



Water

Connection

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A PUBLICATION OF THE BETHPAGE WATER DISTRICT

BethpageWater.org

Access to Monitoring Wells Will Help Track Northrop Grumman Plume

The Bethpage Water District Board of Commissioners applauds United States Senator Charles Schumer and New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo for demanding Northrop Grumman and the U.S. Navy grant state and local water districts the authority to access monitoring wells to track the Northrop Grumman plume. This data will enable the Bethpage Water District and water districts that service the surrounding communities to understand how the plume is traveling and proactively implement precautionary initiatives to keep the water supply safe.

"Senator Charles Schumer and Governor Cuomo's efforts are a step in the right direction for local water districts," said Chairman William J. Ellinger. "As your water providers, we are entitled to essential information that could help us better understand the plume's travel pattern. With this data, we can make the necessary preparations should the plume begin migrating toward a new location."

New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently proposed a Long Island Groundwater Study, to be carried out by the New York State DEC, to create a standard for understanding and managing Long Island's sole water source. This announcement was made shortly after the Governor demanded the Northrop Grumman Corporation and United States Navy allow the state and local water districts, including Bethpage Water District, to test and collect data from monitoring wells.

"While the Bethpage Water District will use the data to make necessary efforts to protect the water supply's future, the District continues to provide the necessary treatment and testing to keep the current water supply of the highest quality possible," said Secretary John F. Coumatos. The District's sampling protocol far exceeds the amount required by the Nassau County Department of Health.

"The District exceeds all regulations to ensure the safety of our neighbors. Though the plume appears to be moving, Bethpage water continues to be safe to drink and of the highest quality possible," said Treasurer John R. Sullivan.

BETHPAGE WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



William J. Ellinger
Chairman



John R. Sullivan
Treasurer



John F. Coumatos
Secretary



The Bethpage Water District Board of Commissioners and Superintendent Michael Boufis (right) thanks United States Senator Charles Schumer (center), New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and New York State Assemblyman Joseph S. Saladino (left) for their support and commitment to the Bethpage community in their efforts for holding Northrop Grumman accountable.



HOW TO READ YOUR WATER STATEMENT

The Bethpage Water District conducts more than 10,000 water quality tests for more than 130 parameters and contaminants, of which, 115 have been undetected in the drinking water supply. When reading your water statement, it is important to keep some terms in mind to best understand its components.

Contaminants: Any impurity found in water. Most are naturally occurring and not harmful. Others are man-made and can be harmful at high exposure levels. Please visit the USEPA website at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/> for information about contaminants found in drinking water.

Inorganic Compounds: Inorganic compounds are nonbiological organisms. Essential metallic elements commonly found naturally occurring in groundwater due to the weathering of rocks, minerals and pipes. Compounds such as iron, zinc, sodium, calcium and nickel are inorganic compounds.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a substance allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a substance in drinking water below which there is no known risk to health.

Parts-Per-Billion (ppb): One ppb represents one-billionth of a gram, per gram of the sample. It is also represented as one microgram per liter (ug/L). So, one gallon in a billion would be one gallon in a reservoir that is one square mile and five feet deep.

Volatile Organic Compounds: VOC's come found in products including plastic, refrigerants, gasoline, solvents, paints and dry cleaning fluids. When improperly disposed, VOC's may be released into the environment, and any amount that does not evaporate into the atmosphere may seep into the soil when it rains. VOC's do not naturally occur in groundwater and are the consequence of industrial waste disposal. In the instance of the Bethpage Water District, pollutants comprising the Northrop Grumman plume, such as Trichloroethene (TCE), have been detected in the groundwater but are removed in drinking water.

WATER TREATMENT PROCESS

Our goal is to provide drinking water of the highest quality, free of any VOC's. Our treatment processes illustrated below, combined with our aforementioned rigorous testing, ensure that the thousands of gallons of water pumped per minute in the Bethpage Water District is both clean and pure.

Air Stripping: This proven state-of-the-art equipment is in place at District plant sites to remove any traces of volatile organic compounds (VOC's) that may be present in the water pumped from the ground long before it enters the public supply system. Air stripping exposes a large surface area of water to air. Water is pumped to the top of a tower and then cascades downward over a large number of inert packing materials or small round objects that resemble wiffle balls. Simultaneously, filtered air is blown upward through the tower, breaking the water molecules and removing, or "stripping," any VOC's.

Carbon Filter: After air stripping, the water goes through a granular activated carbon (GAC) filter to remove remaining organic compounds. The activated carbon's porous composition provides tremendous surface area that acts as an adsorption system. The water is purified as it passes through the carbon filters and the used carbon is replaced periodically according to industry standards. GAC filters are similar to air strippers as they both remove VOC's.

Nitrate Removal: The ion exchange process for the removal of nitrates is both simple and effective. It operates in the same manner as a common water softener and can easily remove much more than 90 percent of nitrates. The process uses a strong-base ion exchange resin, which regenerates with common salt.



WATER QUALITY Q&A WITH BETHPAGE WATER DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT MIKE BOUFIS

Q: IS BETHPAGE'S WATER SUPPLY SAFE TO DRINK?

A: Yes, Bethpage drinking water is safe to drink. The Bethpage Water District tests the water supply regularly for regulated and un-regulated contaminants as required for the Nassau County Department of Health (DOH), and all results of testing have consistently met all local, state and federal standards. The water that is delivered to the tap is continually monitored to ensure its quality and safety. The Bethpage Water District is pleased to report that the water supplied to the community meets all the standards required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State and Nassau County DOH. In addition to testing, the District is equipped with multiple treatment centers, which utilize state-of-the-art technology to filter the contaminants from the raw, untreated groundwater so the water that comes out of faucets is safe to drink and of the highest quality possible.

Q: SHOULD I BE DRINKING BOTTLED WATER?

A: Bethpage water meets local, state and federal drinking water standards, meaning that it is safe to consume and use; the purchasing of bottled water is unnecessary. Bottled water costs up to 1,000 times more than municipal drinking water. Additionally, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires bottled water quality standards to be equal to those of the US Environmental Protection Agency for tap water, but the quality of the finished product is not monitored by the government. Tap water is regulated much more heavily and tested more frequently than any brand of bottled water. Of course, in emergencies bottled water can be a vital source for people without tap water.

Q: WHAT IS THE BETHPAGE WATER DISTRICT DOING TO COMBAT THE NORTHPROP GRUMMAN PLUME?

A: The Bethpage Water District continues to pursue the Northrop Grumman Corporation in a class action lawsuit. The District also works closely with the United States Navy, who is overseeing parts of plume remediation, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, who is overseeing Northrop Grumman and their responsibility for remediation. The District continues to perform routine tests and regular treatment on our wells, in addition to seeking and pursuing alternate water distribution options located outside the Northrop Grumman plume. This includes the brand new plant located at Bethpage State Park and the newly constructed Ground Storage Tank located on Plainview Road. The Commissioners are currently pursuing an additional plant in a location unaffected by the Northrop Grumman plume.

MORE THAN 200 BETHPAGE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL BETHPAGE WATER DISTRICT POSTER CONTEST

More than 200 Bethpage School District students participated in the District's annual poster contest entitled, *No Bethpage Without Bethpage Water*. The students have been working on posters of their own design since the beginning of the school year and have officially submitted their entries to the District. The contest is designed to encourage education in regard to the community's water supply.

Commissioners Ellinger, Sullivan and Coumatos will judge each poster and select the top-three submissions per elementary school portraying the most innovative ways to conserve with the best designed poster. The winners will be honored by the District in June with an awards ceremony. Following the ceremony, posters will be displayed in the Bethpage Public Library for community viewing.



Commissioners John F. Coumatos, William J. Ellinger and John R. Sullivan are pictured with a few poster contest entries.



Bethpage Water District
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Bethpage, NY 11714

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BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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Michael J. Boufis, Superintendent

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays

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Students, School Officials, Residents and Elected Officials Tour New Well Located Outside Boundaries of the Plume

The Bethpage Water District was joined by members of the community, students, school officials including Superintendent Terrence Clark and local elected officials to officially introduce the newest and ninth well to the District's system. The pump station will serve approximately 33,000 residents and local businesses three million gallons of water daily from a location outside the boundaries of the Northrop Grumman plume.

"We are very grateful to live in a community where our neighbors continue to show their support and commitment to learning about our water supply," said William J. Ellinger, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. "We are dedicated to keeping our community informed and answering any questions they may have. With the community's help, we can safeguard our water for the future."

Local elected officials including New York State Senator Kemp Hannon, New York State Assemblyman Michael Montesano, Nassau County Legislators Rose Marie Walker and Laura Schaefer, and Town of Oyster Bay Councilman Joseph Pinto helped Bethpage Water District Commissioners, Superintendent Michael Boufis and Secretary to the Board Sal Greco cut a ribbon to signify the completion of the new well located on South Park Drive.



Superintendent Michael Boufis guided students around the pump station, explaining how it functions and provides the highest quality of water possible to the community each day.