

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation

Bureau of Eastern Remedial Action

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Erin M. Crotty
Commissioner

November 16, 2001

RE: Northrop Grumman Site, Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP)-Bethpage, Grumman Steel Los Site, Nassau County Sites No. 1-30-003A, B&C.

Frank J. Flood, Jr., Commissioner
John F. Caruso, Commissioner
Vincent C. Guadagno, Commissioner
Massapequa Water District
84 Grand Avenue
Massapequa, NY 11758-4990

Dear Sirs:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is writing this letter in response to the Massapequa Water District (District) correspondence of September 10, 2001 (copy enclosed), regarding the Northrop Grumman, Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) and Grumman Steel Los Sites. The District letter comments on the selected remedy for the Operable Unit 2 (OU2) Groundwater Record of Decision (ROD). This letter summarizes the NYSDEC response.

As covered in my July 20, 2001 NYSDEC correspondence, the formation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was warranted and a TAC Committee has been formed. The first meeting was held on August 14, 2001 and the Massapequa Water District was represented by Thomas Mahar of Dvirka and Bartilucci. The next TAC meeting has been scheduled for January 16, 2002, at 11:00 a.m., at the NWIRP Plant 3 facility, and the District's representative has been invited.

As covered in my previous correspondence, the ROD calls for a public water supply wellhead treatment contingency plan for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of wellhead treatment systems and/or comparable alternative measures, if necessary. If wellhead treatment is required, the contingency plan will cover design, construction and operation and maintenance (O&M) of any wellhead treatment system or the requirements of a comparable alternative. The ROD also states that for any cash settlement, this would occur directly between the settling Water District(s) and Northrop Grumman and/or the Department of the Navy.

Your correspondence also makes reference to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) funding the wellhead treatment. Please note that the Northrop Grumman and Department of the Navy Sites do not directly involve the USEPA. The USEPA is the lead Agency for the OXY Hooker Ruco Facility to the northwest of the Northrop Grumman and Navy Sites.

As previously stated, if, after a reasonable time frame, Northrop Grumman and/or the Department of the Navy fail to meet their obligations for implementing the contingency provisions and/or the overall requirements of the ROD, then the New York State Superfund program would fulfill that obligation. The State of New York would then seek recovery of those costs. One of the requirements of the ROD is to be

protective of human health and the environment. Therefore, any wellhead treatment or comparable remedial alternative will be operated and maintained as part of this remedial program for as long as is necessary.

The implementation of the remedial design for addressing the groundwater contamination, in addition to the already ongoing Onsite Containment (ONCT) system, is underway. At the August 14th TAC meeting, the vertical profile chemical and geophysical data collected by the Department of the Navy under an aggressive schedule, was presented graphically by Arcadis Geraghty and Miller (AGM) on behalf of the Northrop Grumman Corporation. Currently, AGM is using this information to prepare an updated groundwater model as a precursor to the 35 percent OU2 remedial design submittal. The OU2 remedial design has two components, the monitoring well GM 38 area groundwater extraction and treatment, and the outpost well design for the wellhead treatment contingency program.

One of the District comments is to request using a groundwater model to predict if and when the District's wells might be impacted. This is one of the tasks of the AGM groundwater model that is now underway. The results of the updated model will be presented at the January 16th, 2002 TAC meeting.

I trust that this satisfactorily responds to your concerns regarding the Northrop Grumman and NWIRP OU 2 ROD. If you have any questions, please contact me at (518)402-9620.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Scharf, P.E.
Project Engineer
Bureau of Eastern remedial Action
Division of Environmental Remediation (Masswater1.wpd)

Enclosure
c/w/enc:

The Honorable Charles Schumer
The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
The Honorable Peter T. King
T. Maher, Dvirka & Bartilucci
B. Burns, Dvirka & Bartilucci
J. Molloy, H2M
G. Loesch, H2M
D. Kelleher, H2M
M. Snyder, NY Water Service
A. Palleschi, Town of Hempstead H2O District
A. Sabino, Bethpage H2O District
W. Carmen, S. Farmingdale H2O District
J. Colter, Department of the Navy
J. Cofman, Northrop Grumman
M. Wolfert/C. Sangiovanni/ D. Stern, Arcadis Geraghty and Miller
B. Gilday, NYSDOH
J. Lovejoy, NCDH
B. MacKay, NCDH