



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

February 7, 2024

Lancy Pyle
Curry County Manager
417 Gidding St., Suite #100
Clovis, NM 88101

Re: Installation and Operation of PFAS Monitoring Wells

Dear County Manager Pyle,

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) supports the collaboration between Curry County and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to help expedite the investigation and remediation of PFAS released from Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB). Specifically, NMED supports Curry County allowing the U.S. DOD to install groundwater monitoring wells in County-managed rights-of-way to monitor the PFAS plume. According to the U.S. DOD, they are funded to install monitoring wells and requested NMED support this effort. The U.S. DOD has told NMED that no monitoring wells will be used as a production well and therefore will not impact the water table depths. Instead, the monitoring wells will help the U.S. DOD and NMED understand where PFAS has migrated and how deep the contamination extends. Please note that the U.S. DOD bears all responsibility for complying with state laws and rules with the installation and operation of any such monitoring wells. By allowing the U.S. DOD to install and operate PFAS monitoring wells on such rights-of-way, Curry County does not incur any liability from NMED for PFAS contamination.

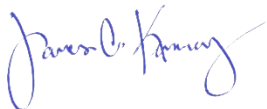
It remains undisputed that CAFB has released significant quantities of PFAS into the environment and NMED contends the U.S. DOD bears all of the responsibility and liability for the full remediation of PFAS on and off the base. NMED is aware of the hardships Curry County has faced in terms of the adverse impacts to public health and the environment, as well as financial losses for businesses and the local economy. I want to assure you that while NMED supports Curry County's collaboration with the U.S. DOD, NMED will continue to hold the U.S. DOD accountable for the PFAS contamination. NMED is fighting to ensure the U.S. Air Force provides the same protections to residents living around CAFB as any other American living around U.S. Air Force bases around the country, and anything less is both illegal and immoral.

I look forward to visiting with you after the New Mexico Legislative Session ends to discuss the status of the NMED's efforts to hold the U.S. DOD accountable and to coordinate with you on our recent

announcement to begin PFAS blood testing around CAFB this spring/summer.

If you would like to discuss this letter in more detail, please contact Zachary Ogaz, General Counsel, at (505) 470-8151 or at Zachary.Ogaz@env.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James C. Kenney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

James C. Kenney
Cabinet Secretary

Cc: Mike Hammond, New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
Courtney Kerster, Senior Advisor, Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham