



PLAINVIEW WATER DISTRICT

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Update on 1,4-Dioxane from the Plainview Water District

1,4-dioxane is a synthetic chemical historically used as a stabilizer for industrial solvents, predominantly 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA). Although use of TCA was phased out under the 1995 Montreal Protocol and using 1,4-dioxane as a solvent stabilizer has since stopped, 1,4-dioxane is long-lasting in the environment and is present in groundwater as a legacy of industrial manufacturing. It is also present in trace amounts in certain consumer products such as detergents, shampoos, and cosmetics as a byproduct of the manufacturing process. The compound has been detected in 70 percent of Long Island's drinking water wells and is found in water systems throughout the country. There is currently no Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for 1,4-dioxane, but New York State is expected to adopt recommendations of one part per billion (ppb) as recommended by the state's Drinking Water Quality Council.

The Plainview Water District believes strongly that our water should be of the highest quality and free from any possible harmful contaminants. We are proud to be one of few water districts actively involved in a pilot study testing the effectiveness of the advanced oxidation process (AOP) for destroying 1,4-dioxane from Long Island's groundwater. While there is currently no approved treatment system for the removal of 1,4-dioxane, the Plainview Water District is confident that its pilot program will aide in supplying the information needed to help establish an approved and effective treatment method. The most recent sampling data of the District's water quality shows the wells impacted by 1,4-dioxane range in detection from 0.2 to 5.8 ppb.

On March 7, 2019, we filed a formal complaint against chemical manufacturers Dow Chemical Co., Ferro Corp., and Vulcan Materials Co., in federal court. The companies responsible for the contamination, not Plainview Water District ratepayers, should have to pay the millions of dollars it will cost to treat 1,4-dioxane in area groundwater. Our lawsuit alleges that these manufacturers wrongfully promoted and marketed their products, failing to warn people of the potential associated risks—even instructing commercial users to dispose of wastes containing 1,4-dioxane in a way that makes contamination of groundwater more likely.

We are grateful to New York State for making millions of dollars available to water providers to combat emerging contaminants—including the \$3 million the District has received for advanced treatment facilities—but this amount only scratches the surface. To treat 1,4-dioxane throughout the Plainview Water District, it is estimated that the capital costs for design, planning, construction and execution of the needed treatment systems would be significantly more. This would without question place an unfair burden on Plainview-Old Bethpage residents, and that is why we are taking steps to

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hold manufacturers of 1,4-dioxane financially responsible for the damage they have knowingly caused.

Our commitment to public health is unwavering and we stand ready to do what is needed to achieve this goal. We are preparing our District for compliance to ensure high-quality water continues to flow to our residents. Should any resident have questions, we encourage them to reach out to us at 516-931-6469 or by email at info@plainviewwater.org.