

# STATE OF NEW YORK

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

**Richard F. Dames, M.D.**  
*Commissioner*

**Wendy E. Saunders**  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

November 25, 2008

Debra Urbano-DiSalvo Village Attorney  
Village of Hempstead  
99 Nichols Court  
Hempstead NY 11551

Dear Ms. Urbano-DiSalvo:

This is in response to your e-mail of October 30, 2008 requesting that the Cancer Surveillance Program initiate a cancer incidence study in the area of the groundwater plume associated with the former Intersection Street Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site in the Villages of Garden City and Hempstead. The plume extends into the Village of Hempstead.

The Cancer Surveillance Program conducts studies of cancer incidence for small geographic areas. Before we conduct such a study, we consider exposure criteria, including the exposure type, exposure level and duration and the size of the population exposed, and criteria regarding evidence of an unusual pattern in cancer diagnoses. The enclosed fact sheet discusses these criteria in more detail. A study is conducted if it meets either the exposure criteria or the unusual cancer pattern criteria. In connection with your request, the Cancer Surveillance Program will review any information that is available on cancer diagnoses in the area for unusual patterns. Staff from the Department's Center for Environmental Health will review available information on the plume and the potential for human exposures. At the conclusion of this process, staff will review all the findings and a decision will be made on the requested study.

You also requested that I provide you with any health studies conducted by the Department in relation to the plume. I have checked my files and the Cancer Surveillance Program has to this point never conducted any studies in relation to the plume, or in the area of the plume. My colleagues at the Center for Environmental Health are also not aware of any Department of Health health studies conducted in this area. You may, however, be interested in

the tabulations of cases of the four most frequently diagnosed cancers by ZIP Code for the entire state that are available on the Department of Health web site at <http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/cancer/registry/zipcode/index.htm>.

Once our evaluation of your request for a study has been completed, we will notify you of the findings and the rationale for our decision. If you, any member of the Village administration or your constituents should have any questions before then, you may call me at (518) 474-2354.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the handwritten signature of the sender.

Aura L. Weinstein M.P.H.  
Director, Cancer Surveillance Program

cc: Dr. Bauer  
Dr. Lillquist  
Ms. Metzger  
Ms. McLelland  
Mr. Miles  
Dr. Carney (Nassau County Department of Health)