

## BETHPAGE WATER DISTRICT

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COMMISSIONERS

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MICHAEL F. INGHAM COUNSEL TO THE DISTRICT

## Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested

May 13, 2016

Board of Directors and Shareholders Northrop Grumman Corporation c/o Mr. Wes Bush, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Northrop Grumman Corporation 2980 Fairview Park Drive Falls Church, Virginia 22042

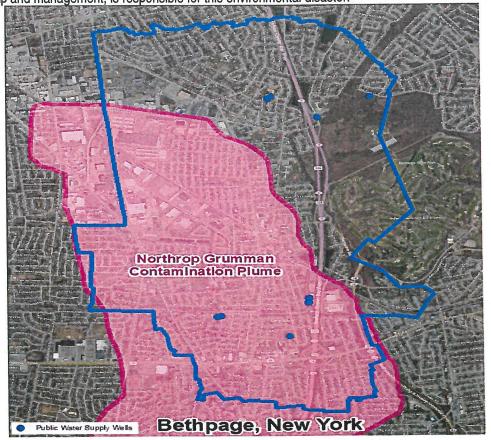
Re:

Northrop Grumman, Bethpage, New York

**Groundwater Contamination** 

Dear Chairman Bush, Board of Directors, Shareholders:

The drinking water supply of our community of Bethpage, New York, has been devastated by legacy groundwater contamination plaguing our sole source aquifer. The massive contamination plume depicted below is one of the largest and most concentrated in the entire nation. Northrop Grumman Corporation, by its predecessor Grumman Aerospace Corporation, and with the real or tacit approval of leadership and management, is responsible for this environmental disaster.



Your irresponsible actions, evidenced over decades of neglect, and the duplicitous skirting of your stated corporate responsibilities, have been driven by "liabilities on your balance sheet," not the lives and health of the people in the community that you have chosen to abandon.

Has putting corporate greed before human health become your message, your brand and your calling card?

In 2015, Northrop Grumman realized **\$23.5 billion** in revenue and **\$3.0 billion** in stated profits. In a demonstration of your lack of corporate responsibility, you forced us to sue you in an attempt to recoup \$8 million (0.27% of your profits in a single year) spent on clean drinking water. Rather than live up to your professed mission tenets, your response was "OK, let's litigate."

Through slick, strategic public propaganda, your leadership has repeatedly insisted that Northrop Grumman hasn't ignored its responsibility and has spent millions "addressing" the problem. The hypocrisy is that after a generation of testing, investigating, more testing and more investigating, it is obvious that "addressing the problem" is a blatant attempt to delay and use legal action versus doing the right thing.

Mr. Bush, Board of Directors and Shareholders: We believe that the direction you have taken Northrop Grumman is morally and ethically misdirected and in direct contrast to your own professed statement "The Value Of Performance Starts With Responsibility." You state, "At Northrop Grumman, responsibility is at the forefront of everything we do."

Given the situation of Bethpage, New York, this statement cannot be true.

Further you state, "it (responsibility) exists in the way we treat our employees, our customers, our community, our shareholders, our suppliers, our environment, even the green construction of our corporate office."

Apparently an asterisk should be added that this lofty declaration does not apply to Bethpage, New York.

Northrop Grumman stands at a crossroads. When will Northrop Grumman begin to live up to its mission? When will your shareholders, employees and customers see evidence of the concerned organization that you purport to be?

Our community has been fervently reacting to a crushing environmental burden we should not have to shoulder alone. Before 1994, when your organization was a respected Bethpage company leveraging the regions' brainpower and talent, company management owned up to its responsibilities. After the acquisition by Northrop, the Bethpage community was sacrificed, the jobs evaporated and all that remained was the residue of an environmental, financial and public health disaster.

Northrop Grumman is gone from Bethpage, but its presence lingers. Bethpage will be forced to continue to invest in the complete response and reinvention of our drinking water supply system at the daunting cost of tens of millions of dollars, a burden too punitive to shoulder alone.

So the question begs, "what kind of company are you?" Are you an organization of hypocrisy or of honor? When will you accept the responsibility as you so ardently profess in your public propaganda and safeguard the men, women and children of Bethpage?

With unity and unwavering will,

The Bethpage Community

Signed

NASSAU SUFFOLK WATER COMMISSIONER ASSUCIATION	Piero Inetton
By: Raymond J. Averna, President	President, PAL
South Farmingdale Water District	
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Massapequa Water District	ζ <sub>α,</sub>
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Oyster Bay Water District	
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Nassau County Legislator	Nassau County Legislato
Atticia a Donohuo Socio Bethpage, Kiwanis	
Bethpage Baseball Association	
Secretary, Bethpage Chamber of Commerce	