Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant-Northrop Grumman Groundwater Contaminant Plume

Bethpage, New York

Questions & Answers

May 28 2019

1. What is the status of recent remedial activities at the Northrop Grumman Bethpage Facility and the U.S. Navy NWIRP Site?

   Northrop Grumman Activities

   a. Northrop Grumman continues to operate the on-site groundwater containment system (ONCT). This system prevents off-site migration of site contaminants by withdrawing 5.5 million gallons of contaminated water per day from five groundwater extraction wells. Operation of this system has produced an area of clean water downgradient of the ONCT system and the system has removed nearly 200,000 pounds of VOC contamination from the aquifer since operation began in 1998.
   b. Northrop Grumman continues to operate Bethpage Community Park on-site groundwater containment system (BCP ONCT). This system prevents off-site migration of site contaminants by withdrawing 0.3 million gallons of contaminated water per day from four groundwater extraction wells. Operation of this system has produced an area of clean water downgradient of the BCP ONCT system and the system has removed nearly 2,200 pounds of VOC contamination from the aquifer since operation began in 2009.
   c. NYSDEC and the Town of Oyster Bay have tentatively approved Northrop Grumman's plan to construct a pipeline to convey groundwater from three previously constructed off-property wells (RW-20, RW-21, and RW-22) to a new treatment facility to be constructed on the Northrop Grumman property. Northrop Grumman is scheduled to discuss this plan with the public at a meeting in the Bethpage Community Center, scheduled for June 13, 2019.
   d. Northrop Grumman continues to drill a series of in-situ thermal remediation wells to address VOC contamination that remains in soil in the area of the Former Grumman Settling Ponds (former ballfield area). The in-situ thermal remedy is anticipated to begin by Summer 2019. Upon completion of VOC removal, Northrop Grumman will initiate remediation of PCB contaminated soils in this area.

   U.S. Navy Activities

   e. The U.S. Navy continues to operate an off-site groundwater containment system in the GM-38 Area. The system relies on two groundwater extraction wells, an air stripping treatment plant, and the return of treated water to the aquifer system to

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prevent further off-site migration of an area where high concentrations site contaminants exist in groundwater. In total, the system has removed approximately 10,000 pounds of VOC contamination from the aquifer.

f. The Navy has identified a potential location for construction of a treatment plant for the RE-108 groundwater hotspot, and it is taking steps to acquire this parcel of land. The RE-108 Area is an off-site area where high concentrations of site contaminants exist in groundwater. At the request of the NYSDEC and EPA and to allow the Navy to begin addressing the RE-108 Area more rapidly than the original schedule for the full RE-108 groundwater recovery system (operational in 2022/2023), the RE-108 Area was divided into a Phase I and Phase II. The U.S. Navy expects the Phase I RE-108 groundwater extraction and treatment system to be operating later this year.

g. In January 2019, the U.S. Navy submitted a Remedial Action Work Plan for excavation and off-site disposal of PCB contaminated soil from Site 1 (Former Drum Marshalling Area), located on the former Navy property. The RAWP was prepared as per a 2018 Record of Decision issued by the Navy for remediation of on-site (OU-4) contamination. The Navy is under discussion with EPA and NYSDEC regarding the details of its plans, and the schedule for its implementation.

What is the status of NYSDEC's Detailed Engineering Analysis/Feasibility Study?

h. On May 23, NYSDEC published a proposed Amended Record of Decision (AROD) for the Navy Grumman Groundwater Plume. The propose AROD specifies a comprehensive plan to contain and clean up the contaminated plume and to hold the US Navy and Northrop Grumman accountable for its implementation. The following dates pertain to public review:

    1. A public meeting and a public availability session are scheduled for June 10, 2019;
    2. the public comment period ends July 7, 2019.

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