



Massapequa Water District

PRESS RELEASE - May 9, 2012

The Massapequa Water District has collected over 5400 petitions demanding action by Governor Andrew Cuomo to take the necessary steps to have the polluters stop and contain the highly toxic contaminated groundwater plume emanating from the Navy Grumman site in Bethpage. The Massapequa Water District has made its position clear and simple: the responsible parties must stop the plume from migrating further because the public does not want the toxic plume entering the Districts' water supply wells or impacting the Great South Bay.

The plume is primarily composed of the chemicals tetrachloroethene, also known as PCE, and trichloroethylene, also known as TCE. Both of these toxic chemical compounds are known cancer-causing agents, and have been indicated as a possible causative agent in Parkinson's disease. Under the care, custody and control of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation this toxic cocktail has been allowed to spread and contaminate perfectly good water supplies and the drinking water supply designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as the Sole Source Aquifer for Long Island. The Massapequa Water District has consistently put the regulatory agencies on notice that the mitigation practices being conducted by the DEC at the Grumman Bethpage site are not only ineffective and inconsistent with the legal responsibilities of the polluters, namely Grumman and the Navy, but more importantly that they just would not work to stop the contamination from spreading and eventually contaminating the District's drinking water supply wells. The DEC has ignored the District's notifications and the plume has, unfortunately, continued to spread, contaminating an ever expanding area.

Recently the Massapequa Water District has been forced to spend over \$500,000, reviewing over 25 years of the DEC, Navy and Grumman records necessary to prepare engineering feasibility studies and estimated costs for full hydraulic containment and cleanup of this toxic plume in answer to the regulatory agencies ineffective practices. The studies confirm that the DEC mitigation procedures have not worked. The District has also provided the regulatory agencies with significantly more effective and less costly alternatives to stop the plume's migration and to achieve cleanup of the toxic plume. Instead, the DEC, Navy and Grumman have allowed the plume to spread, relying upon the hope that "*dilution will be the solution*" to pollution"; a position that the DEC has rejected in all other areas of the State. The policy in New York State has always been that the polluter pays for the cleanup of their pollution. We ask that Governor Andrew Cuomo enforce this policy immediately instead of causing the Massapequa Water District to continue to do the work required of the DEC at our taxpayers' expense.

Time is of the essence. The residents of the Massapequa Water District have legitimately demanded the containment of this toxic plume so that it does not continue to migrate and enter the Massapequa Water District public water supply wells. The Massapequa Water District has provided the engineering studies required to stop and contain this plume from its further migration southward.

It is time for Governor Andrew Cuomo to take the leadership position to demand that his Department of Environmental Conservation follow the laws of the state and federal government and to order the polluter to stop the plume. The Governor must not allow our Sole Source Aquifer, our perfectly good water supply, to continue to be contaminated by the Navy/Grumman plume. The Water District, and the residents that it serves, looks to the Governor to show the environmental stewardship and public health leadership to have the polluters stop, contain and eventually remove the contamination from our sole source aquifer.

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