearing. Neighbors will hear no noise, and it will be very accommodating to the District as a whole.

New Well on South Park Drive, Old Bethpage

We are happy to report that Bethpage Water District has acquired a parcel of land from New York State Bethpage State Park. The land is approximately 4 acres and cost roughly \$630K to purchase. The District has taken water samples at the site location, and the results show the water to be completely pristine. No VOC and no filtration is necessary at this time. We're excited about this new well which will support our consumers with high-quality water you've come to expect. The land has been cleared and construction is under way. We will provide additional updates on progress, and our goal is to get the well online by Spring 2014 with no additional cost to the taxpayer.



Finally! Settlement reached with U.S. Navy after years of negotiations.

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U.S. Senator Charles Schumer leads a toast of fresh tasting Bethpage water.

Bethpage Water District took action and designed facilities to remove the contamination. One plant has cost \$3 million to date, and it is anticipated that another \$8 or \$9 million will be spent on that plant.

"A second plant along the Seaford-Oyster Bay Parkway is at about \$9 million in costs right now," Boufis asserted.

"We must secure the future of our community," Commissioner John Sullivan stated. "As Senator Schumer said, this situation should not add burdens on innocent residents. There should be no increase in customer water rates, and most important of all, the flow of safe, high-quality water should remain uninterrupted."

The Bethpage Water District Board of Commissioners would like to thank U.S. Senator Charles Schumer for his unrelenting efforts on behalf of our community and our district. The board also wishes to express their gratitude to the Bethpage community, businesses and civic organizations for their significant support and actions.

Bethpage Administration Office Gets a Facelift and Upgrade



It had been nearly 25 years since the BWD administration building received any cosmetic or structural improvements. So before the administration office's infrastructure started to take a turn for the worse, BWD interviewed construction companies and architects on developing a plan to renovate the offices. Once we recovered from the shock of the proposed costs, BWD employees rolled up their sleeves and tackled the project themselves.

What came from the renovation is a 21st century design with a dedicated I.T. room that was much needed and climate-controlled office space for the staff and technology equipment. BWD employees Mike Boufis, Pete Schimmel, Dave Kelly and Andrew Panetta were instrumental in the construction and renovation, and by doing it in-house, the employees saved the District over \$100,000 in costs!

BWD employees Dave Kelly and Andrew Panetta were part of the team that helped renovate the Bethpage Water District administration office.

