

NORTHROP GRUMMAN BETHPAGE FACILITY AND NAVAL WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT SITES: Bethpage Community Park and Groundwater Plume Update Pilot Test Completed, No Additional Drums Found

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) are working together to protect public health and the environment in the towns of Oyster Bay and Hempstead as part of the Navy Grumman groundwater plume. The agencies are closely overseeing the implementation of actions underway by the parties responsible for the contamination, Northrop Grumman and the U.S. Navy. New York State is committed to keeping the community informed about the cleanup and this update provides a summary of recent cleanup activities and actions going forward.

Historic operations at the Northrop Grumman Bethpage Facility and Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant Sites in Bethpage created one of the largest groundwater plumes in the nation. DEC continues to hold Northrop Grumman and the Navy accountable for costs and meeting stringent standards for the cleanup of Bethpage Community Park and the Navy Grumman groundwater plume. The health of the Bethpage community is New York State's top priority, and the cleanup plan is designed specifically to protect the public and the environment from potential contamination, both now and into the future.

Addressing Contamination at Bethpage Community Park

Prior to donation to the Town of Oyster Bay in 1962 for use as a park, portions of the present-day Bethpage Community Park were operated by Grumman as a series of settling ponds and sludge drying beds. The historic use as settling ponds/drying beds resulted in both soil and groundwater contamination that is currently being addressed in a DEC Record of Decision. Using scientific and engineering analyses conducted to understand the extent of contamination, DEC carefully designed the cleanup goals in this area to

fully protect public health and the environment. Based on the ongoing collection of data, the State's cleanup plan has and will continue to be effective and provide full protection from legacy contamination. In addition to cleanup actions already taken to address soil, groundwater, and soil vapor contamination at the park, the following cleanup efforts are currently underway.

In-situ Thermal Remediation (ISTR)

A thermal remediation technique is being applied to address volatile organic compound (VOC) soil contamination present in deep soil (approximately 35 to 45 feet beneath the ground surface) in the area of the Former Grumman Settling Ponds. This technique involves using hundreds of thermal wells to heat the subsurface soil to temperatures of approximately 100 degrees Celsius (212 degrees Fahrenheit). The thermal remediation has been divided into three phases with the first phase completed between August 2020 and May 2022 and successfully removing more than 1,400 pounds of VOC contamination in the ballfield area. The second phase, located from the northern part of the ballfield to the tennis courts, removed more than 430 pounds of VOC contamination since startup began in September 2024. DEC expects that by September/October 2025, soil sampling in the Phase 2 thermal treatment area will confirm the cleanup objectives were met. Following this determination, the thermal infrastructure will be removed, and the area restored. A third phase of thermal remediation will follow in a small area beneath the Bethpage Community Park parking lot.

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Thermal wells near the tennis courts

Park-wide Geophysical Survey

During construction of the second phase thermal remedy in March 2024, Northrop Grumman's contractor encountered an obstruction at approximately four feet below ground surface. In close coordination with the DEC, DOH, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Town of Oyster Bay, the obstruction was found to be 22 concrete-encased drums that were subsequently removed for proper disposal. This discovery was not completely unexpected, as the drums were found immediately within the former settling pond areas used by Northrop Grumman for disposal during its historical operations. As a result, Northrop Grumman conducted a comprehensive geophysical investigation of the entire park using ground-penetrating radar and electromagnetics to identify other possible subsurface anomalies.

A pilot test burying two drums and a concrete ring was performed in a designated area to evaluate the geophysical equipment. During the week of June 23, 2025, the pilot survey area test pitting anomaly investigation was completed. This work was designed to help calibrate the park-wide geophysical scan. In total, 16 anomalies were

excavated, and no new drums were identified. The metallic anomalies were primarily pieces of metal piping and cable, and the non-metallic anomalies were trace debris within the soil. Northrop Grumman will use this information to develop an investigation work plan expected to be completed during the Fall 2025 for park areas outside the ballfield.



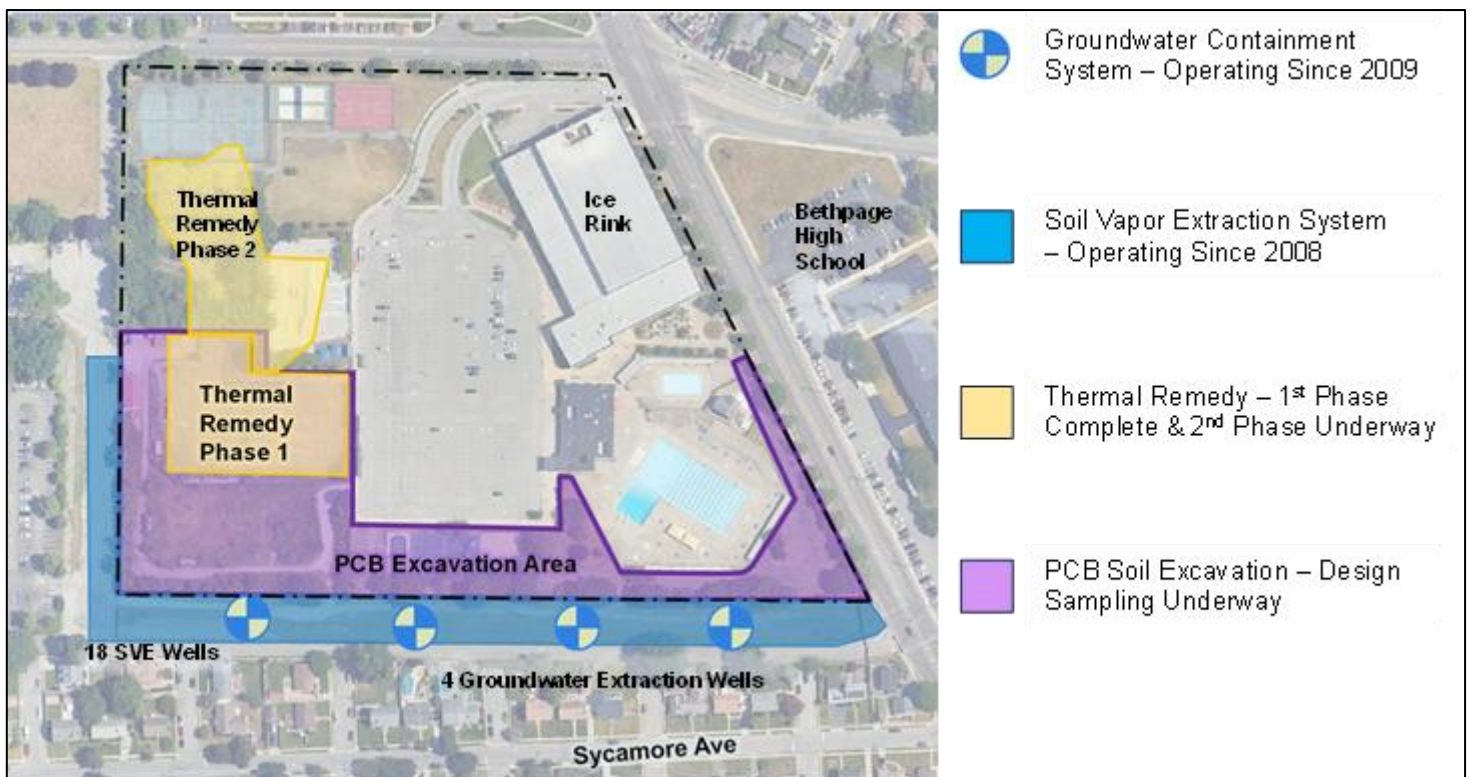
Equipment used During Geophysical Survey

Cleanup of PCB Contaminated Soil

An excavation remedy to address PCB and metals contaminated soil is currently in the design phase. To support this design, and what is referred to as a Risk-Based Disposal application that must be submitted to the EPA, Northrop Grumman completed a data gap soil sampling program between March and June 2025. This included the collection and laboratory analysis of approximately 500 new soil samples for laboratory analysis in addition to the existing database that contained over 4,000 soil samples. Once the data from this sampling effort is analyzed, Northrop Grumman and the Town of Oyster Bay will need to submit a joint Risk-Based Disposal application to EPA for review.

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In an effort to expedite the PCB cleanup, Northrop Grumman is currently exploring a two-phased approach that would allow for cleanup of PCB-contaminated soil outside the ballfield prior to the more extensive ballfield-area cleanup.



Former Northrop Grumman Settling Ponds – Present-day Bethpage Community Park

Navy Grumman Groundwater Plume

New York State is advancing a comprehensive plan to contain and clean up the groundwater plume associated with the Northrop Grumman Bethpage Facility and Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant sites in Bethpage. The full containment of this groundwater plume will prevent the further spread of contamination to water supplies in neighboring communities and provide peace of mind to local residents.

While the Navy and Northrop Grumman currently operate 17 extraction wells that withdraw approximately 10 million gallons of contaminated water daily from the plume, the following additional cleanup efforts are underway to meet the objectives of the DEC’s comprehensive plan. See the Figure on Page 6 for locations of extraction wells that are currently operating and that are currently under construction.

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Phase 2 – Plume Interior Between Hempstead and Southern State Parkways

The Navy completed installation of six extraction wells, installed nearly 18,000 feet of underground piping, and is constructing a state-of-the-art water treatment plant to expedite cleanup of the Navy Grumman plume interior. Recognizing the design and construction of this system would take years to complete, and to further expedite the cleanup process, the Navy constructed and operates two interim systems to treat extracted groundwater in this interior portion of the plume where the contaminant concentrations are known to be high while the full-scale water treatment plant is constructed. The construction of this permanent treatment plant on Union Avenue is nearly complete and is expected to be operational by the end of September 2025.

Phase 3 - Southern State Parkway Area

To hydraulically contain the Navy Grumman groundwater plume, and prevent contamination from migrating farther south, the Navy has continued with the design and construction of extraction wells and a water treatment plant along the leading edge of the plume near the Southern State Parkway. It should be noted that current groundwater sampling shows that site contaminants are not detected at concentrations above the drinking water standards along the Southern State Parkway (i.e., the plume has not even reached the Southern State Parkway). To date, the Navy installed three extraction wells and installed more than 6,000 feet of underground conveyance piping. Construction of the treatment plant is scheduled to start in 2026 and this system is expected to begin operating in 2027. To intercept the plume while this construction is underway, an interim system has been constructed and began operating in early June 2025.

Plume Interior South of Bethpage Community Park (RW-21 Area):

In August of 2023, Northrop Grumman began operation of what is referred to as the RW-21 extraction and treatment system. This system treats approximately two million gallons of water per day from three extraction wells within the interior of the plume that historically originated from past disposal that occurred at the Former Grumman Settling Ponds. To date, more than 400 million gallons have been extracted and treated, and nearly 19,000 pounds of VOC contamination has been removed.

Southeast Plume Area Investigation

Northrop Grumman is currently completing a pre-design investigation to support the possible siting of up to five additional extraction wells to contain the south-eastern portion of the plume. This includes the drilling of deep soil borings and the collection of groundwater samples for laboratory analysis to determine if the Navy Grumman groundwater plume has migrated to this area. See the Figure on the last page of this Community Update.

Ongoing Community Engagement

On July 17, 2025, DEC participated in a Navy Grumman Community Participation Working Group (CPWG) meeting. To learn more about the CPWG, visit the following web page: [Navy/Grumman CPWG](#).

DEC staff routinely provide project updates at Bethpage Community Council meetings that are open to the public and held at the Bethpage Public Library. The DEC most recently attended the June 4, 2025, Bethpage Community Council meeting.

DEC and DOH experts will continue to be available to answer questions from the community. Please see “Who to Contact” below for key points of contact.

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WHO TO CONTACT

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