



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS,
AND ENVIRONMENT

11/29/2022

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham:

Thank you for your letter dated July 19, 2022, concerning U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) newly released Safe Drinking Water Act interim lifetime Health Advisory levels for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanic acid (PFOA). I am responding on behalf of Dr. LaPlante, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

While the interim PFOS and PFOA health advisories identify guidance levels that are below detectable limits, EPA is planning to propose a regulatory drinking water standard for PFOS and PFOA under the Safe Drinking Water Act by the end of December 2022. The Department looks forward to the clarity that a nationwide regulatory standard for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water will provide. In anticipation of this EPA drinking water regulation, and to account for emerging science that shows potential health effects from PFOS and PFOA at levels lower than 70 parts per trillion (ppt), the Department is evaluating its efforts to address PFAS in drinking water. This includes assessing actions DoD can take to be prepared to incorporate the new regulatory standard into our cleanup process, such as reviewing existing data and conducting additional sampling where necessary. In addition, DoD will incorporate nationwide PFAS cleanup guidance, issued by EPA and applicable to all owners and operators, as to when to provide alternate water when PFAS are present.

We remain committed to fulfilling our cleanup responsibilities, operating within the law and authorities provided by federal cleanup laws, and aim to clearly communicate changes in cleanup levels by engaging with community members. The Department of Defense appreciates the partnership we have with the state of New Mexico, and looks forward to continuing our standing commitment to protect the health of our Service members, their families, the DoD civilian workforce, and the communities in which DoD serves.

I have sent an identical letter to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Kidd IV
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Environment and Energy Resilience)