

Board of Fire Commissioners

HAMPTON BAYS FIRE DISTRICT

P. O. Drawer 800

Hampton Bays, New York 11946

Tel. # (631)728-9191

Fax # (631)728-4949

E-Mail HBFDIST@OPTONLINE.NET

COMMISSIONERS

Robert W. King

Kevin J. Kenny

Kevin Connolly

Christopher Langsdorf

SECRETARY

David G. Van Scoy Sr.

TREASURER

Christine Kenny

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Richard A. Durand

LEGAL COUNSEL

Stanley Orzechowski

DISTRICT MANAGER

Stephen M. Gregory

March 1, 2019

TO OUR FELLOW CITIZENS, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Hampton Bays Fire District want you to know its unending commitment to public safety, health and welfare of every resident of our community, and the entire public it serves so well and selflessly. The recent investigation by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) of the condition of various public and private properties in our community has resulted in an investigation of the Districts property at Department Headquarters at 69 West Montauk Highway in Hampton Bays. This has been a long ongoing process and will continue for some time. The Board has been fully committed from the beginning to participating in the investigation, determining the cause(s) of any contamination of the underground water supplies and remediating any such conditions.

On February 27, 2019 the DEC issued notice that the Districts property has been classified as a Class 2 site under the State's Superfund program based upon results of the first phase of the investigation, an investigation which will now move into a second phase to determine the actual cause(s) of any contamination of the Districts property and to assist in the planning and execution of an effective remediation plan if needed. The Board recognizes the response of the members of the general public will understandably be one of concern for themselves and their families and friends based upon the classification issued at this point.

The DEC has indicated that it often issues such a classification during an ongoing investigation but that it does not mean it will be a final classification, or that any test results or conditions are permanent, or involve the entire property, which they did not, or cannot be treated or remedied. Furthermore, the DEC has been highly supportive and complimentary of the Board, the District and the Department for its transparency, and its cooperation far exceeding what they often experience in dealing with municipalities and governmental agencies. This can be readily verified with Michael Ryan, Chief of the DEC Remediation Division in Albany by contacting the Departments Press Office (Erica Ringwald 518-402-8000) who can assist you in contacting Mr. Ryan.

Many of you are seeking information as to what has taken place thus far, and what the next phase of the investigation, testing and analysis beginning March 11, 2019 will involve. This statement will attempt to provide some detail. However, you are invited and urged to review documents the District and its environmental consultant have prepared with DEC supervision and approval. These documents are on file at the Hampton Bays Library. The documents are the Sub-Surface Investigation Report from

Investigation Phase I, a letter from our counsel regarding Phase I and the Boards unwavering cooperation and commitment to a positive result, the Remedial Investigation Work Plan (Phase II Investigation) approved to begin March 11, 2019 and the Community Participation Plan which provides full detail as to the site and the DEC program in which the District and Department are participating.

As explained in the documents, the process is a multi -phase investigation and it has required among other things, long term planning, plan preparation and approval by DEC, Intensive sampling and testing on-site and off- site to the north, laboratory testing, laboratory result verification, review of the results, planning of remedial work an approval of same and preparation for the next phase. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that this is still an ongoing investigation as to cause and remediation despite the DEC classification which is part of their procedure. The Board and the District, and Department are committed as they have been from the beginning to finding out the cause(s) of any contamination and remediating the situation for the safety and the best interests of the entire community of which they are an integral part.

The Board has been cooperating with the media in their effort to secure information. It has also reviewed the DEC fact sheet and notice of classification, and some of the initial articles. While the Board remains committed to full cooperation, and disclosure permissible or appropriate under DEC requirements and guidelines, it also hopes that the media coverage will be complete and fact based. For example, a recent article suggested that a high reading of PFOS and PFOA contaminants involved the entire property. It did not. Read the documents on file at the library. Some of the findings of concern involved only one of the many on-site test wells sampled and tested. Suggesting otherwise is reckless and falsely suggests or implies wide spread, long term or repetitive contamination. In addition, the recent DEC publications suggest Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) a potential source of PFOA and PFOS contaminants was "identified" on site. Such a statement without more detail might suggest the District/Department did not disclose AFFF in storage on site and that DEC found it. It was disclosed to the DEC from the beginning of the investigation, and DEC will confirm that we disclosed from the beginning that AFFF was securely stored on premises and where it is stored and let DEC examine it . We also disclosed and explained we have it in sealed containers that have not leaked, have never used it for training on our property and explained how, where and why it had been used offsite in emergency responses.

The Board of Fire Commissioners urges the public to trust in its commitment to address and resolve the situation in the best interests, health and safety of the families, friends and community of which we are all a part. We urge you to read the materials publicly disclosed and on file at the Library and to contact us or the DEC with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,
Board of Fire Commissioners
Hampton Bays Fire District