

Supervisor Romaine Calls for DEC to Require Complete Removal of Contaminated Soil and Materials from LIRR Site in Yaphank

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Photo 1: Pictured left to right are Joan Fasullo from the Sierra Club L.I., East Yaphank Civic Association President Mike Jiacomaro, Citizens Campaign for the Environment Executive Director Adrienne Esposito, the Town's Chief Environmental Analyst Anthony Graves, Former President of the South Yaphank Civic Association Johan McConnell, John Cascione and John McConnell. and Supervisor Ed Romaine.



Photo 2: Pictured left to right are John McConnell, Former President of the South Yaphank Civic Association Johan McConnell, East Yaphank Civic Association President Mike Jiacomaro, Joan Fasullo from the Sierra Club L.I. and Supervisor Ed Romaine.

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Ed Romaine was joined by environmental, civic and community leaders at a press conference in Yaphank calling for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to require that the contaminated soil and materials be completely removed from an unused Long Island Railroad yard in Yaphank. The yard, which is only 500 feet east of the Carmans River, has been found to contain extremely high surface levels of 29 contaminants including arsenic, lead, copper and zinc.

In a recent letter to the DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation (see attached), Supervisor Romaine called the Metropolitan Transit Authority's plan to clean up and cap the site "completely unacceptable" in light of sample testing that has shown contaminated material to be at least 25 feet thick. The testing also indicates that the highest levels of toxins are at the western end of the site, nearest to the Carmans River. These toxins pose a severe threat to the surface water, groundwater and sensitive fish and wildlife habitat in the Carmans River Watershed.

Supervisor Romaine said, "The community has made it perfectly clear that they want these toxic materials removed and I firmly support their position. Every day that this site remains as it is, more contaminants seep into the Carmans River Watershed and into our drinking water. I ask the DEC and MTA to do what is best for the residents and the environment and clean it up now. I will continue to work with both agencies and the community to assure that a decision is made soon and the proper action is taken."

Although there is no record of the disposal operation at the site, the MTA's Remedial Action Work Plan, issued in December of 2012, states that it "was possibly used as a general disposal area for railroad-related materials generated from railroad track maintenance activities, as well as from electric and diesel train repair shops, from the 1950's to the early 1970's." It continues, "However, based on borings and test pits completed during the investigation phase, varying amounts of anthropogenic materials including: glass, brick, concrete, coal, ash and wood were encountered in the underlying fill material." The report also mentions that tests uncovered a "slag-like material of unknown origin" which is "most prevalent in the westernmost portion" of the property.

Since the early 1990s, several investigations have been conducted at the LIRR site, including soil and groundwater sampling programs. The LIRR completed an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) of the wooded area to the south of the Western Lowland Area, along the east side of River Road in the spring of 2007 in order to remove all significantly impacted soil. Interim Remedial Measures activities were conducted at the property and the adjoining residential

property between July and November 2007.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258