

Steven Scharf - Re: Southeast Nassau Water Districts Schumer Committee 12-15-2010 Conference Call

From: Steven Scharf
To: John Swartwout
Subject: Re: Southeast Nassau Water Districts Schumer Committee 12-15-2010 Conference Call

This is a summary follow up to the December 15, 2010 Southeast Nassau Water District (MWD) Meeting for which we attended by conference call. The Schumer Committee meeting was run by Gerry Patrella of Senator Schumer's LI Office.

Agenda Item 1, Preliminary Findings of the EPA/USGS: The USEPA, based on USGS review, provided initial opinion from the existing site model(s). Overall, according to the USEPA/USGS review, the model used is not an appropriate tool in its current form to address the districts concerns. The USEPA/USGS stated that the modeling efforts for the future should be either revised or replaced by a regional model. Final comments would be submitted in April 2011 and we will be more specific at that point. MWD did voice their concerns that they believe there is still a containment option vs wellhead treatment. MWD did request that someone take a "value engineering" look at costs to see if the water districts options for containment are feasible options. This was a very unclear request and DEC stated that based on ROD and more current information, cost difference between full containment and ROD remedy is greater than -30 plus 50 % of costs in ROD., the EPA suggested that the MWD provide this in writing, what their suggestions/options are and their request would be considered by EPA. Therefore, EPA has requested MWD send a letter identifying such for discussion.

Navy Optimization (DEC Periodic Review): EPA reinforced that the ROD and Navy optimization process is the way to go and still supported by EPA. The water districts will be are now represented in the Navy's optimization review. EPA will also on the board. NYSDEC has said that they will review and/or incorporate, as appropriate, the implementation of the remedy based on EPAs/USGSs comments regarding the OU 2 Offsite model.

Discussion: There is a tentative date for another meeting in April with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) group that is required pursuant to the ROD and subsequently another follow-up meeting with the Schumer "South Nassau Water Districts" Committee, date to be set based on the April ROD TAC meeting. Gerry Patrella expects a conference call in February to discuss the status for final comments from the USGS review.

Overall, EPA succeeded in the short term in providing a initial opinion of the model, the Water Districts will have a representative as part of the Navy's optimization review. Once the updated offsite OU 2 model is revised, there should be a clearer answer to the MWD as to "when their water will be impacted." Although no firm date has been established as when a revised model will be completed. DEC will take a more direct role by re-instituting the TAC for which DEC will be in charge. The outstanding issues of upgraded treatment for Bethpage Water District and South Farmingdale Plant 3 and new outpost wells for MWD need to be addressed. Unless directed by DEC management, there is no plan for the DEC to put together a revised report on the alternatives screened in the original Grumman/NWIRP OU 2 FS.