

## **Bethpage School District Statement**

**September 29, 2017**

The Bethpage School District has been conducting extensive environmental testing for the past nine years and each time we receive a report the results are posted to our website for the community and staff to review. Earlier this year, we shared the report, which detected radium in the groundwater at Bethpage High School. These results came from our own test wells, which the district ordered and paid for in an effort to be proactive. Further, as reported in May 2017 we also tested the air quality in Bethpage High School for radon, a byproduct of radium. Those results were below EPA established thresholds. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation informed us that there was no immediate health risk to our students and staff.

Taking further action, the Bethpage Board of Education decided to test for radium and radon at Central Blvd. Elementary School because of its location in the southward direction to which the plume appears to be migrating. Once again, the district paid for independent wells to be installed and retained the services of our environmental consultants, J.C. Broderick & Associates, to conduct groundwater samples. These tests were conducted in conjunction with the NYS DEC. In addition, over the summer the Board authorized the installation of a vapor barrier at Central Blvd. to keep out any potential Volatile Organic Compounds, including the possibility of radon.

The most recent radium tests have been completed, but we do not have any written report as of yet. However, we have verbal reports that radium was detected in the groundwater at levels similar to Bethpage High School. The radon results have been sent to the labs and we are waiting for those results. Nothing is more important than the safety of our students and staff and the results to date have demonstrated we have no immediate health concerns in any of our schools. Once we receive the report, it will be posted to our website.

The Board of Education has been actively engaged with this issue for almost a decade and has authorized testing that far exceeds what is typical of a school district. We will continue our independent environmental monitoring and will work closely with the DEC and the New York State Department of Health.