

NORTHROP GRUMMAN BETHPAGE FACILITY AND NAVAL WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT SITES: Groundwater Plume Cleanup Update

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 cleanup 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 activities and several upcoming actions.

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. The Navy Grumman groundwater plume extends approximately 4 miles south toward the Southern State Parkway, is 2 miles wide, and exists at depths between 200 and 900 feet beneath ground surface. The main contaminant in the plume is the industrial solvent, trichloroethene, also known as TCE. DEC continues to hold Northrop Grumman and the Navy accountable for costs and meeting stringent standards for the cleanup of the Navy Grumman groundwater plume as well as at Bethpage Community Park. The health of Bethpage and the surrounding communities are New York State's top priority, and the cleanup plan is designed specifically to protect public and the environment from potential contamination, both now and into the future.

Navy Grumman Groundwater Plume

New York State is advancing a comprehensive plan to contain and expedite 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 20 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 4 for locations of extraction wells that are currently operating and that are currently under construction.

Navy Phase 2 – Plume Interior Between Hempstead and Southern State Parkways

Phase 1 of groundwater extraction and treatment system was enhanced in 2021 and 2025, with the addition of extraction wells RW-4 and RE137, respectively. To expand on the successful completion of Phase 1 The Navy completed Phase 2 which included installation of six extraction wells, installed nearly 18,000 feet of underground piping, and completed construction of 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 has been operating 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 was being constructed. The construction of this permanent treatment plant on Union Avenue is complete and is expected to be fully operational by March/April 2026.

Navy 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

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the leading edge of the plume near the Southern State Parkway. It is important to note that current groundwater sampling shows that site contaminants have not even been detected at concentrations above the drinking water standards along the Southern State Parkway (i.e., the plume has not reached the Southern State Parkway). To date, the Navy has installed three extraction wells and installed more than 6,000 feet of underground conveyance piping; with installation of an additional 2,600-feet of piping for the RW-10 extraction well, that is expected to be complete by March 2026. Construction of the treatment plant is scheduled to start in 2027 and this system is expected to begin operating in late 2028. To intercept the plume while this construction is underway, an interim system has been constructed and began operating in early June 2025. A second interim system is expected to be constructed and begin operation in Spring 2026.

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 groundwater 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 historic disposal that occurred at the Former Grumman Settling Ponds (present-day Bethpage Community Park). To date, more than 1.6 billion gallons of groundwater have been extracted and treated, and nearly 19,000 pounds of contamination has been removed.

Southeast Plume Area Investigation

Northrop Grumman is nearing completion of a pre-design investigation to support the possible siting of additional extraction wells to contain the southeastern portion of the plume near the intersection of Hempstead Turnpike and Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway (See figure below). This work has included 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 into this area. Initial results indicate the deep plume has not migrated as far as previously anticipated in this area.

Public Water Supply

The public water that is being supplied to people's homes meet strict drinking water standards that are established by the DOH and is safe to drink. Nassau County Department of Health also regulates and reviews water quality to ensure the purveyors are meeting the required standards.

Public water suppliers treat the groundwater using proven methods to remove regulated contaminants prior to being delivered to the homes of residents and other customers. Public water systems draw water from well-defined sources, treat the water to meet all federal and state drinking water standards, distribute the water to the public through a system of water mains and storage tanks, and continuously monitor water quality to ensure the provision of potable water. The entire process involves numerous controls, designed and reviewed by certified professionals, and implemented by certified water operators, to maintain a high level of water quality with the primary goal of public health protection. This is often referred to as a multiple barrier approach to public health protection for drinking water. If standards are not being met, the public water suppliers are required to notify customers and take actions to come into compliance. This can include placing public water supply wells out of service.

Negotiations between the public water suppliers, NYSDEC, Northrop Grumman and the U.S. Navy have occurred to discuss funding for the treatment systems that the public water suppliers use to provide safe, high quality drinking water. The Bethpage Water District, for example, has nation-leading, state-of-the-art drinking-water treatment systems in place. To learn more about the water you receive in your home, please review the water supplier's [Annual Drinking Water Quality Report](#), or [contact your water supplier](#) to view the latest results. Also, see the following link for more

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information on the DOH Drinking Water Protection Program, [Drinking Water Protection Program](#).

Ongoing Community Engagement

On October 29, 2025, DEC participated in a Navy Grumman Community Participation Working Group (CPWG) meeting. The CPWG was formed to provide a forum for enhancing dialogue, understanding and encouraging discussions about the cleanup of the Navy Grumman groundwater plume, and to make recommendations on public outreach and typically meets quarterly. 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 December 3, 2025, Bethpage Community Council meeting.

The Navy has a Resident Advisory Board (RAB) that meets on a semi-annual basis. More information regarding the Navy's work and the RAB can be found at the following link: [Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant Bethpage](#)

Northrop Grumman has a website specific for Navy Grumman Groundwater Plume and a listserv that you can sign up for to receive information: [Northrop Grumman Bethpage](#)

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.

WHO TO CONTACT

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