

**Statement on Environmental Testing**  
**Terrence Clark, Superintendent of Bethpage Schools**

Over the past several years, the Bethpage School District has authorized extensive environmental testing inside and outside of our schools due to our proximity to the Grumman-Navy plume. We have retained an independent environmental firm, J.C. Broderick & Associates, to conduct tests for a wide-range of Volatile Organic Compounds. We are happy to say that the results of all the tests conducted to date show there are no air quality issues in any of our schools.

To further ensure the safety of students and staff, this spring we asked J.C. Broderick to also proactively test groundwater at Bethpage High School for radium. We did so only because radium had been detected in another part of Bethpage by the Bethpage Water District. We recently received the results and shared them at the public Board of Education meeting on May 30. The tests show the groundwater is 60 feet below surface and radium was detected. We immediately arranged a meeting with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and shared our results with them. We further tested for radon at Bethpage High School and results are below acceptable thresholds established by the Environmental Protection Agency (4 picos).

The DEC is currently reviewing the report and the results. They assured us there was no immediate health threat to students and staff. They reminded us that the groundwater is 60 feet below surface and no one is coming into contact with the groundwater. All drinking water in Bethpage comes from the Bethpage Water District which ensures the highest water quality around.

We are waiting for a written response from the DEC which should come any day. Once we receive that response, we will share it with our community.

To be extra cautious, we are currently testing other schools for radon. J.C. Broderick is following all established EPA guidelines and will provide us a written report with their findings. We will share that with the community as well.

The Board of Education has been actively engaged on this issue for several years and has authorized testing that goes far beyond what is typical of a school district. 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.

We will continue our independent environmental monitoring and will work closely with the DEC and the New York State Department of Health.