



**CITY OF HOUSTON - CITY COUNCIL**

Meeting Date:

District A

Item Creation Date: 7/3/2019

HPW - 20UPA385 Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation

Agenda Item#:


**Background:**

In 2003, the Texas Legislature authorized the creation of Municipal Setting Designations (MSD), which designate an area in which the use of contaminated groundwater is prohibited for use as potable water. The law is administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and requires local City support to designate an MSD. The intent of the legislation is to encourage redevelopment of vacant or abandoned properties while protecting public health. On August 22, 2007, City Council approved an ordinance amending Chapter 47 of the Code of Ordinances by adding Article XIII relating to groundwater, which provides a process to support or not support an MSD application to the State (ordinance amended 7/14/2010).

**Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation Application:** Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation is seeking a Municipal Setting Designation (MSD) for 40.442 acres of land located at 8760 Clay Road, Houston, TX 77080. The contamination consists of benzene, tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, cis-1,2-dichloroethylene, 1,1-dichloroethylene, 1,2-dichloroethane, vinyl chloride, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium and hexavalent chromium. The site has been used to manufacture oil field equipment and mining tools since 1958 until operations ceased in 1999. The site was redeveloped in 2008 and is currently used for warehouse operations. A licensed Professional Engineer has certified that the area of contamination has been thoroughly investigated, is fully delineated and is stable.

Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation is seeking an MSD for this property to restrict access to groundwater to protect the public against possible exposure to the contaminants. There is a public drinking water supply system that meets state requirements that supplies or is capable of supplying drinking water to the MSD property and all properties within one-half mile of the MSD property. A public meeting was held on April 16, 2019 at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, and a public hearing was held on June 13, 2019 during the Regulation and Neighborhood Affairs Council Committee. Both meetings are necessary steps prior to City Council's consideration of support.

**Recommendations:** It is recommended that City Council adopt a Municipal Setting Designation (MSD) ordinance prohibiting the use of designated groundwater at the Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation site located at 8760 Clay Road, Houston, TX 77080, and support issuance of an MSD by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

  
Carol Ellinger Haddock, P.E.  
Director  
Houston Public Works

**Contact Information:**

Sharon Citino Planning Director 832-395-2712

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Type
RCA Attachments #2017-115-TRW	Backup Material