



**Excelsior - Ever Upward**  
**2018 State of the State**  
**Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**

The Constitution of New York State requires the Governor to deliver an annual message to the Legislature regarding the state of the state. Since taking office, Governor Cuomo has used this opportunity to update New Yorkers on the progress of the State, while laying out a series of priorities for the year. The State of the State proposals are the first step in defining the Governor's agenda in 2018. Additional policies and funding details will be included in the upcoming Governor's Executive Budget, to be released in the coming weeks.

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### **Part 3. Protecting Our Clean Water**

Governor Cuomo has taken aggressive action to ensure that current and future generations of New Yorkers have access to clean water. In February 2016, Governor Cuomo launched the Water Quality Rapid Response Team to swiftly identify and address drinking water quality issues across the state. In 2017, Governor Cuomo signed the Clean Water Infrastructure Act – a \$2.5 billion investment in drinking water infrastructure, clean water infrastructure and water quality protection across New York. This bold investment builds on the Governor's record of environmental leadership and helps local governments pay for local infrastructure construction projects, address water emergencies, and investigate and mitigate emerging contaminants to ensure access to clean, drinkable water for all New Yorkers.

The Clean Water Infrastructure act includes over \$1.5 billion in grants for water infrastructure improvements and creates a \$75 million rebate program to give homeowners and small businesses an incentive to

replace and upgrade aging septic systems. In addition to traditional infrastructure, \$160 million is also available for 'green' infrastructure, with \$110 million dedicated for source water protection initiatives, including land acquisition.

The Governor's track record also includes enacting the \$400 million Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2015, securing a record \$300 million investment for the Environmental Protection Fund, and providing \$11 billion in Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund financing.

***Proposal: Fast-track Containment and Treatment of the 'Grumman Plume'***

Governor Cuomo has made protecting New York's drinking water a top priority, investing \$2.5 billion in last year's Clean Water Infrastructure Act and a 10-year \$1 billion reauthorization of the State Superfund program. Because of Long Island's dependence on its sole source aquifer, the region has been a focus of the Governor's efforts, including more than \$800 million to repair and

fortify the Bay Park wastewater treatment plant, \$354 million to divert Bay Park sewage from the Western Bays to the Cedar Creek outfall, \$10 million to restore shellfish once common to Long Island's waters in order to improve water quality, a \$6 million Long Island Groundwater Study, a \$5 million Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan, and directing a comprehensive groundwater impact investigation of all of Long Island's closed landfills.

In Nassau County, industrial practices at the U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman Aerospace Bethpage facilities in the Town of Oyster Bay have left a legacy of pollution in the form of a massive contaminated groundwater plume that has affected the surrounding community since the 1930s. The underlying aquifer system and extent of contamination is extremely complex: three overlapping plumes are approximately 1.8 miles wide and 3.7 miles long, reach depths of 800 feet, and contain significant concentrations of industrial contaminants such as trichloroethene and 1,4-dioxane, which is an emerging, unregulated contaminant.



At the Governor's direction, in February 2017, DEC launched an engineering investigation to assess expedited cleanup options, including full containment of the plume, in order to ensure the contamination does not threaten additional drinking water wells. The investigation included drilling exploratory wells to a depth of 1,000 feet and synthesizing more than 180,000 groundwater sample data points spanning decades. In addition, the analysis developed a state-of-the-art 3D computer model capable of simulating groundwater flow, which—for the first time ever—allowed DEC to assess various groundwater pumping and discharge scenarios. DEC's ongoing investigation indicates that full containment and treatment is possible.

This year, New York State will fast-track construction of a new, state-of-the-art well system to fully contain and treat the plume of contamination and protect the quality of drinking water on Long Island. The system will likely include at least 14 wells strategically located around the perimeter of the plume to prevent it from migrating further south and impacting additional

communities. In addition, priority wells will be located within the plume to target hot spots of contamination. The well system will extract and treat the water using carbon filtration, air stripping technology, and ultraviolet light, as well as advanced oxidation to treat 1,4-dioxane and return treated water to the aquifer.

To jump-start the remediation effort, the State will fast-track well construction in 2018 and will use all legal tools at its disposal to hold the U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman accountable for the construction and operation of the containment and treatment system. The full containment and treatment system is estimated to cost at least \$150 million to construct.

***Proposal: Sue the EPA to Complete the Hudson River Cleanup***

From the 1940s through the 1970s, General Electric manufacturing facilities in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward dumped well in excess of one million pounds of hazardous polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) directly into the river, impacting the health and livelihood of