

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

June 24, 2004
Public Availability Session
Bethpage Community Center
103 West Grumman Road
Bethpage 5:00--9:00pm

Operable Unit 3 (OU3)
Former Grumman
Settling Ponds
RE: Bethpage
Community Park

Main Document Repository
Bethpage Public Library
Powell Avenue
Bethpage, NY 11714

Document Website
www.dec.state.ny.us/der/

For More Information on
the Former Grumman
Settling Ponds (Bethpage
Community Park) Site:

NYSDEC Central Office
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7015
Att: Steven M. Scharf, P.E.
Project Engineer
(518) 402-9620
1-800-342-9296

NYSDOH
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
Attn: Ian Ushe
(518) 402-7880
1-800-458-1158
Extension 27880

May 2004

Public Availability Session
Bethpage Community Park
Operable Unit 3: Former Grumman Settling Ponds
Bethpage Community Center, June 24, 2004

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSION

Representatives from the NYSDEC, NYSDOH, the Nassau County Dept. of Health and the Town of Oyster Bay will be present to discuss this project in an availability session. An availability session is a gathering of program staff and members of the public in a casual setting, without a formal presentation or agenda. Various representatives will be on hand with copies of reports, maps and other material to answer your questions and hear your concerns. You may drop in at any time between 5:00 and 9:00 pm.

The Bethpage Community Park, located on Stewart Avenue, Bethpage in Nassau County has been undergoing investigation for environmental contamination from former site activities conducted by its previous owner, the Northrop Grumman Corporation. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is sending this public notice as an update on activities related to the site. There have been two significant actions in recent months: Northrop Grumman Corporation has entered into negotiations for an order on consent regarding the Bethpage Community Park, or operable unit 3 (OU 3), known as the former Grumman Settling Ponds. Concurrent with these negotiations, the responsibility for oversight of the investigation and remediation is being transferred to the NYSDEC Division of Environmental Remediation (DER). See more information in the **New Developments** section of this Update.

SITE HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

The 18-acre Bethpage Community Park is located in Bethpage, New York, on the west side of Stewart Avenue near Cherry Avenue. The former Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, now known as the Northrop Grumman Corporation (Northrop Grumman) donated the land for the Park to the Town of Oyster Bay in 1962. The Park is currently owned by the Town of Oyster Bay and includes a swimming pool, an ice skating rink, a baseball field, tennis courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

Prior to the land donation to the Town of Oyster Bay, Northrop Grumman used the southwest corner (now under the current ballfield) as a sludge drying area, or former settling ponds, to dispose of liquid wastes and in the 1950s and 1960s. Once dried, the sludge was removed and sent offsite for landfill disposal. A portion of the site was also used for fire control training.

During previous limited environmental investigations polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were non-detect or detected at trace level concentrations that were all lower than the current applicable cleanup levels. Northrop Grumman notified the NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) of elevated levels of PCBs found as a result of several rounds of testing in 1999-2001 on a Northrop Grumman access road immediately south of the park. As a followup to the access road sampling events, Northrop Grumman proposed, and eventually undertook a more comprehensive investigation of surface and subsurface soil in areas of the Bethpage Community Park. The results of this testing are described in more detail in the next section.

CURRENT INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY REPORT

Northrop Grumman has finalized a report entitled "Bethpage Community Park, Investigation Sampling Program, Field Report, December 2003." This report is now available at the document repository and summarizes all the work that Northrop Grumman has done to date. This report can also be viewed online at www.dec.state.ny.us/der/. The Field report is briefly summarized below.

1. Recent Park Sampling Program - Northrop Grumman's first soil sampling round of the park took place in March 2002. Soil push-probe samples were collected from 60 locations, and a total of 298 soil samples were taken in this manner. During the week of May 13, 2003, DEC, the Town and Northrop Grumman collected additional soil samples and installed groundwater monitoring wells. This work was done to further define the limits of contamination and to evaluate additional potential exposure points in the park.

2. Surface Samples - Most surface soil samples with a detection of PCBs had a concentration of less than one ppm, the value used by DEC to remediate PCBs in a residential setting. Chromium was also found in some surface soil samples, at concentrations below the levels of health concern. Special attention was focused on testing in bare areas because children are more likely to come into contact with the soil in these areas than in areas that are well grassed. Seventeen samples taken were in bare areas. PCB concentrations in three of these samples ranged from 0.09 ppm to 0.4 ppm, all below the 1ppm cleanup value.

3. Sampling at Off-Site Properties Near the Park - Soil samples were collected in 1995 from eleven residential yards southwest of the park and tested for PCBs. PCBs were either not detectable or less than the one ppm cleanup value used by DEC to remediate PCBs in a residential setting. More recently, and based on the findings of the access road and the park, additional homes that included all the homes to the south of the Northrop Grumman Access road were sampled in 2002 and 2003. The results found that three homes adjacent to Stewart Avenue exhibited surface soil concentrations that need to be addressed under the upcoming remedial program. The results showed that three homes located adjacent to the Access road need to be addressed under the upcoming remedial program. The agencies will continue, as necessary, to identify and test any offsite locations that require additional investigation.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

Surface Soil PCBs - Several rounds of soils testing found select areas of elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soils at Bethpage Community Park. The highest surface sample PCB value, 23 ppm, was found in one sample in left field of the baseball field. The area is well grassed and contact with large amounts of soil in this area is unlikely. Although the potential for exposures in the ballfield, as well as in other areas of the park is low, these contaminants need to be addressed.

Samples at Depth - The deeper soil push-probe samples (down to eight feet) had elevated levels of PCBs and some metals, particularly chromium. Approximately 15 percent of the soil probe samples at depth exceeded recommended soil cleanup objectives for total PCBs and/or metals. These particular contaminants in subsurface soil are not an immediate exposure concern because people will not come into contact with them under most circumstances.

Groundwater and Soil Gas - Newly installed groundwater monitoring wells on the downgradient (south) side of the Bethpage Community Park have indicated volatile organic compounds have impacted groundwater. The agencies are reviewing the available data to determine the need for any additional investigation in this regard before finalizing the site investigation phase of this project. All public water in the vicinity of the former Grumman/U.S. Navy Bethpage facility and the surrounding community is from the Bethpage Water District (BWD). These supplies are routinely monitored and treated, if necessary, to ensure that drinking water distributed to the public meets federal, state, and county requirements.

Future Activities: DEC, NYSDOH, Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH), and Town officials discussed the sample results and simple steps that can be taken to further reduce the potential for exposure to contaminants detected at the park. Town officials stated their intent to work with DEC, NYSDOH, and NCDOH to ensure that contamination at the park is addressed in a manner protective of public health and the environment.

In addition to the work already done, future efforts will address soil contamination that has been found at depth. Under the guidelines of the State superfund program, this will likely include some additional investigation, selection of an appropriate remedial alternative, and an opportunity for public review and comment on any potential remedial activities that may be proposed. A specific investigative task will include current work and potentially include, but is not necessarily limited to, installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells, vertical profile borings (VPBs), groundwater sampling and screening for soil gas determine if there are any other areas of concern that require further evaluation.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Northrop Grumman has entered into negotiations for an order on consent with the NYSDEC to complete the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) for both the onsite and offsite issues related to the Bethpage Community Park, or OU 3 of the Northrop Grumman site. In order accomplish these actions, the NYSDEC found it necessary to

transfer responsibility of this project to the Division of Environmental Remediation, or the State Superfund program. Also, Northrop Grumman, with the assistance of the NYSDEC, will be developing a citizen participation plan.

DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

Documents related to the investigation and potential remediation of contamination at Bethpage Community Park will be made available at the Bethpage Public Library, Powell Avenue, Bethpage. The NYSDEC website can also be visited online at: www.dec.state.ny.us/der/

Bethpage Public Library
Powell Avenue
Bethpage, NY 11714
(516) 931-3907
Hours: M-F 9:30-9:00
Sat 9:30-5:00
(Karen Gruskin or Lois Lovisolo-Reference Librarians)

NYSDEC Region 1 Headquarters
SUNY Campus
Loop Road Building 40
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2356
Attn: Bill Fonda, Citizen
Participation Specialist

NYSDEC Central Office
625 Broadway, 11th floor
Albany, NY 12233-7015
Attn: Steven M. Scharf, P.E.

For More Information regarding this site please contact the following:

NYSDEC Concerns
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625 Broadway, 11th Floor
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FIGURE 1: Bethpage Community Park General Location Map

