



FACT SHEET

Long Island MacArthur Airport, Town of Islip, New York

Addressing Water Quality Issues in the Town of Islip

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has prepared this fact sheet to inform the public about the actions being taken to investigate possible source(s) of perfluorinated compounds (PFOA/PFOS) that are impacting local public drinking water supply wells.

Long Island MacArthur Airport History

The Long Island MacArthur Airport is a municipal airport which has an Army National Guard air support facility as a tenant. In April 1942, four months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Town of Islip contracted with the federal government to build an airfield on town-owned land for military use. Within months the Civil Aeronautics Administration – predecessor to today's Federal Aviation Administration – funded construction of three paved runways. Originally named Islip Airport, the airport was renamed MacArthur Airport after General Douglas MacArthur. The airport supports both scheduled commercial flights and general aviation. In the early 1970s the New York Army National Guard Aviation Unit moved to MacArthur Airport and was re-designated Army Aviation Support Facility #1 and remains there today. This facility supports an assault helicopter battalion and an aviation support battalion. Both the Airport and the National Guard have reported storage and use of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) on site for fire training, fire suppression, and emergency response.

One location at the Airport (Central Aviation and Marine Corporation, Site ID No. 152206) was previously investigated as a potential Registry site ('P' site). It was a former repair and overhaul shop for aircraft parts and accessories with chlorinated solvents as the primary contaminants of concern. After a limited remedial measure removing contaminated soil was conducted on the site, the 'P' site designation was removed in 2016 following an investigation by the Town of Islip under a NYSDEC Consent Order as no significant additional contamination was found on site.

Site Environmental Assessment

No data for PFOA/PFOS is available from the Airport but sampling by the Suffolk County Water Authority in 2016 at the Church Street drinking water well in Bohemia found PFOS at a level of 95 parts per trillion "ppt" (exceeding the USEPA health advisory level of 70 ppt). The Water Authority had previously installed a granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration system on the impacted public supply well to address other unrelated contamination. Repeat sampling of the well by the SCWA in 2016 confirmed that the GAC system in place was working to provide clean drinking water to the residents, and there has been no public exposure to these contaminants. The impacted supply well is hydraulically down gradient of the airport. See Figure 1. The source of this contamination is suspected to be firefighting foam used at MacArthur Airport.

Activities Being Undertaken

The State's Water Quality Rapid Response Team continues to investigate potential areas of contamination across New York. As we receive data from surveyed facilities that may have used or

stored firefighting foam or any data from federal, state and local partners on the ground, this data drives our response to take all necessary actions to protect public health and the environment.

Based on the data provided by the Suffolk County Water Authority, NYSDEC has designated the MacArthur Airport as a potential State Superfund or “P” site (Site ID No. 152251) and will investigate the site to determine if it is a source of the PFOA/PFOS. In consultation with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), DEC will continue to work with Suffolk County and the Town of Islip to ensure area residents have access to clean drinking water. Ongoing enhanced monitoring of the impacted municipal well has confirmed that the carbon treatment system continues to work effectively to provide clean water to the Islip community and will continue to be monitored.

DEC will oversee the investigation of potential source(s) of contamination and rapidly work to remediate those sources once identified.

Conclusion

In February 2016, Governor Cuomo created the New York State Water Quality Rapid Response Team to aggressively investigate emerging threats to drinking water across the state. In June 2016, DEC mailed surveys to more than 2,500 potential users of PFCs, which included select businesses, fire departments, airports, bulk storage facilities and Department of Defense/military bases in New York State. The survey was intended to begin to identify facilities where PFOA/PFOS may currently be, or had formerly been, used, stored, manufactured, disposed of, or released.

DEC continues to work aggressively across the state to investigate and respond to any areas impacted by perfluorinated compounds. Using science as our guide, we have reviewed and mapped potentially impacted areas, and continue to actively assess facilities determined to be a threat to public health or the environment. We will continue to keep the community informed as these investigations progress, and if you have a question, please contact our DEC staff below. .

For More Information

Please contact Aphrodite Montalvo, Public Participation Specialist

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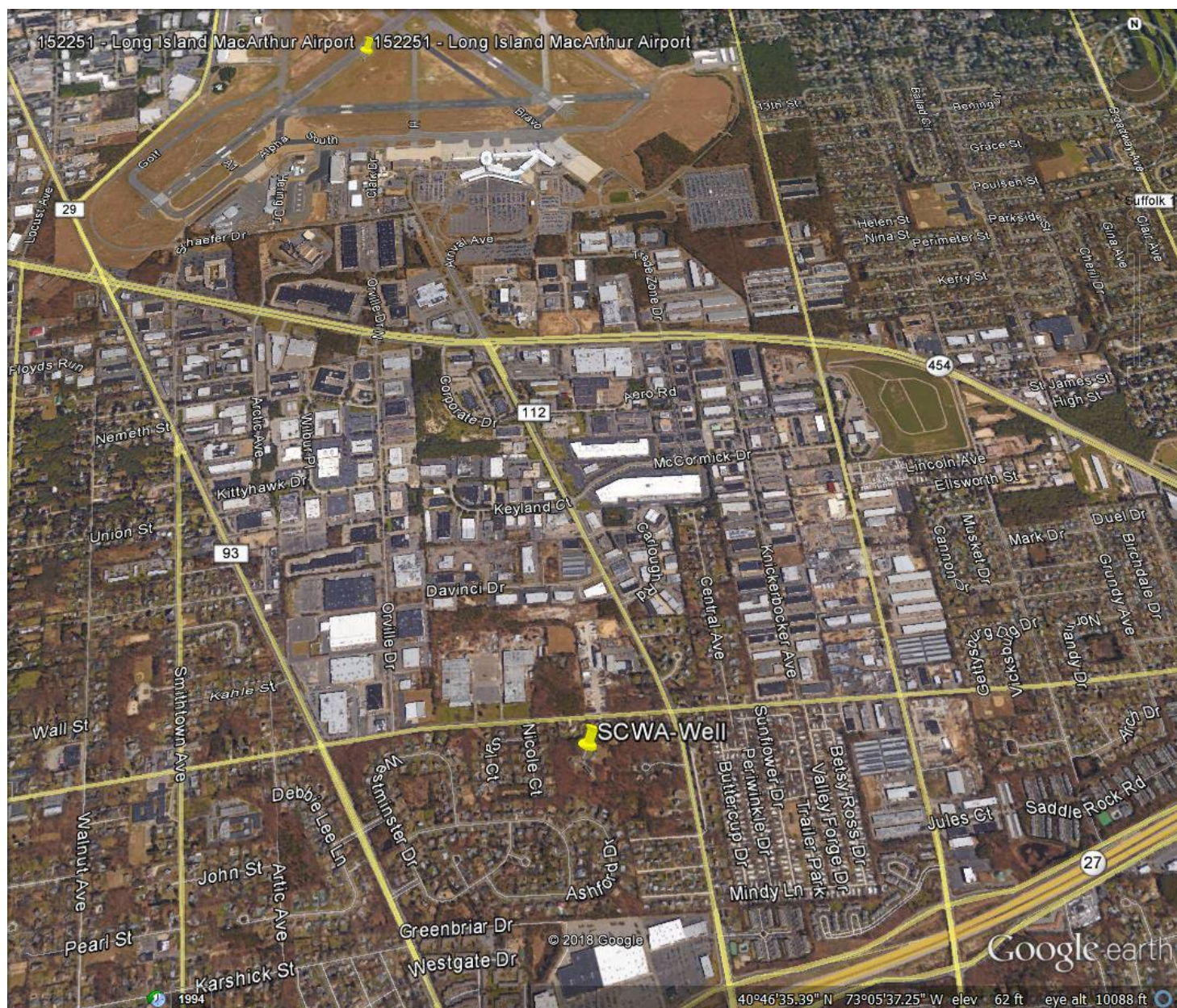
For Investigation updates and site related information please contact:

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Figure 1: Long Island MacArthur Airport and surrounding area.



To Receive Site Informational Fact Sheets by Email:

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox.

NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites
county email listservs available at the following web page:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free,
and it will help keep you *better informed*.

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for
all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

