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Seeking accountability from the Town of East Hampton

This action demands transparency from the Town of East Hampton regarding discharges of hazardous waste and contaminants in our drinking-water supply. Based on past behavior by the Town, this is of great concern to the residents of East Hampton and particularly those living in Wainscott.

New York State DEC sent notice to the Town of East Hampton on June 14, 2016, informing it of its legal obligation to report within 30 days any past use at its airport of a common class of firefighting foam. The Town was informed that the class of firefighting foam was a known source of contamination that in New York State is classified as hazardous waste. The Town of East Hampton then concealed from NYS DEC and Suffolk County for two years this information on contamination caused by discharges of hazardous waste on property owned by the Town. This resulted, among other things, to East Hampton residents being exposed to various toxic chemicals in their drinking water.

Why were citizens exposed to contaminated water?

While available, the Town did not reveal this information to NYS DEC as required by law and did not warn the affected public. By submitting incomplete, incorrect and delayed information to NYS DEC, the Town continued to expose hundreds of its residents to adverse health effects the EPA has linked to cancer, liver damage, antibody production, immunity and more.¹

What actually took place?

- In June 2016, NYS DEC mandated the Town complete and return within 30 days a PFOS/PFOA Facility Identification Survey.²
- The Town took nine months to complete the eleven-question survey and ignored a NYS DEC mandatory deadline for eight months.³
- The Town finally submitted on March 23, 2018 a survey that contained false and misleading information on the use of Class B fire suppression foam at East Hampton Airport that was a known source of harmful PFOS/PFOA contamination.
- In completing the survey, the Town confirmed (falsely) that Class B fire suppression foam had never been used for training purposes at its airport. This was not true. One of many examples was a mass casualty and fire training drill in June 2008 as reported in the East Hampton Press.⁴ Airport Director James Brundige, who certified that the PFOS/PFOA Facility Identification Survey was “true, accurate, and complete” was managing the airport at the time of the training exercises. Further, the Town claimed to have known only that such foam had been stored safely contained and sealed in three fifty-five-gallon drums. Again, this is not true. Class B fire suppression foam had been used to extinguish multiple fires as a result of plane crashes, a car accident and a fuel-truck engine fire.
- In November 2017, a month after Suffolk County found dangerous levels of hazardous waste in residents’ private drinking-water wells,⁵ SCDHS Deputy Commissioner Capobianco wanted to “schedule an appointment to sample the wells” at East Hampton Airport and requested “contact information for facilities served with on-site wells.” In response, the Supervisor’s office for the Town of East Hampton did not provide SCDHS any information on the nine on-site wells located on its property at East Hampton Airport.⁶ Instead, the Town provided a list of three properties of which two are vacant lots with no on-site wells and the other property the Town was selling.

Is this happening...AGAIN?

- Proposed construction (Deepwater Wind) in this same area will disrupt soil and disturb chemicals present in the soil.
- Deepwater Wind plans to construct its high-voltage infrastructure through a highly contaminated local neighborhood for two miles and excavate approximately 14,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil that can be carried on the wind into residents’ homes.⁷
- Wainscott residents could be exposed for a second time to the same harmful chemicals.
- The Town has broken its promise and granted Deepwater Wind rights to drill on Beach Lane during summer and has granted Deepwater Wind rights to dig over 100 archeological shovel test pits along residential roads all to benefit Deepwater Wind progress its application, but it has not granted similar protections to residents and required Deepwater Wind to test soil and groundwater along its proposed construction site.
- Local taxpayers could be saddled with a one-hundred-million-dollar bill for remediating a contaminated site that the Town of East Hampton and Deepwater Wind are ignoring.⁸

**We demand a thorough examination of the potential risks
and a transparent report to the public
about Wainscott water purity and disruption planned
by the Deepwater Wind project
by the Town of East Hampton government.**

Report No. 3 by Si Kinsella: PFAS Contamination, Cover-up and Obstruction by Town of East Hampton (including links to all exhibits and appendices) is available from www.Wainscott.Life. This advertisement is to raise awareness of the issues as expressed in this report and is subject to the disclaimer in the report.

1 USEPA Fact Sheet on PFOA & PFOS, November 2016 (www.Wainscott.Life - Exhibit 10)
2 Jun 14, 2016 - NYSDEC Cover Letter, Request for Info - HTO (www.Wainscott.Life - Exhibit 04)
3 Jun 14, 2016 - PFOS/PFOA Facility Identification Survey (www.Wainscott.Life - Exhibit 12)
4 Mar 23, 2017 - PFOS/PFOA Facility Identification Survey certified by Airport Director Brundige on March 2, 2017, but not returned until March 23, 2017 (www.Wainscott.Life - Exhibit 11)
5 The East Hampton Press, “Emergency services practice for mass casualty events” by Aline Reynolds, June 2, 2008
6 Oct 11, 2017, SCDHS - Water Quality Advisory - PFAS Contamination (www.Wainscott.Life - Exhibit 30)

7 Nov 27, 2017, email chain between SCDHS Deputy Commissioner Capobianco and then Town Supervisor (www.Wainscott.Life - Exhibit 31)
8 Nov 30, 2018, NYSDEC Site Characterization Report, East Hampton Airport by AECOM USA (www.Wainscott.Life - Appendix D)
9 AFR - PFAS Contamination - West Gate Tunnel (Feb 5, 2020) (www.Wainscott.Life - Exhibit 54)
10 AFR - West Gate Tunnel dispute veers towards ‘full-flung fight’ (Jun 19, 2020) (www.Wainscott.Life - Exhibit 58)