

# New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

## Division of Environmental Remediation

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MAR 22 2013



Joe Martens  
Commissioner

Honorable Anna Throne-Holst ([athrone-holst@southamptontownny.gov](mailto:athrone-holst@southamptontownny.gov))

Town of Southampton

116 Hampton Road

Southampton, New York 11968

Dear Supervisor Throne-Holst:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Speonk Solvent Plume. Commissioner Martens asked me to respond to your letter sent on behalf of the Town of Southampton (Town) raising concerns with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) approach to management of the Speonk Solvent Plume (SSP).

Many of the issues in your letter were also raised at the public meeting held February 27, 2013, at the Suffolk County Community College in Riverhead. What follows are DEC's commitments for action going forward, in response to the issues identified in your letter and at the public meeting:

- **DEC Communications and Community Outreach:** During the public meeting, DEC committed to participating in the plume work group that the Town will establish. In addition, the Town and people at the public meeting identified the need to maintain transparency as we move forward. DEC is committed to keeping the public informed, and I believe that the work group will provide this opportunity by keeping all interested parties informed of current findings and planned next steps, as well as giving the public access to DEC. Robert DeCandia, P.E., of my staff will be the regular Division of Environmental Remediation representative on the work group. Mr. DeCandia has been the project manager for the site characterization.
- **Recent Classification of SSP to an "N" Site:** On the day of the meeting, DEC notified the Town and meeting attendees that the classification of the SSP had been reevaluated and would now be a "C" classification. This classification indicates that work is complete with the exception of continued site management.
- **Current Exposure Pathways and Environmental Impacts:** The site management for the SSP will address this issue through the development of a plume monitoring program, which will include: (1) locating public/private drinking water supply wells with emphasis placed upon supply wells that may be in the path of the contaminated groundwater plume. DEC will coordinate with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services on this assessment of the plume's potential for impacts to domestic supply wells; (2) a well network of existing, and as needed new wells, will be identified to monitor the plume and to identify in advance any potential for impacts to water supplies or soil vapor; and (3) provision to modify the plume monitoring program based on observed plume dynamics and predictive modeling to validate the protection of sensitive receptors, including threats from either soil vapor intrusion or to Moriches Bay.

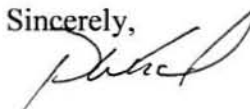
- **Evaluation of Future Exposure Pathways and Environmental Impacts:** See previous bullet.
- **Plume Remediation to Protect Town Residents and Moriches Bay:** Based on the results of the plume monitoring program, the need for additional actions will be evaluated to protect residents and/or Moriches Bay.
- **Assist with Town Policy Issues:** DEC agrees to work with the Town to identify areas where the Town may wish to consider policies for protecting area residents from exposure to VOCs in groundwater.
- **Working Together to Protect Human Health and the Environment:** DEC is always prepared to work with the Town to address any environmental and/or public health problems which may be identified.

It is important to note that to date, all domestic well supplies affected by the contaminated groundwater plume have received public water service. Residences have also been tested to determine if soil vapor intrusion was creating an exposure pathway from the contaminated groundwater plume and none have been identified. However, with the contaminated groundwater plume migrating, we recognize more is needed and are committed to monitoring the plume to ensure that it does not result in any impact in the future.

Mr. Guy Bobersky, P.E., Section Chief, and Mr. DeCandia, will attend a start-up meeting for the work group and look forward to beginning the process so DEC's commitment is followed through in a mutually satisfactory manner. Mr. Bobersky will contact your office the first week of April 2013, to discuss arrangements for this meeting.

DEC looks forward to a successful working relationship addressing the Speonk Solvent Plume, if I can be of further assistance please contact me at 518-402-9706.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Schick, P.E.

Director

Division of Environmental Remediation

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