

# Massapequa Water District

Tel: 516-798-5266

84 Grand Avenue  
Massapequa, NY 11758-4990

Fax: 516-798-0279

Commissioners  
Frank J. Flood, Jr.  
John F. Caruso  
Vincent Guadagno

Stanley J. Carey, Superintendent  
Constance A. Belegrios, Business Manager

August 1, 2011

**Certified Return Receipt Mail**

Eugene Leff, Deputy Commissioner  
NY State Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-1010

Reference: Navy/Grumman Contamination OU3

Dear Commissioner Leff,

Over the past four months, we have tried to work together to seek a meaningful PRAP that could be issued by your department that would incorporate the most practical approach to the protection of our drinking water. That PRAP could then be turned into a ROD that the impacted water districts would support. During the past four months we have had discussions with you, met with Commissioner Martens, sent numerous supporting documents and correspondence to your department and have awaited the results of the Navy Optimization Report. We had hoped that during this time we could open up a meaningful dialogue between your department and the affected water districts regarding Operable Unit 3. It was clear to us, the affected water districts, that following our comments to the OU3 feasibility study (FS), alternative three was going to be implemented. The affected water districts had thought we made our case clear in all responses and comments to the FS that a version of alternative six could be supported. Based upon the fact that we have been down this road before with OU 1 and 2, and supported by the Navy Optimization Report that the DEC ROD for OU 2 was incorrect and must be revised, we must go forward in opposition to the OU 3 PRAP. Further we are deeply concerned with the fact that DEC staff members have clearly indicated that the Navy does not have to implement any of the recommendations in the recently issued Optimization Report.

In view of the intense technical review of OU 2, and the Navy optimization recommendations, our concerns about the DEC approach for OU 3 are compelling. The Massapequa Water District has provided your department with numerous alternatives that are more cost-effective than your previous and current approach to remediation as well as the provisions to eliminate wellhead treatment. Wellhead treatment as defined by your department is a last resort however it has been implemented with little concern for public health issues especially regarding the ever-changing

Committed to deliver and preserve our water supply for the welfare, health, and safety  
of the inhabitants of the Massapequa Water District.

MCL requirements. Non-detect is not an answer to hide behind when we all know that laboratory limitations 20 years ago also produced a non-detect answer when in fact initially parts per million and recently parts per billion of contaminants were allowed to enter the drinking water supply.

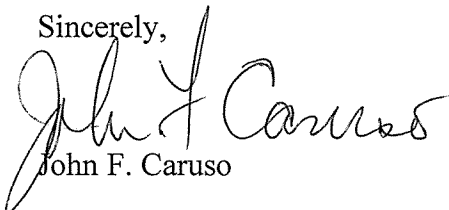
The driving force behind uniting four large water suppliers is clearly the non-response of your department to overwhelming information presented by local water purveyors and not incorporating sound science and engineering, into the department's agreements with the Navy and Grumman. The cost of the DEC approach has overrun your department's estimates by tens of millions of dollars at this point and will eventually overrun your original estimates by hundreds of millions of dollars when all 25 drinking water supply Wells are impacted. We must all be cognizant of the fact that if the Navy pays taxpayers pay, if the DEC pays taxpayers pay, and if local water districts are stuck with these costs taxpayers pay. Taxpayers have also paid both the DEC and EPA to protect our sole source drinking water supply and the public health, since their legislative inception.

Our #1 priority should be public health and our #1A priority must be to limit the amount that taxpayers must pay.

However until reasonable discussions can be initiated with your department and the local water suppliers we will continue to be heading down a road that will include a very costly court battle that will be funded by the taxpayers to correct the wrong created by the DEC also funded by the taxpayers. In these economic times or in any time this is a path that no elected or appointed official wants to go down.

Therefore we are again requesting that a discussion regarding Operable Unit 3 be conducted prior to your issuance of the PRAP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Caruso". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John F. Caruso  
Commissioner