



New Mexico Environment Department

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, PRESERVING THE ENCHANTMENT

Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances Contamination at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico January 8, 2019 Update

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were used in fire-fighting foam at Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB) located west of Clovis, N.M. PFAS were discharged into soil at fire-fighting training areas and other CAFB sites and percolated into the underlying Ogallala Aquifer. A plume of groundwater contaminated with PFAS extends off-Base at least 2 ½ miles to the southeast, closely following paleochannels in the redbeds that underlie the Ogallala Aquifer. PFAS have polluted several off-site wells used for irrigation, dairy, and domestic water supply, sometimes at concentrations that greatly exceed the federal lifetime Health Advisory of 70 ng/L. PFAS also have been detected in milk produced by one dairy near CABF causing severe economic impact to that dairy. Public drinking water wells that supply the City of Clovis have been tested and show no detectable PFAS contamination.

On November 30, 2018, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the Air Force for failing to take appropriate and timely corrective action to contain and remove or mitigate the damage caused by the Air Force's discharge of PFAS into groundwater. The NOV requires the Air Force to take prompt action including an evaluation of short-term corrective measures for dairies and other water users whose wells have been polluted with PFAS.

