

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**

Butch Tongate, Cabinet Secretary

Bruce Yurdin, Deputy Secretary

NEWS RELEASE*For Immediate Release***December 4, 2018**

The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

Contact: Katy Diffendorfer, Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
505.231.8800 | katy.dougherty-diff@state.nm.us

New Mexico Environment Department Issues Notice of Violation to United States Air Force for Failing to Properly Address Groundwater Contaminated with Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

SANTA FE, N.M. – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has determined that Cannon Air Force Base is operating in violation of the New Mexico Water Quality Act (WQA) and its correlated Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations. NMED is requiring swift action from Cannon Air Force Base to comply with specific requirements of New Mexico law to protect human health and the environment. For approximately 40 years, Cannon Air Force Base used PFAS, a suite of hundreds of compounds, that was contained in aqueous film-forming firefighting foam (AFFF) used in training and actual firefighting events at the base. Use of PFAS in AFFF at Cannon Air Force Base has now ceased. However, PFAS remains at very high concentrations in groundwater both on and off the base.

In issuing the Notice of Violation NMED is requiring the Air Force to initiate the following mitigating activities:

- 1. Identification and timeline of options to be evaluated as potential short-term corrective measures for affected dairies, including water hauling and water treatment of contaminated well sources for both livestock and irrigation of crops.**
- 2. In conjunction with the findings of a technical working group, evaluation of the feasibility of installing one or more treatment systems on contaminated water supply wells.**

This Notice of Violation is NMED's final effort to obtain the Air Force's voluntary compliance in these matters. Failure to comply with the Notice of Violation may result in NMED's issuance of an Administrative Compliance Order that can assess civil penalties for up to \$15,000 per day for each violation. Civil penalties may also be assessed for up to \$10,000 per day for each violation of any other provision of the WQA, or any regulation, standard, or order adopted pursuant to such other provision.

PFAS are emerging chemicals that may be associated with an increased risk of cancer and other health ailments. They are also known to be environmentally persistent, mobile in groundwater, and bioaccumulate in the food web. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a lifetime drinking water Human Health Advisory for two PFAS chemicals at 70 nanograms per liter (ng/L), or parts per trillion.

To learn more about PFAS and potential effects on people's health, download the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fact sheet at: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/docs/pfas_fact_sheet.pdf.

###

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact;

Kristine Yurdin, Non-Discrimination Coordinator

New Mexico Environment Department

1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050

P.O. Box 5469

Santa Fe, NM 87502

(505) 827-2855

nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

send email to: nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above.

###



NEWS RELEASE

27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



U.S. AIR FORCE

U.S. AIR FORCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2018

Contact: Mr. JP Rebello

575-784-1327

Cannon Leadership Hosts Public Town Hall Meeting with Air Force, State and Federal Agencies to Discuss Community Concerns over PFOS / PFOA contamination

Clovis, NM – Cannon Air Force Base hosted a Town Hall Public Information Session at the Clovis-Carver Public Library North Annex, November 9, with State and Federal agencies to address community concern over PFOS and PFOA contamination stemming from past firefighting activities on base.

In late August, Cannon leadership was informed that several groundwater monitoring sites near the south east corner of the base boundary registered levels of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) above the EPA Lifetime Health Advisory for drinking water, of 70 parts per trillion. These compounds, found in Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) is used by emergency fire response teams at commercial airports, the Air Force and other services to combat petroleum-based fires.

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC), who leads the testing program, determined that per groundwater hydrology analysis, that an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) was necessary to determine potential impacts to private drinking water wells off base. The sampling and testing is part of the Air Force's proactive, service-wide investigation to assess potential risk to drinking water from PFOS / PFOA contamination. The ESI commenced in late August and is ongoing.

Through frequent dialogue with the Curry County Commission, Cannon leadership was informed of the concern in the local community. "Cannon's relationships in this community are invaluable to us," said Colonel Stewart Hammons, 27th Special Operations Wing, Commander. "Their enduring support enables us to do the extremely important operational mission we have in defending our nation's freedom and supporting Special Operations Forces across the globe," he elaborated. "When we realized we had an issue at Cannon, the first thing we did was reach out to our community partners. Today's Town Hall was an effort to bring in the right subject-matter experts from State and Federal Agencies, alongside AFCEC, to answer our community's questions."

Cannon Air Force Base engaged AFCEC to invite subject-matter experts from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDH), the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), which falls administratively under the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to engage in open dialogue with community members in public forum.

"We stand strong with Cannon," said District 3 Curry County Commissioner, Chet Spear. "They have made every effort to communicate this issue with us since Day 1. This community needs state and federal agencies to engage in the political dialogue that will enable the Air Force to address this issue appropriately, so our impacted constituents can get the assistance they need, and so Cannon can concentrate on its mission of defending our freedom".

The Town Hall Meeting, led by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, included presentations on the PFOS / PFOA testing program by AFCEC, PFAS contamination by NMED and a chance for the audience to engage over twenty

subject matter experts from seven different Air Force, State and Federal agencies in public forum and individual conversation during a poster session.

-Air Commandos-