

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO FUND
3 AND ASSEMBLE AN INDEPENDENT TASK FORCE OF EXPERTS TO ADDRESS
4 THE KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE BULK FUELS SPILL CLEANUP AND TO
5 REPORT ITS FINDINGS BY NOVEMBER 2014.

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7 WHEREAS, Albuquerque has the largest underground
8 contamination threatening any city's drinking water aquifer
9 in the history of the United States, now estimated at
10 twenty-four million gallons, more than twice the Exxon-Valdez
11 spill; and

12 WHEREAS, the department of environment has not exercised
13 the necessary legal authority to order and enforce a
14 comprehensive clean-up plan by the United States air force
15 for the jet fuel spill; and

16 WHEREAS, aggressive and timely characterization and
17 remediation measures have not been enforced by the department
18 of environment since the spill occurred in 1992; and

19 WHEREAS, a conceptual site model for understanding the
20 site and remediation of the site has not been developed and
21 presented to the public; and

22 WHEREAS, the liquid plume of jet fuel and aviation gas
23 containing benzene, toluene, ethylbenzine, xylene, ethylene
24 dibromide and other cancer- and disease-causing chemicals is
25 dissolving into ground water, extends more than a mile long

1 and a one-half mile wide and is moving in the direction of
2 Albuquerque-Bernalillo county water utility authority
3 drinking water supply wells; and

4 WHEREAS, the air force recognized the spill in 1992, but
5 there is still insufficient understanding of the size, depth
6 and rate of the expansion of the plume of contamination; and

7 WHEREAS, the air force and other experts confirm that
8 the dissolved plume of toxic and carcinogenic chemical
9 ethylene dibromide will contaminate Albuquerque's municipal
10 wells; and

11 WHEREAS, eighty percent of the jet fuel plume has spread
12 off of Kirtland air force base and is moving beneath
13 Albuquerque's homes and businesses; and

14 WHEREAS, the federal agency for toxic substances and
15 disease registry states that ethylene dibromide is very
16 persistent in ground water; and

17 WHEREAS, no comprehensive remediation plan has been put
18 forth, and no direct remediation of the ground water has been
19 performed, to remove the liquid portion of the jet fuel and
20 the dissolved plume of ethylene dibromide from Albuquerque's
21 drinking water aquifer; and

22 WHEREAS, the full size of the dissolved ethylene
23 dibromide plume is unknown, and there are no monitoring wells
24 close to the city wells;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
2 delegation be requested to fund and assemble an independent
3 task force of experts to report by November 2014 to the
4 congressional delegation, the appropriate committee of the
5 legislature, the Albuquerque city council, the Bernalillo
6 county board of county commissioners and the
7 Albuquerque-Bernalillo county water utility authority and to:

8 A. identify and make recommendations for
9 implementation of an effective scientific plan for the use of
10 technology to clean up the Kirtland air force base bulk fuels
11 facility jet fuel contamination;

12 B. determine the emergency and long-term clean-up
13 measures necessary to protect the public health and
14 environment and the city of Albuquerque and its drinking
15 water supply; and

16 C. work with the affected neighborhood
17 associations; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
19 direct all state and local agencies to fully cooperate with
20 the task force; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation. _____