Northrop Grumman Begins Next Phase of Soil Cleanup at Bethpage Community Park

On August 26, 2020, Northrop Grumman turned on heating equipment to warm the soil beneath the Bethpage Community Park—marking a major milestone toward returning the ballfield to community use.

The technology will warm the soil over a six month period to vaporize the chemicals found deep in the soil. The company’s processing equipment will vacuum the vapor, scrub the chemicals from the vapor, and release the treated air to the atmosphere. This process is a proven, safe and widely-used method across the State of New York that does not present any risk to the community.

Northrop Grumman’s work is being conducted with approval from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). On August 21, Northrop Grumman received approval from the NYSDEC to commence start-up operations. The heating process is expected to take six months, followed by two months for the soil to cool and for retesting to confirm the process is effective (approximately mid-2021).

Soil Cleanup Project Background

From 2014 through 2018, Northrop Grumman collected over 700 soil samples from 84 locations within the Bethpage Community Park to delineate onsite soil conditions. Using a science-based approach, the company selected a technologically-proven, widely-accepted process to remove chemicals found in specific locations deep below the ground surface. The NYSDEC approved Northrop Grumman’s treatment process in April 2018.

In February 2019, Northrop Grumman started installing the system and that work was finished in November 2019. It also collected an additional 193 soil samples in 30 locations in 2019 and refined the area to treat based on that new data. In June 2020, Northrop Grumman submitted its final work plan (design, monitoring plans, and health and safety controls) to NYSDEC and the NYSDOH for regulatory approval.

While the plan was in review, the NYSDEC permitted Northrop Grumman to continue additional construction activities and the Town of Oyster Bay continued to provide it with access to the park. Northrop Grumman installed the remaining process piping, heaters, electrical connections and treatment equipment to support start-up and operation of the treatment system. It completed the installation in early August.

Northrop Grumman continues to work closely with the NYSDEC, NYSDOH, U.S. Navy and other federal, state, and local government regulatory authorities, to address environmental conditions in the area. It remains committed to pursuing scientifically sound, targeted and effective remedial approaches that protect the health and well-being of the community and avoid unnecessary disruption. For project information, visit www.northropgrumman.com/bethpage.