

Massapequa Water District

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June 25, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: In Very Strong Support of A.9492 / S.7832 - Directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to create a report to hydraulically contain and remediate the Navy / Grumman plume

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The Massapequa Water District (MWD) provides potable water to over 43,000 residents in southeastern Nassau County. MWD has a vital role to ensure the integrity of our vital drinking water supply and to provide optimum public health protection. Unfortunately all nine of our public water supply wells are in the path of the Navy- Grumman plume.

Off-site groundwater contamination from the plume has adversely impacted several public drinking water supply wells in Bethpage and Levittown. Based on the known elements of the groundwater contamination, the large plume continues to move unmitigated in the south-southeast direction and deep into the Long Island sole-source aquifer system. This massive contamination will impact additional public supply wells operated by the South Farmingdale Water District and New York American Water. MWD is further south and will be adversely impacted by the contamination if proper action is not taken to perform full delineation and remediation of the plume.

Wellhead treatment is essential for contaminated supply wells. However, it is not acceptable, under DEC regulations, if other alternatives are available, including containment. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulations provide a "hierarchy of source removal and control measures which are to be used, ranked from most preferable to least preferable. 6 NYCRR 375.1.8(c). The hierarchy comprises of four measures: (1) removal and/or treatment; (2) containment; (3) elimination of exposure; and (4) treatment of source at the point of exposure. As expressly stated in the DEC regulations, wellhead treatment shall be considered as a measure of last resort. Unfortunately this has not been undertaken with regard to the Navy-Grumman plume, Therefore, the provisions contained in A.9492 /S.7832 will require DEC to follow and uphold its regulations and optimize public health protection.

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

In summary, plume containment / remediation will result in:

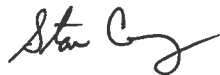
- potentially significant cost savings given the cost for wellhead treatment (and 30 years of operational costs), as compared to cleanup of the groundwater,
- the cleanup of the environment which otherwise would be allowed to remain in a contaminated condition if the wellhead treatment option is allowed to stay in place,
- increased employment through the construction and operation of the groundwater cleanup system, and
- elimination of an impact to Great South Bay.

Time is now of the essence. Supply wells in the path of the plume are being impacted or are imminently threatened more rapidly than expected. Furthermore, wells that have been impacted are now required to undergo major upgrades because of waves of additional higher magnitude contamination that were not anticipated. For the supply wells operated by MWD, plume containment is still a viable option for protecting our drinking water supply wells.

For the reasons stated above, we strongly support the passage of A.9492 / S.7832, and urge you to sign this legislation into law as well.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continuing work to protect our most vital natural resource.

Very truly yours,
MASSPEQUA WATER DISTRICT



Stan Carey
Superintendent