



☰ Menu



Latest News

Bethpage Water District Demands Polluters Pay for Water Treatment

District Files Lawsuit Against Chemical Manufacturers and Northrop Grumman

3/8/2019

Bethpage, NY (March 9, 2019)—The Bethpage Water District Board of Commissioners announced today that it will file a formal complaint against Dow Chemical Co., Ferro Corp., Vulcan Materials Co., and Northrop Grumman in federal court. The District says those companies, not Bethpage residents, should have to pay the millions of dollars it will cost to treat 1,4-dioxane in area groundwater.

“The Bethpage Water District is proud to announce this milestone step, which we take on behalf of the entire Bethpage community,” said Commissioner Theresa M. Black. “We have worked tirelessly to ensure residents do not have to foot the bill for these necessary steps along the way, and it is our ultimate responsibility to hold these polluters accountable for the contamination of our groundwater resources and the decades of gross negligence that followed.”

The suit alleges that these organizations were negligent in instructing commercial users to dispose of waste products containing 1,4-dioxane, an ingredient used in manufacturing solvent, in a way that makes contamination of groundwater more likely. Additionally, it alleges that the potential responsible parties introduced 1,4-dioxane to the environment knowing it could pollute groundwater. This filing puts the District among more than a dozen Long Island water suppliers holding polluters accountable for the presence of 1,4-dioxane in the water supply.

“These companies had an obligation to take steps to ensure that our water supplies didn’t get contaminated and that people didn’t get hurt—they failed,” added Commissioner John F. Coumatos. “They routinely told companies using their products to dispose of the toxic wastes by pouring them onto the ground or into trenches for evaporation or burning, even though that would inevitably contaminate the soil and groundwater.”

The Bethpage Water District has taken numerous steps to ensure the community's drinking water meets or exceeds all federal or state regulations, including the implementation of water treatment technology necessary to accommodate evolving regulatory standards. As a result of contamination stemming from the Northrop Grumman Plume, the District unveiled a \$36 million plan in 2018 which includes crucial upgrades to existing treatment facilities in the plume's affected area and a permanent relocation of supply wells outside the plume. The relocation of supply wells will include the purchase of new land and development of water treatment technology at new sites. These necessary investments are vital to the long-term sustainability of the community's water resources but will prove costly to implement.

"The Bethpage Water District does not wait for regulating authorities to implement an MCL for emerging contaminants," noted Commissioner John R. Sullivan. "We have remained ahead of the curve in dealing with both the contamination within the Northrop Grumman Plume and emerging contaminants which threaten our water supply. Our new goal, given the negligence of the polluters who created this issue is to permanently move our water resources outside of the plume's affected area. This is not ideal, but this is our future."

The District is represented by Sher Edling LLP in the litigation.

Quote from Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor, Joseph Saladino:

Supervisor Joseph Saladino said: "The environmental saga surrounding the Grumman Navy Plume has been going on for decades. And for almost as long, the Town of Oyster Bay has been privileged to work along with groups like our water district to hold polluters accountable. We thank the Bethpage Water District for their efforts in protecting the health, safety and welfare of our community. Our residents should rest assured that we will keep up the good fight and work together to get this environmental nightmare behind us."

Quote from New York State Senator James Gaughran:

Senator Jim Gaughran said "Polluters can and will be held accountable for contaminating our drinking water supply. I am proud to stand here today with the Bethpage Water District as they fight to protect residents from the expensive costs of cleaning our water supply. We need to pass my bill to close loopholes in the statute of limitations so that polluters bear the cost of cleaning up the contamination they've caused, not ratepayers."

Quote from New York State Senator Kevin Thomas:

Senator Kevin Thomas said, "Long Islanders know how precious our water resources are. Unlike other parts of the state, we rely solely on our aquifers, which once contaminated can be costly to clean up. I fully support the Bethpage Water District for taking steps to ensure our residents are not picking up the tab for corporate negligence."

For more information please call the Water District at 516.931.0093 or visit the Bethpage Water District's website, <http://bethpagewater.com> (<http://bethpagewater.com/>).

[Back \(/\)](#)

25 Adams Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714 Tel: 516-931-0093 (24 Hour Hotline) Fax: 516-931-0068

Email: info@bethpagewater.com **Business Hours:** 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Weekdays



<https://www.facebook.com/#!/BethpageWaterDistrict>



<https://twitter.com/BethpageW>



<http://instagram.com/bethpagewater>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/bethpage-water-dist>

© 2019 Bethpage Water District

Designed by Progressive Marketing Group, Inc.

[Sitemap \(/WebsiteMap.aspx\)](#)

<http://www.pmgstrategic.net>

Login (<http://bethpagewater.com/Account-Login?returnurl=%2fNews%2fDetail%2f167%2fbethpage-water-district-demands-polluters-pay-for-water-treatment%3fReturnUrl%3d%2f>)