

NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION

**Highlights In This  
Update**

- 1. Public Availability  
Session  
June 24, 2004**

**Bethpage Community Center  
103 West Grumman Road  
Bethpage 5:00--9:00pm**

- 2. Current Reports can be  
found in the  
Main Document  
Repository**

**Bethpage Public Library  
Powell Avenue  
Bethpage, NY 11714**

*And*

- 3. Document Website  
[www.dec.state.ny.us/website/  
der/projects](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/projects)**

- 4. For More Information  
on the Former Grumman  
Settling Ponds (Bethpage  
Community Park) Site:**

**NYSDEC Central Office  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7015  
Att: Steven M. Scharf, P.E.  
Project Engineer  
(518) 402-9620  
1-800-342-9296**

**NYSDOH  
547 River Street  
Troy, NY 12180  
Attn: Ian Ushe  
(518) 402-7880  
1-800-458-1158  
Extension 27880**

June 2004

**Community Update  
Bethpage Community Park  
Operable Unit 3: Former Grumman Settling Ponds**

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSION:** Bethpage Community Center, June 24, 2004 from 5:00 and 9:00 P.M.: Representatives from the NYSDEC, the NYSDOH, the Nassau County Dept. of Health and the Town of Oyster Bay will be present to discuss this project in an availability session. An availability session is a gathering of program staff and members of the public in a casual setting, without a formal presentation or agenda. Various representatives will be on hand with copies of reports, maps and other material to answer your questions and hear your concerns. You may drop in at any time between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m.

The Bethpage Community Park, located on Stewart Avenue, Bethpage in Nassau County has been undergoing investigation for environmental contamination from former site activities conducted by its previous owner, the former Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, now known as the Northrop Grumman Corporation (Northrop Grumman). The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is sending this public notice as an update on activities related to the site. There have been three significant actions in recent months: 1. A December 2003 Field Report is now available for public review; 2. The Northrop Grumman Corporation has entered into negotiations for an order on consent regarding the Bethpage Community Park, or Operable Unit 3 (OU 3), known as the former Grumman Settling Ponds. 3. Concurrent with these negotiations, the responsibility for oversight of the investigation and remediation is being transferred to the NYSDEC Division of Environmental Remediation (DER). (See also the **New Developments** section of this Update.)

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** The 18-acre Bethpage Community Park is located in Bethpage, NY, on the west side of Stewart Avenue near Cherry Avenue. The Park is currently owned by the Town of Oyster Bay and includes a swimming pool, an ice-skating rink, a baseball field, tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic areas and a parking lot.

**SITE HISTORY:** Grumman Aerospace (now Northrop Grumman) donated the land for the Park to the Town of Oyster Bay in 1962. Prior to this land donation to the Town of Oyster Bay, Grumman Aerospace used portions of the site as sludge drying areas, or settling ponds, to dispose of liquid wastes. The sludge came from the solids settled out of the liquid waste. Once dried, the sludge was removed and sent offsite for landfill disposal. A portion of the site was also used for fire-control training.

Prior to Northrop Grumman's investigation of the Bethpage Community Park, limited environmental investigations within the park found that contamination was either non detectable or detected at trace level concentrations that were all lower than the current applicable cleanup levels. Northrop Grumman notified the NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) in early 2002 of elevated levels of PCBs found as a result of several rounds of testing in 1999-2001 on a Northrop Grumman access road immediately south of the park. As a followup to the access road sampling, Northrop Grumman proposed, and eventually implemented, a more comprehensive investigation of surface and subsurface soil inside the Bethpage Community Park. The results of this testing are described in more detail in the next section.

**CURRENT INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY REPORT:** Northrop Grumman has finalized a second report entitled "Bethpage Community Park, Investigation Sampling Program, Field Report, December 2003." This report is now available at the document repository.

This report is also on-line at [www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/projects](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/projects)

The "Bethpage Community Park, Investigation Sampling Program, Field Report, December 2003" summarizes all the work that Northrop Grumman has done to date and is discussed briefly as follows:

**1. Northrop Grumman Park Sampling Program to Date** - Northrop Grumman's first round of soil sampling in the park took place in March 2002. Soil push-probe samples were collected from 60 locations at varying depths. During the week of May 13, 2003, Northrop Grumman collected additional soil samples from within the park and installed groundwater monitoring wells. This work was done to further define the limits of contamination in the park.

**2. Surface Samples** - Most surface soil samples for both the first and second round of sampling had either a non-detect or a detection of PCB concentration of less than one ppm, the value used by NYSDEC to remediate PCBs in a residential setting. Chromium was also found in some surface soil samples at concentrations below the levels of health concern. Special attention was focused on testing in bare areas because people are more likely to come into contact with the soil in these areas than in areas that are well grassed. PCB concentrations in three of these samples ranged from 0.09 ppm to 0.4 ppm, all below the 1ppm cleanup value. The second round of soil sampling confirmed this finding.

**3. Samples at Depth** - Approximately one in ten deeper (at least 8 feet) soil push-probe samples had elevated levels of PCBs and some metals, particularly chromium, that exceeded recommended soil cleanup objectives for total PCBs and/or metals. These particular contaminants in subsurface soil are not an immediate exposure concern because people will not come into contact with them under most circumstances.

**4. Groundwater** - Newly installed groundwater monitoring wells on the downgradient (south) side of the Bethpage Community Park have detected volatile organic compounds in groundwater. The agencies are reviewing the available data to determine the need for any additional investigation in this regard before finalizing the site investigation phase of this project. All public water in the vicinity of the former Grumman/U.S. Navy Bethpage facility and the surrounding community is from the Bethpage Water District (BWD). These supplies are routinely monitored and treated, if necessary, to ensure that drinking water distributed to the public meets federal, state, and county requirements.

**SAMPLING AT OFF-SITE PROPERTIES NEAR THE PARK:** Soil samples were collected in 1995 from eleven residential yards southwest of the park and tested for PCBs. PCBs were either not detectable or less than the one ppm cleanup value used by DEC to remediate PCBs in a residential setting. More recently, based on the findings of sampling on the access road and the park, additional homes that included all the homes to the south of the Northrop Grumman Access road were sampled in 2002 and 2003 by the NYSDEC, NYSDOH and the NCDH. The results indicated that three homes adjacent to Stewart Avenue exhibited surface soil concentrations that need to be addressed under the upcoming remedial program. The agencies will continue, as necessary, to identify and test any offsite locations that require additional investigation. Information gathered from the investigative phase will be used to screen remedial alternatives for the Bethpage Community Park.

#### **ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED**

**Surface Soil PCBs** - Several rounds of soils testing found select areas of elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soils at Bethpage Community Park. The highest surface sample PCB value, 23 ppm, was found in one sample in left field of the baseball field. The area is well grassed and contact with large amounts of soil in this area is unlikely. Although the potential for exposures in the ballfield, as well as in other areas of the park is low, these contaminants need to be addressed.

**Future Activities** - Under the guidelines of the State superfund program, future activity will likely include some additional investigation, selection of an appropriate remedial alternative, and an opportunity for public review and comment on any potential remedial activities that may be proposed. A specific investigative task will include current work and potentially include, but is not necessarily limited to, installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells, vertical profile borings (used to identify underlying soil types), groundwater sampling and screening for soil gas to determine if there are any other areas of concern that require further evaluation and/or action.

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS:** Northrop Grumman has entered into negotiations for an order on consent with the NYSDEC to complete the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for both the onsite and offsite issues

related to the Bethpage Community Park, or OU 3 of the Northrop Grumman site. In order to accomplish these actions, the NYSDEC found it necessary to transfer responsibility of this project to the Division of Environmental Remediation, which administers the State Superfund program. The NYSDEC is also soliciting the Department of the Navy, by means of a Federal Facility Site Remediation Agreement, to participate in addressing the site.

**Citizen Participation Planning-** Under the State Superfund Program, Northrop Grumman Corporation will be responsible for ensuring that the public is kept informed and involved as investigations are conducted, alternatives are evaluated and remediation gets underway. DEC has started drafting a Citizen Participation Plan which will outline steps and procedures that will be followed. This plan will be finalized and implemented by Northrop Grumman under DEC's supervision and approval.

**DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES:** Documents related to the investigation and potential remediation of contamination at Bethpage Community Park will be made available at the Bethpage Public Library, Powell Avenue, Bethpage. The NYSDEC website can also be visited online at: [www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/projects](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/projects)

**Bethpage Public Library**  
Powell Avenue  
Bethpage, NY 11714  
(516) 931-3907  
Hours: M-F 9:30-9:00  
Sat 9:30-5:00  
(Karen Gruskin or Lois Lovisolo-Reference Librarians)

**NYSDEC Region 1 Headquarters**  
SUNY Campus  
Loop Road Building 40  
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2356  
Attn: Bill Fonda, Citizen  
Participation Specialist

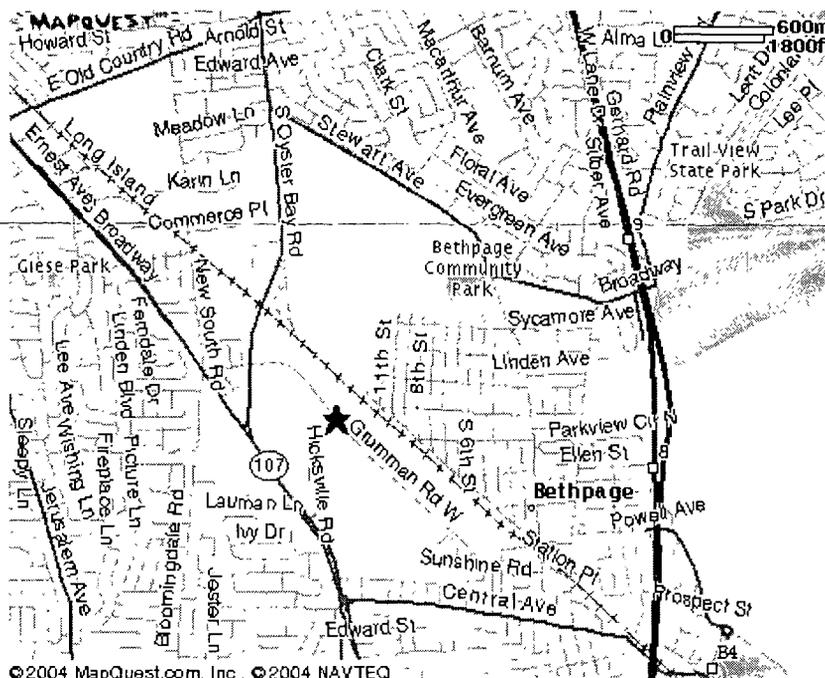
**NYSDEC Central Office**  
625 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> floor  
Albany, NY 12233-7015  
Attn: Steven M. Scharf, P.E.

*For More Information regarding this site please contact the following:*

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**Figure 1: Bethpage Community Park. The Star Indicates The Location of the Bethpage Community Center.**

