



PLAINVIEW WATER DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

Holding Polluters Accountable for Their Actions

Plainview Water District Pursuing Litigation Against Polluters and Manufacturers of 1,4-Dioxane

Plainview, N.Y. (January 2019)—The Plainview Water District (PWD) would like to inform its residents that it is pursuing litigation against manufacturers of 1,4-dioxane and those polluters responsible for its presence in the community's groundwater. This is another significant step taken by the District to protect Plainview-Old Bethpage residents from the man-made compound and ensure the health and safety of the community's water supply.

“The basis for the legal action being taken by the Plainview Water District is simple. The residents of Plainview-Old Bethpage are not responsible for the presence of 1,4-dioxane in our groundwater, and this lawsuit seeks to hold responsible parties accountable for their actions,” said PWD Chairman Marc Laykind. “It is going to take significant capital and commitment over time to treat for 1,4-dioxane. This is why we are prioritizing these actions to help ensure our community is made whole from the mess left behind by the polluters.”

Prior to considering and planning for legal action, the Plainview Water District was already on the forefront and working to be one of the first water district's to test treatment options for 1,4-dioxane. PWD has been leading a charge to pilot technology that can treat for this chemical—despite the fact that it is not currently regulated and has no determined Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

“We were not comfortable waiting for an MCL to be developed; we're taking the necessary actions to ensure the continued health of our water supply,” said PWD Commissioner Amanda Field. “Treatment for this specific chemical is costly and that has led us down several paths to find funding sources to help pay for future treatment systems.”

In the fall of 2018, the Plainview Water District was awarded a \$369,000 grant (in conjunction with the Greenlawn Water District) from the Center for Clean Water Technology at Stony Brook University to pilot treatment systems to remove 1,4-dioxane from the groundwater supply. Through this pilot program, the district will test an emerging and promising technology called

Advanced Oxidation Processes (AOP), which efficiently oxidizes (destroys) 1,4-dioxane molecules.

“We are proud to be one of the first water districts on Long Island to be piloting this technology not only for our individual community, but for the region overall, said PWD Commissioner Andrew Bader. “We are grateful for this opportunity to chart a new frontier in water technology that will play a major role in the future of treatment on Long Island.”

In 2017, Governor Cuomo established the Drinking Water Quality Council—a panel of experts charged with recommending an MCL for emerging contaminants such as 1,4-dioxane. In December 2018, the Council recommended to the New York State Health Department an MCL of 1 part per billion (ppb) for 1,4-dioxane.

Groundwater vs drinking water

- Groundwater is the raw, untreated resource that exists naturally within Long Island's aquifer.
- Drinking water is the finished, treated to all federal, state and local regulations product that is delivered to our customers' homes.

If you have questions about preparing your home's water system for the winter or general inquiries about your water service, please call 516-931-6469 or send an email to info@plainviewwater.org. Customers of the Plainview Water District are also encouraged to sign up to receive updates by visiting www.plainviewwater.org. Follow the Plainview Water District on Facebook at www.facebook.com/plainviewwater.