UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
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NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

Stan Carey
Superintendent
Massapequa Water District
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Massapequa, NY 11758

Michael J. Boufis
Superintendent
Bethpage Water District
25 Adams Avenue
Bethpage, NY 11714

Dear Messrs. Carey and Boufis:

Thank you for meeting with Catherine McCabe, John La Padula, Doug Garbarini and me on November 25, 2014 to discuss the Northrup Grumman and Naval Industrial Weapons Reserve Plant sites. As promised, I am writing to summarize what I believe was a productive and informative meeting for all parties.

During the meeting we discussed concerns previously raised by your offices regarding the need to address the significant contamination recently identified in the operable unit 2 (OU2) plume. As I explained, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) are in agreement that the remediation of the plume needs to be expedited, and that communication and coordination within the government agencies (NYSDEC, EPA, water districts), and among the agencies and the potentially responsible parties, needs to be enhanced. During our meeting, I identified the following measures that have or will be implemented towards this end:

- In a November 5, 2014 letter, NYSDEC instructed the Navy to submit within 60 days, a work plan for the design and installation of a groundwater collection and treatment system for the OU2 plume.

- In a November 21, 2014 letter, NYSDEC notified Northrup Grumman that the Department expects Northrup Grumman to participate with the Navy in the design and implementation of the OU2 collection and treatment remedy and to enter into an Order on Consent to undertake this work.

- EPA intends to issue an administrative order to Northrup Grumman if Northrup Grumman does not make substantive progress towards entering into an order with NYSDEC within the next several weeks.

- NYSDEC will require the Navy and Northrup Grumman to provide validated sampling data more expeditiously; it is anticipated that raw validated data would be submitted to NYSDEC and shared with other government agencies within 75 days of collection.

- NYSDEC will hold quarterly technical conference calls/meetings of EPA, the Navy, Northrup Grumman, and the water districts. EPA and NYSDEC will try to set up an initial meeting with the water districts this month.

We also discussed the significant technical challenges to be encountered during the implementation of the OU2 remedy, which is expected to require several extraction wells and significant water withdrawals. Your offer of assistance in identifying locations for extraction wells (including the potential use of BWD Plant 6 wells), as well as alternatives for managing the extracted and treated water is appreciated. Addressing these challenges successfully will require input from all stakeholders. Your perspective and understanding of the concerns and interests of the citizenry within your water districts can greatly benefit the project.

Please contact me at (212) 637-5030 if you have any questions. I look forward to meeting with you later this month and the prospect of improved stakeholder communication moving forward.

Sincerely,

George Pavlou
Deputy Regional Administrator

cc: R. Schick, NYSDEC
M. Ryan, NYSDEC
J. Harrington, NYSDEC
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