Message

From: McBay, Stephen [Mcbay.Stephen@epa.gov]
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REGION 2 NEWS

Courier Post: State sues over groundwater pollution at two sites in Winslow

WINSLOW - State officials have filed lawsuits seeking damages for groundwater pollution at two sites here. The separate lawsuits demand restitution for the state's remediation costs for contamination at industrial sites along Route 73 and a property that held dry-cleaning shops on Sicklerville Road.

Hartford Courant: Congress repeals controversial plan to sell Plum Island, wildlife oasis in Long Island Sound

Conservationists have won the more than decade-long fight to stop the federal government's sale of Plum Island, the Long Island Sound home of a government research facility that also has become a pristine wildlife haven.

Indian Country Today: Congress OKs extension of Great Lakes cleanup

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — A program that has pumped $2.7 billion into healing long-term injuries to the Great Lakes environment has received authorization from Congress to continue another five years.

News 12 Long Island: Cuomo announces agreement for US Navy, Northrop Grumman to address LI plume

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday announced a $406 million agreement in principle for the U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman to take steps to address the plume of contamination in Bethpage and surrounding areas. Under the agreement, Cuomo's office says the U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman will begin construction of a "network of extraction wells to hydraulically contain and remediate the contaminated plume."

Newsday: Bethpage resident on plume cleanup: '40 years too late,' but 'definitely good news'

Water districts, environmentalists, elected officials and residents hailed the agreements between the state and U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman as a significant — but long overdue — victory for Bethpage and the neighboring communities that have battled pollution for decades.

Politico: New York, New Jersey absent from regional transportation emissions deal, for now

ALBANY — Only three states and the District of Columbia have signed a regional cap-and-trade plan for emissions from car and truck fuels, a blow to a policy advocates who hoped it would spur investments in electrification and mass transit.

The Daily Star (AP): NY reaches deal on cleanup at Long Island aerospace site

New York has reached an agreement with defense contractor Northrop Grumman and the U.S. Navy on a $406 million plan to clean up a massive plume of underground contamination left from Long Island's heyday as a hub of aerospace manufacturing, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Monday.

NATIONAL

Administration

Ballotpedia News: Biden announces picks for heads of Interior, Energy, and EPA

Successful Farming: BIDEN'S EPA NOMINEE NAVIGATED DIVERSE INTERESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Chemicals

Beyond Pesticides: Stop EPA from Limiting State Pesticide Restrictions as Corporate Deception on Hazards Reported

JD Supra: EPA Announces New Policy for Registrants Voluntarily to Disclose Inert Ingredients in Antimicrobial Products

Emissions

Scientific American: Large Methane Leaks Reveal Long-Standing Shortfalls in Oversight

Water

M Live: Congress approves major boost in Great Lakes funding

EHS Daily Advisor: After Court Decision, EPA Releases Draft Guidance on Groundwater Discharge Permitting

Courier Post
https://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/2020/12/21/winslow-dep-pollution-wells-winslow-dry-cleaners-lightman-sar/3987996001/

State sues over groundwater pollution at two sites in Winslow

Jim Walsh

December 21, 2020

WINSLOW - State officials have filed lawsuits seeking damages for groundwater pollution at two sites here.

The separate lawsuits demand restitution for the state's remediation costs for contamination at industrial sites along Route 73 and a property that held dry-cleaning shops on Sicklerville Road.

Both suits say pollution from former businesses tainted wells used by nearby residents and a church, and in some cases intruded into neighbors' homes as vapors.

The suits were among seven filed across the state Friday on behalf of New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection. One of the complaints also seeks to recover the state's expenses at a gas station site in Salem County.

"The initiative sends the message that those who are legally responsible for remedying environmental contamination will be held financially accountable," the Attorney General's Office said in a statement.

It noted chemicals cited in the lawsuits "have been linked to significant health problems," particularly for the elderly, young children and pregnant women.

One suit says contamination from businesses along a strip of Route 73 affected residential wells on and around Stephen Drive and Linda Lane in Winslow's Cedar Brook area.

Some of the pollution came from a 15-acre Superfund site that formerly held Lightman Drum Co., a waste-hauling and drug-reclamation firm on Route 73.

"Beginning in at least 1974, Lightman Drum regularly dumped wastes into an unlined pit" at the site, the complaint says.

Another firm in the Route 73 area, SAR Industrial Finishing, used solvents "since at least 1980" to clean and degrease machinery, says the suit.

It also cites contamination from a home construction business run in the 1960s at the Cedarbrook Plaza strip mall by the late Joseph Iuliucci, according to the Attorney General's Office.

It says excessive levels of chlorinated solvents known as PCE and TCE, as well as other hazardous substances, were found in groundwater in the Cedar Brook area in 1999.

Nearby residents also were endangered "by the potential for inhaling PCE and TCE molecules that had … turned into gas and intruded into their homes," the lawsuit says.

It adds the the DEP spent "significant public money" to connect affected households to the public water supply.

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The second suit centers on a shop used by multiple dry cleaners on Sicklerville Road between Andrews and Grimes roads.

Defendants in the suit include Donte's Dry Cleaning, Minuteman Cleaners and Hegamin's Cleaners, who operated at the site between 1986 and 2004.
The DEP said groundwater pollution, first detected in the area in 2001, remains above acceptable levels.
The contamination spread to wells used by a neighboring home and the Christ Care Unit Missionary Baptist Church, says the suit.
It says the DEP paid to install systems to prevent solvents and other contaminants from entering wells on the nearby properties, including one that serves a day-care center at the church.
Both suits concerning the Winslow sites were filed in Superior Court in Camden County.
Attorneys for the defendants could not be identified.
A suit filed in state court in Salem County seeks restitution for clean-up costs at a now-defunct service station, Pole Tavern Amoco, on Route 40 in Upper Pittsgrove.
The service station was operated for decades under a string of owners, the complaint says. It contends pollution from that property also tainted wells used by nearby residents.
Jim Walsh is a free-range reporter who's been roaming around South Jersey for decades. His interests include crime, the courts, economic development and being first with breaking news. Reach him at jwalsh@gannettnj.com or look for him in traffic.

Hartford Courant
https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-plum-island-conservation-bill-20201222-mvxnv2cod5etbjhpl4bkt7p3ty-story.html

Congress repeals controversial plan to sell Plum Island, wildlife oasis in Long Island Sound

ZACH MURDOCK

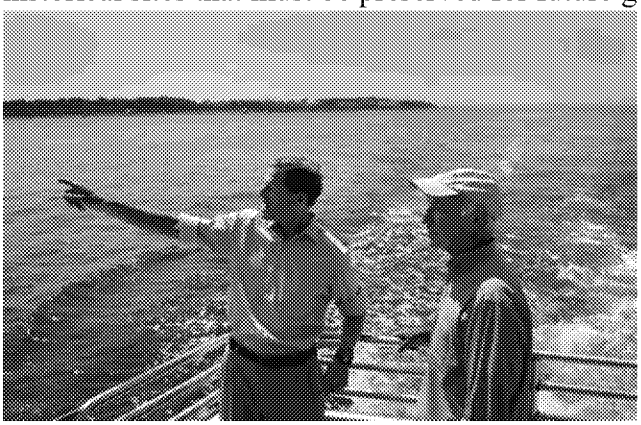
December 21, 2020

Conservationists have won the more than decade-long fight to stop the federal government's sale of Plum Island, the Long Island Sound home of a government research facility that also has become a pristine wildlife haven.

The measure ending the controversial plan to sell the island to the highest bidder was among the many items stuffed into the new massive Congressional omnibus spending bill, which also includes the latest COVID-19 financial relief, that lawmakers expected to approve Monday night.

Now conservationists and the Connecticut and New York lawmakers, who have fought since 2008 to prevent the sale and development of the island off the eastern edge of Long Island, can "finally and fully celebrate" its future preservation, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal said Monday.

"This exquisite environmental treasure has been spared a headlong rush to sell to the highest bidder," Blumenthal said. "We will continue to fight to preserve this special gem from future development. Plum Island is a unique environmental resource that is home to hundreds of species of wildlife and numerous important historical sites that must be preserved for future generations to enjoy."



Members of Connecticut's congressional delegation, Senator Richard Blumenthal, left, and Rep. Joe Courtney, boarded a boat from The Sound School and took a tour around Plum Island Wednesday afternoon. The 843 acre island of wild beach and dune bluffs off of Long Island is home to a federal animal disease testing research facility but it is now for sale. The facility will be relocated to Kansas and the government is hoping that a private sale will help pay for the new lab. Sen. Blumenthal and Rep. Courtney do not want the island sold to private parties but would like to see it kept as it is as a park and wildlife habitat. In the background are the lab buildings used for animal disease testing. (STEPHEN DUNN / Hartford Courant)

The 840-acre Plum Island, just 10 miles from Connecticut shores, has for decades been home to the Animal Disease Center federal research facility. The center is kept under such high security that little of the island has been touched by development or visitors, inadvertently creating an oasis for the birds, seals, fish and other wildlife that frequent it.

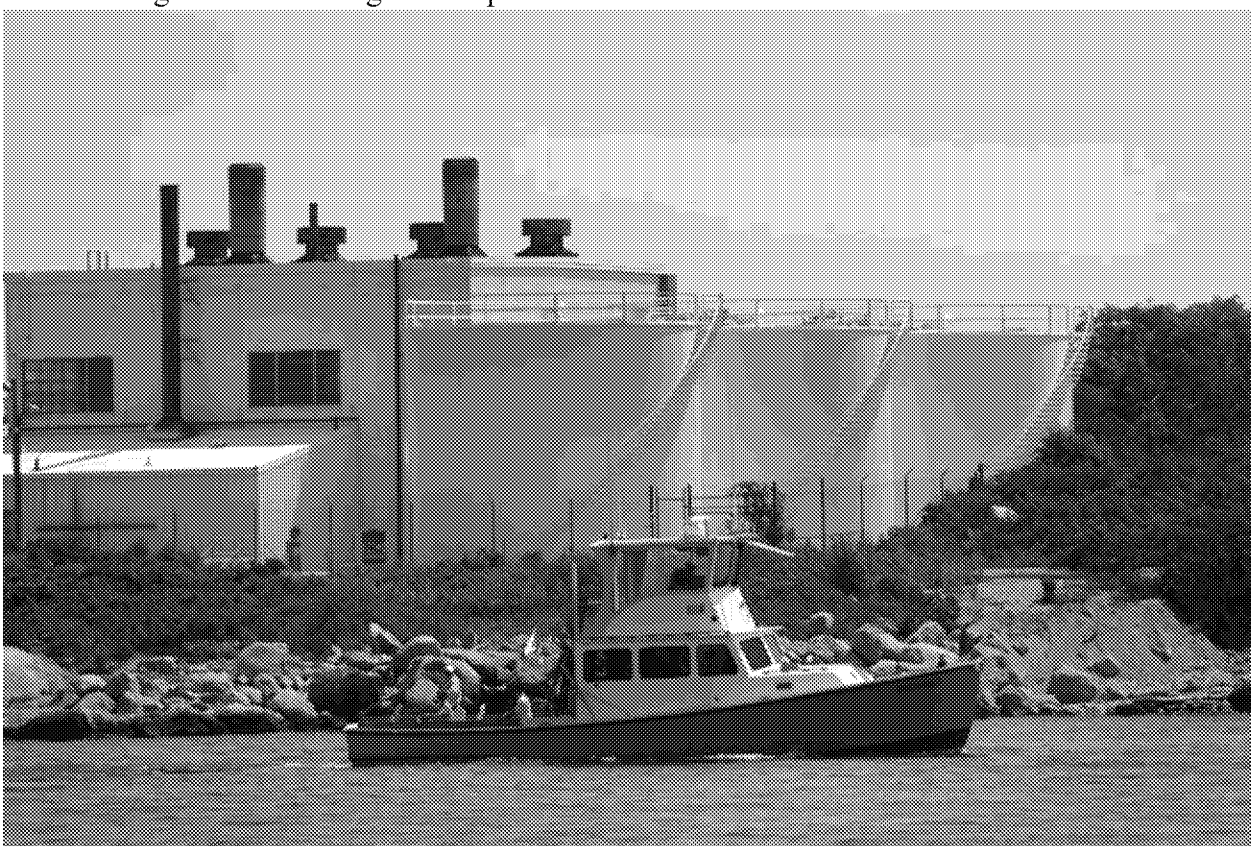
Congress decided in 2008 that the center would move to a new facility Manhattan, Kansas, and ordered the island sold to help pay the $1.25 billion tab, which conservationists feared would lead to the development and likely destruction of the unspoiled habitats there.

"The people of Connecticut have long depended upon Long Island Sound's natural resources – that is why [The Nature] Conservancy works with federal, state and local partners to protect and manage it's critical coastal and marine habitats," said Frogard Ryan, The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut executive director. "I was lucky enough to visit Plum Island to better understand its ecological importance as a haven for migrating seals and shorebirds."

Congress temporarily halts sale of Long Island Sound's Plum Island »

The Nature Conservancy, other environmental groups and lawmakers battled for years to get the government to change course and last year won a one-year halt to any sale. That would have expired at the end of the calendar year, but members of the Connecticut and New York Congressional delegations were able to tack a one-page item repealing the government's plan to sell the island into the final, 5,593 page omnibus spending bill Congress considered Monday night.

"This is a tremendous victory for Plum Island and the people of Connecticut, and it is in large part thanks to the hard work and advocacy of the local groups fighting to protect this ecological treasure," U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro said. "Plum Island is home to a rare natural ecosystem that should never be up for sale to the highest bidder. Congress has an obligation to protect this island and its natural resources."



The current lab facility on Plum Island is surrounded by fences and No trespassing signs. Members of Connecticut's congressional delegation, Senator Richard Blumenthal and Rep. Joe Courtney, boarded a boat from The Sound School and took a tour around Plum Island Wednesday afternoon. The 843 acre island of wild beach and dune bluffs off of Long Island is home to a federal animal disease testing research facility but it is now for sale. The facility will be relocated to Kansas and the government is hoping that a private sale will help pay for the new lab. Sen. Blumenthal and Rep. Courtney do not want the island sold to private parties but would like to see it kept as it is as a park and wildlife habitat. In the background are the lab buildings used for animal disease testing. (STEPHEN DUNN / Hartford Courant)

With the sale of the island no longer on the table, federal agencies are expected to review any possible continued federal uses for the land when the research center moves to its new Kansas facility that is still under construction. If no federal agencies have a suitable plan for the island, ownership could be passed to the state of New York or even to the town of Southold, where officials are on board with plans to preserve its ecosystems.

We're providing the latest coronavirus coverage in Connecticut each weekday morning.
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The Conservancy and lawmakers plan to work with the incoming members of President-elect Joe Biden's administration to conduct those reviews and determine next steps for Plum Island's future, though the ongoing pandemic and presidential transitions leave all involved without a firm time table, said Holly Drinkuth, Conservancy director of outreach and watershed projects.

"There's so much work left to do, but it's just so great to finally clear the pathway to finally do that work," Drinkuth said. "This is just an amazing opportunity."

Zach Murdock can be reached at zmurdock@courant.com.

Indian Country Today
https://indiancountrytoday.com/outside/congress-oks-extension-of-great-lakes-cleanup-soSewJ12vkudyh71zkrslA

Congress OKs extension of Great Lakes cleanup

John Flesher

December 21, 2020

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — A program that has pumped $2.7 billion into healing long-term injuries to the Great Lakes environment has received authorization from Congress to continue another five years.

The U.S. Senate voted unanimously Sunday to extend the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, as the House did earlier this year. The bill, which requires President Donald Trump's signature to take effect, calls for gradually boosting the program's annual funding from $300 million to $475 million by 2026.

The measure doesn't guarantee the money, which lawmakers will need to provide in annual spending bills. But authorizing the program for multiple years is an important step.

"Over the past decade, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been producing results for communities across the region, but serious threats remain," Laura Rubin, director of Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, said Monday. "This bill recognizes the work we have left to do, and allows Congress to boost funding to tackle these threats before they get worse and more expensive to solve."

The program, conceived during the presidency of George W. Bush and given its first significant funding under Barack Obama, has drawn bipartisan backing from elected officials in the eight-state Great Lakes region.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow, a Michigan Democrat and co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, described it as "a major success story that has been critical to addressing the threats that face our beloved Great Lakes."

It has supported nearly 5,500 projects targeting some of the most longstanding ecological problems plaguing the lakes: toxic industrial pollution in harbors and tributary rivers; invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels; harmful algae caused by farm runoff and sewage overflows; and loss of wetlands and other wildlife habitat.

Another priority has been developing technologies and monitoring waterways to prevent invasive Asian carp, a threat to native fish species, from becoming established in the lakes.

The projects have taken place in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Many have drawn matching funds from local governments, tribes and nonprofit groups.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees the program, has pledged more reporting on how well it's meeting long-term goals. EPA also is encouraging projects that can withstand stresses such as climate and ecological change, as well as population growth.

The program's renewal offers opportunities for a stepped-up focus on communities of color and low-income areas, which the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden is pledging to make a priority, said Jordan Lubetkin, spokesman for Healing Our Waters coalition.

"The country's having a conversation around race relations and equity issues," he said. "In the environmental space, we can talk about how to do our part."

News 12 Long Island

https://longisland.news12.com/cuomo-announces-agreement-for-us-navy-northrop-grumman-to-address-li-plume

Cuomo announces agreement for US Navy, Northrop Grumman to address LI plume

December 21, 2020

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday announced a $406 million agreement in principle for the U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman to take steps to address the plume of contamination in Bethpage and surrounding areas.

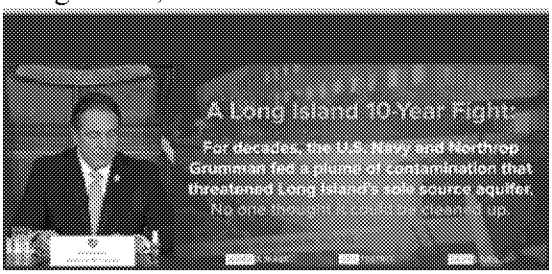
Under the agreement, Cuomo's office says the U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman will begin construction of a "network of extraction wells to hydraulically contain and remediate the contaminated plume."

Additionally, Northrop Grumman will pay a $104.4 million settlement to "advance cleanup, water supply and aquifer protection projects," Cuomo said. It marks the largest natural resource damages settlement in state history, the governor said.

The agreement is being finalized by legal teams representing New York state, the Navy and Northrop Grumman, according to the governor's office.

"For decades, one of the most critical and intractable problems for Long Island was the toxic contamination caused by the Grumman and Navy sites. With this settlement — the largest of its kind in state history — we're making the polluters pay and remedy the environmental degradation they caused," Gov. Cuomo said in a statement. "The problem was talked about for years, and many were convinced a resolution would never come, but in New York we don't back down in the fight against industrial pollution."

Cuomo said at Monday's COVID-19 news briefing that the plume was a personal issue for him for many years, back to his days as attorney general. "It was a long fight, but it will protect the drinking water for the people on Long Island," he said.



Rep. Tom Suozzi said in a statement, "This agreement with Northrop Grumman and the recent agreement with the Navy are dramatic steps forward in this 40-year nightmare. I commend the governor, the DEC, Newsday, the environmental groups and the other elected officials who have joined forces to push this plan forward. My highest praise is reserved, however, for the Bethpage Water District, who has unfairly shouldered this burden for far too long but has never failed in its mission of delivering clean water to the community it serves. I will continue to push for a requirement that Northrop Grumman pay the Bethpage Water District to acquire Plant 4 which will facilitate the cleanup and provide the water district with needed financial relief."

Officials say installment of the containment wells could begin as soon as January.

Newsday
https://www.newsday.com/long-island/environment/reaction-from-bethpage-residents-on-plume-1.50099732

Bethpage resident on plume cleanup: '40 years too late,' but 'definitely good news'

David M. Schwartz and Paul LaRocco

December 21, 2020

Water districts, environmentalists, elected officials and residents hailed the agreements between the state and U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman as a significant — but long overdue — victory for Bethpage and the neighboring communities that have battled pollution for decades.

It's the first time that regulators and polluters all have agreed to stop the Grumman groundwater contamination plume's foot-per-day spread and institute a full cleanup.

"It's probably 40 years too late," said Jeanne O'Connor, a fourth-generation Bethpage resident and activist for a stronger cleanup, whose mother and grandfather held jobs at Grumman. "But it's definitely good news."

Richard Humann, president and CEO of H2M architects + engineers of Melville, the Bethpage Water District's longtime environmental consultant, called the deal, which also includes $104 million in environmental damages to be paid by Northrop Grumman, "monumental."

The Plume: Decades of Deceit

"It's a once-and-for-all moment," he said. "This should be the start of a 100-percent commitment on behalf of Grumman and the federal government to completely address the plume."

For Massapequa, whose drinking water supply lies in the plume's path, proposed containment wells along the Southern State Parkway would match what the district long has been advocating.

"We have for the first time all agencies on the same page," said Stan Carey, superintendent of the Massapequa Water District.

Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-Glen Cove) called the agreements "dramatic steps forward in this 40-year nightmare," thanking Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, state environmental officials, environmentalists, as well as Newsday, which published an investigation earlier this year, The Grumman Plume: Decades of Deceit, detailing the history of deceptive statements, missteps and minimization that slowed cleanup.

Suozzi, however, highlighted the fight from Bethpage Water District, which he said "has unfairly shouldered this burden for far too long."

RECOMMENDED READING
A history of the Grumman plume in four parts

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), who advocated for more than a decade for a more aggressive cleanup — once bringing top Navy brass to Bethpage — called the announcement Monday "a very welcome course correction."

"This is a big, big deal," said Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino, who as a state assemblyman sponsored a bill that first called for the Department of Environmental Conservation to study a full plume containment strategy. "People have been waiting, and some didn't believe a cleanup would ever come. It really speaks volumes of never giving up."

Environmental advocates also praised the news.

"Long Islanders' only source of drinking water is groundwater. This is long overdue and welcomed news. Health must be protected, and the polluters should pay for the cleanup," said Judith Enck, former Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator and president of Beyond Plastics.

RECOMMENDED READING
Grumman knew its toxic chemicals were polluting groundwater. It kept the facts secret.

She noted that when Newsday published its investigation in February, "I think it got the attention of many key players."

For others, the sense of victory was dampened by how long it has taken to get there.

Anthony Sabino, the Bethpage Water District's former counsel, was one of the first people to call for a full plume containment, 30 years ago. He also called for the state to sue Northrop Grumman for environmental damages about 20 years ago.

"At that time, it may have done some good," he said, expressing regret over how long it took to get to today and pessimism that the plume can still be fully contained. "In any event, it's a good thing for water suppliers."

Sabino, however, reiterated the years of state regulatory failures that only ended within the last six years: "One expects guilty parties to try to minimize their liability. One doesn't expect the state government to help them. That's exactly what happened here."

Politico

https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2020/12/21/new-york-new-jersey-absent-from-regional-transportation-emissions-deal-for-now-1349362

New York, New Jersey absent from regional transportation emissions deal, for now

MARIE J. FRENCH and SAMANTHA MALDONADO

December 21, 2020

ALBANY — Only three states and the District of Columbia have signed a regional cap-and-trade plan for emissions from car and truck fuels, a blow to a policy advocates who hoped it would spur investments in electrification and mass transit.

The Transportation and Climate Initiative has been developing a framework to limit emissions from gas and diesel sold in 11 Northeast and mid-Atlantic states, plus D.C., for years. The governors of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and the mayor of D.C. signed a final memorandum of understanding on Monday agreeing to participate in the program, which would reduce transportation emissions 26 percent by 2032.

Officials from those states expressed confidence that more states would join the program in the future. New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Vermont, which have been engaged in discussions, were expected to sign onto an accompanying statement to continue developing details of the program. North Carolina has also joined the talks — bringing representation from a new region for the first time.

"We expect our numbers to grow significantly," said Kathleen Theoharides, who serves as Energy and Environmental Affairs secretary in Massachusetts. "This is a strong group moving forward in a committed way and we believe the future is bright and if you build it — they will come."

The three states participating represent about 73 percent of total emissions in New England, said Theoharides.

The lack of firm support from other states — including New York, the largest economy in the region — highlights the political challenges of a regional policy as states individually pursue their own emissions reduction goals.

Some advocates in New York expressed disappointment that the state didn't fully embrace the program, but were optimistic about continued engagement. The state's Climate Action Council is continuing deliberations and is expected to develop a plan to achieve net zero by 2050 next year.

"It's too bad that all of the states weren't able to sign now because it's a desperately needed revenue source to fund the transition for transportation," said Anne Reynolds of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York. "My fear is that the Climate Action Council will recommend a suite of great ideas to electrify transportation and improve transit but without TCI there won't be a dedicated revenue stream to pay for it."

Reynolds called the continued engagement by New York and other states a "silver lining."

Doug O'Malley of Environment New Jersey said, "Transportation emissions continue to be the highest source of pollution emissions across the region. We want the TCI to be as strong as possible but it can only truly be with more participation from states like [New Jersey]."

The proposal also faced staunch opposition from environmental justice advocates skeptical of a market-based approach that didn't guarantee aggressive reductions in communities they represent.

"The [environmental justice] community both regionally and nationally have been maintaining for years that TCI does not sufficiently center environmental justice and equity and therefore should not be used to address [greenhouse gas] emissions from the mobile sector," representatives of Newark's Ironbound Community Corporation, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance and Clean Water Action said in a joint statement.

Gas station owners and fuel wholesalers also were unhappy with the proposal. The prospect of raising gas prices led to some governors to be wary of the program, including New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu and Maine Gov. Janet Mills. Those two states did not sign onto the supportive statement to continue discussions.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy highlighted the potential gas price impacts during a press conference on Monday. "We like this conceptually," he said. "The devil's in the details a little bit and I'm conscious of the sticker shock potentially because it would require some amount of payment at the gas pump and [with] the environment that we're in … we've got to be careful about what we're asking folks to bear here."

Supporters see the proposal as a promising policy to tackle emissions from transportation, which have been on the rise.

The agreement includes a requirement for participating states to invest at least 35 percent of proceeds in disadvantaged communities subject to high levels of pollution, an effort to alleviate environmental justice concerns. States also agreed to designate advisory bodies to engage on those investments and assessing programs.

Under the program, fuel wholesalers would have to pay for a declining number of carbon emissions credits, which could be traded, similar to the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative for power plant emissions. The funds raised by auctioning the credits would be divided up by the states to be invested in projects aimed at accelerating a transition to electric vehicles and other transportation modes.

The four jurisdictions estimate annual proceeds from the sale of emissions credits to be about $276 million when it launches fully in 2023, rising to about $366 million annually in 2032 as the cap declines.

The cost of the emissions credits would likely be passed on to consumers at the pump, raising gas prices incrementally. The estimated increase is about 5 cents per gallon if fuel suppliers pass along costs directly.

Final approval of participation in TCI would require regulatory or legislative action by the states.

The Daily Star (AP)

https://www.thedailystar.com/news/state/ny-reaches-deal-on-cle[illegible]t-long-is[illegible]e-site/article_a3f95c1a-b827-5c82-855f-ad457ceafe4c.html

NY reaches deal on cleanup at Long Island aerospace site

December 21, 2020

New York has reached an agreement with defense contractor N[illegible] million plan to clean up a massive plume of underground contami[illegible] hub of aerospace manufacturing, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announce[illegible] Northrop Grumman will pay a $104 million settlement for enviro[illegible]e 3 year containment project and related efforts, including protection [illegible]ad been compromised by pollution from the Bethpage facility. Grum[illegible] th bulk of the work.

Cuomo announced the agreement nearly a year after the state [illegible] over what was then projected to be a $585 million bill for cleaning up the nearly 7-square-mile (18-square-kilometer) swath of pollution from former manufacturing facilities in Nassau County.

Cuomo said the settlement was the largest of its kind in state history. Once finalized by lawyers for the state, Grumman and the Navy, the agreement will be incorporated into a consent degree.

"It was a long fight but it will protect the drinking water for the people on Long Island," Cuomo said at his daily news briefing in Albany.

Grumman said in a statement that the cleanup agreement reaffirms its "long-standing commitment to the ongoing collective efforts for the further protection of the Bethpage community."

A message seeking comment was left with the Navy.

Grumman built warplanes at the Bethpage plant for about six decades, until 1996. It was there that the Apollo Lunar Module used in the moon landings came to life. The Navy had an adjacent, Northrup Grumman-operated facility on the 600-acre (2.5-square-kilometer) site for researching, testing, engineering and assembling military aircraft.

The plume, discovered in the 1970s, contains 24 contaminants, according to the state's Department of Environmental Conservation. They include TCE, which has been found to be carcinogenic, and 1,4-dioxane, which is possibly carcinogenic.

The contamination is about 4 miles (6.5 kilometers) long and more than 2 miles (3 kilometers) wide in some places and has polluted 11 public water supply wells while threatening another 16, according to the DEC. The polluted wells have been treated for TCE and related compounds, allowing continued use for drinking water purposes, the DEC said.

As part of the agreement, the state said, the Navy will construct a network of hydraulic containment wells at the southern edge of the plume along the Southern State Parkway to halt its expansion.

Grumman will design and drill containment wells in other areas of the plume to prevent further spread and provide additional protection to nearby public water supply wells, the state said. Some of the work will begin early next year.

Stephen McBay
Public Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
Public Affairs Office
290 Broadway – 26th Floor
New York, NY 10007
(212) 637-3672
mcbay.stephen@epa.gov