

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Former Grumman Settling Ponds Site – Operable Unit 3
Bethpage Community Park
Bethpage, New York
NYSDEC Site # 1-30-003A
June 27, 2007 Public Meeting**

- 1. What is the purpose of the June 27, 2007 Public Meeting and who should attend?**
The purpose of the June 27, 2007 Public Meeting is to inform local residents and interested parties about: (1) the status of the investigation being conducted in connection with Bethpage Community Park, (2) plans being developed, for implementation by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), to conduct soil vapor intrusion (VI) sampling, and (3) plans being developed and implemented by Northrop Grumman to design, construct and operate soil gas and groundwater interim remedial measures, (IRM) at the Park.
- 2. Who will be conducting the Public Meeting and what format will be used?** The June 27, 2007 Public Meeting will be conducted and facilitated by the DEC, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (DOH). The format for the June 27, 2007 meeting will be similar to that used recently by the Town of Oyster Bay ("Town"), and will consist of two parts, as follows: Part 1: during the afternoon of June 27th, posters to be used for the Public Meeting will be made available for viewing by the public, between 2 and 4 PM, at the Bethpage Public Library. A representative from the DEC will also be available during this time to answer any questions. Part 2: a presentation will be given by the DEC, followed by a question and answer session. This portion of the meeting will be held at the Bethpage High School starting at 7:00 PM.

Background and Park History

- 1. Where is the Park located?** The Bethpage Community Park is located on the west side of Stewart Avenue in the hamlet of Bethpage. It is bordered on its north side by the former Cherry Avenue Extension, now Aerospace Boulevard, and on the south by an access road belonging to Northrop Grumman.
- 2. What did the U.S. Navy, Northrop Grumman and the Town do at the Park?** Precisely what occurred at the Park is currently the subject of litigation and has not yet been determined.
- 3. Who currently owns the Park?** The Park is currently owned by The Town of Oyster Bay.
- 4. Why is Northrop Grumman involved with the Site?** Prior to 1962, Grumman Aircraft owned the property. At the request of the Town, Grumman Aircraft donated the property to the Town in 1962 for use as a park. Northrop Grumman is the successor to Grumman Aircraft and has been named by the DEC as a potentially responsible party, along with the U.S. Navy and the Town of Oyster Bay.

5. **What triggered the current investigation?** In 1994, the Navy sampled for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Park. The result was below action levels and no further action was taken. In 2001, Northrop Grumman conducted testing on its property on the south side of the Park and confirmed the presence of PCBs contamination there. Since the testing ultimately led to a point that was immediately adjacent to and perhaps on the Park property, Northrop Grumman notified the State and requested permission from the Town to conduct additional sampling in the Park, which determined that the Park contained PCB and metals contamination. Northrop Grumman then notified the Town and the DEC of its findings. The current overall investigation (on- and off-site) is an effort to determine the full extent and nature of the contamination and prepare a Remedial Investigation (RI) Report and also prepare a Feasibility Study (FS) Report to evaluate possible methods of remediation.

Contamination

1. **What type of contamination is at the Park?** As indicated in the Fact Sheet prepared by the DEC, the contamination in the Park shallower soil appears to consist primarily of metals and PCBs, while in deeper soil (greater than 25 ft below land surface [bls]) and in the groundwater, it is primarily cis-1,2 dichloroethylene (1,2-DCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE).
2. **How did the contamination get there?** Precisely what occurred at the Park is currently the subject of litigation and has not yet been determined.
3. **Have DEC and the DOH done all that is necessary to ensure that the residents of Bethpage are safe from this contamination?** DEC and DOH are charged by law to protect human health and the environment. Based on the results of the testing done to date, DOH and DEC have concluded that the Park is safe for use by the public since the contamination is at depth and the grass serves as a barrier to contact at the soil's surface. Nothing has changed in the ball field to revise that conclusion. In other areas, the Town's remediation has presumably removed all contamination.
4. **Is contamination currently migrating from the Park?** The sampling conducted to date has revealed that there is contamination of groundwater below the Park that appears to be migrating offsite. One of the purposes of the current investigation is to determine the nature and extent of contamination both in the Park and off-site and to identify and evaluate possible alternatives for remediation.
5. **In what direction does the groundwater flow under the Park?** Approximately from northwest to southeast.
6. **Where has the testing in the Park occurred?** Testing has been done throughout the Park that has adequately delineated the nature and extent of contamination at the Park.
7. **How has the current sampling program been determined?** The results of prior sampling and review of aerial photographs have indicated areas within the Park that may have been impacted. Northrop Grumman's environmental consultants have recommended that certain sampling in those areas be conducted. The DEC has evaluated the proposed sampling program and approved a final work plan before implementation.

8. **Is my drinking water contaminated?** No. Please refer to the Bethpage WaterDistrict and the DOH for more information.

Conduct of the Investigation

1. **What will the information obtained from this investigation be used for?** This information will be used to determine the nature and extent of contamination and to identify and evaluate possible alternatives for remediation.
2. **Will there be any exposure of members of the public to contamination from these activities?** No. Any soil or groundwater removed will be completely contained and handled in accordance with state and federal regulations.
3. **Do you have an emergency response plan for unplanned incidents or unknowns?** The environmental contractors who are actually doing the sampling have years of experience in this work and have state-approved plans in place to handle any unusual situation.
4. **What will prevent my children from getting hurt from the equipment?** The equipment is either isolated from access by the public or, in the case of the large drilling equipment, will be fenced off and monitored for the short time needed to do that work at the individual sites. Parents can help by instructing their children to stay away from the equipment.
5. **Will you be testing inside my house or the school?** The DEC and/or the DOH plans to conduct Vapor Intrusion sampling in select locations.
6. **Will drilling occur in the residential area? If so, where and why?** Yes, drilling has been and will continue to be conducted in public rights-of-way to collect groundwater and soil gas samples to define the limits of possible groundwater and soil gas contamination and to install monitoring wells that will allow ongoing monitoring of the groundwater quality.
7. **What will the drill sites look like?** Refer to charts.
8. **Who is responsible for developing and overseeing the program?** The program has been developed by Northrop Grumman and its environmental consultants in consultation with the DEC; the DEC has final approval authority and has approved the program that has been implemented.
9. **How long will the program take?** We estimate that the drilling and well installation phases of the investigation will be completed by the end of March 2008. The equipment used will be in one location for no more than four weeks at a time.
10. **What is the work-day schedule for the program?** Depending on the specific activities in the residential areas, the work could take as little as a half-day to one week or two to four weeks. Work will only be done on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

11. **When/how will I be informed of work occurring on my street?** Everyone within a one-quarter-mile radius of the park should have already received a notice of the work. Generally, about a week before the commencement of work, notices will be mailed to residents that live on streets in the vicinity of planned drill sites.
12. **Will traffic patterns in the area be affected? Will trucks carrying contaminated materials drive through my neighborhood?** There should only be minimal affect on traffic flow. There will be very few vehicles involved with the sampling traveling through the area. Any soil or groundwater transported by these vehicles will be completely contained and handled in accordance with state and federal regulations.
13. **How will access to work areas be controlled?** Temporary fences will be erected around the drill rig.
14. **Will you be working on my property?** Drilling will be conducted on public rights of way only.
15. **Where will waste/contaminated materials be stored?** All wastes and contaminated materials will be properly contained and transported daily to a holding area located on Northrop Grumman property.
16. **Will you cut/interrupt my utilities?** No.
17. **Will you block my driveway?** No.
18. **Will the work be noisy or emit exhaust odor?** There may be a slight diesel odor and machine sounds while the drill rig is operating.
19. **Where will work vehicles be parked during the day and at night? How many vehicles will be present at one time?** Only required vehicles will be on-site during the day. At night, the drill rig will be the only vehicle present, and it will be fenced-in.
20. **Where will materials and supplies be stored?** Materials and supplies will be located within the confines of the work area when drilling and sampling are occurring and locked away at night.
21. **What will be done with materials drilled/excavated?** Any excavated material will be properly contained and taken away daily.
22. **Who is paying for this environmental investigation?** Northrop Grumman is paying for the work it is doing under direction of the DEC. However, Northrop Grumman has reserved its rights to recover its costs from other potentially responsible parties.

Soil Gas and Groundwater Interim Remedial Measures

1. **What is an IRM?** An IRM is an Interim Remedial Measure approved by DEC. In situations where it is determined that contaminant remediation and/or control is desirable to alleviate imminent threats to human health or the environment, an IRM may be implemented prior to selection, design, and/or implementation of the final site remedy.

The IRM may be an interim remedial measure only, a part of the final remedy, or it may be the final site remedy.

2. **What is the purpose of the Soil Gas IRM?** The purpose of the Soil Gas IRM is to prevent the potential off-site migration from the Park of site-related constituents in soil gas.
3. **Where will the Soil Gas IRM be located and what equipment will be used?** At the present time, the Soil Gas IRM will be located along that portion of the Former Plant 24 Access Road that runs along the southern border of the Park. Additionally, a modification to the Soil Gas IRM, that would expand coverage to include that portion of the Former Plant 24 Access Road that runs along the western border of the Park, is currently under consideration. The Soil Gas IRM will consist of a series of shallow and deeper soil gas depressurization wells, a blower, an emission treatment and control unit, and associated piping. At the present time, it is planned to install the blower and treatment unit in a structure located on the McKay Field property, which is owned by Northrop Grumman. The existing tree line around the McKay Field property will be maintained for aesthetic reasons.
4. **What is the purpose of the Groundwater IRM?** The purpose of the Groundwater IRM is to minimize the potential migration from the Park of site-related constituents in groundwater.
5. **Where will the Groundwater IRM be located and what equipment will be used?** The Groundwater IRM will be located in the Former Plant 24 Access Road along the southern Park border and the Groundwater IRM equipment will be co-located with that for the Soil Gas IRM.
6. **What is the schedule for the Soil Gas and Groundwater IRMs?** The goal is to have the Soil Gas IRM operational by the end of October 2007, and the Groundwater IRM operational by Fourth Quarter 2008.

Reporting

1. **How/where can I find out the results of this investigation?** The results have been and will continue to be submitted to the DEC and made available in the public repository at the Bethpage Public Library.
2. **When will the Park reopen? Will the pool open this summer?** Those questions must be directed to the Town of Oyster Bay.
3. **Who can I contact for additional information?** You may contact both the DEC and DOH. Their contact information is on their web sites.

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/index.html>
<http://www.health.state.ny.us/>