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July 11, 2025

Regional Administrator Scott Mason
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270

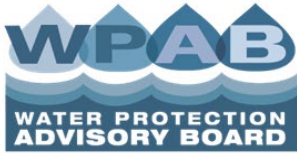
Subject: Letter of Support: Funding Allocation for CERCLA Investigation at Carlisle Village Cleaners in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Regional Administrator Mason,

The Water Protection Advisory Board (WPAB) was established through ordinance by the Albuquerque City Council, Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners, and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Governing Board to advise and make recommendations regarding protection of groundwater and surface water resources throughout the Bernalillo County area and to advocate effective protection of surface and ground water quality.

The WPAB would like to thank the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and EPA Region 6 for listing the Carlisle Village Cleaners site on the National Priorities List (NPL). The present and ongoing hazard at this site is the result of contamination from two former dry cleaners that used tetrachloroethene, or PCE, as their primary cleaning solvent. This contamination has caused a significant vapor plume impacting homes and businesses up to 1,000-feet from the property. While the WPAB commends the EPA Emergency Response Team for its assistance in characterizing the extent of the vapor plume and for installing short-term vapor mitigation measures to bring relief to the impacted properties, the task of delineating the extent of contamination remains to be done.

The WPAB received two presentations from the NMED regarding its efforts to characterize the extent of contamination from these former dry cleaners. Still, the WPAB remains concerned about the potential impacts of the site on groundwater. There are three public water supply wells located within one mile of the Carlisle Village Cleaners site, thus, fully characterizing the impacts of this PCE contamination on the groundwater is paramount for protecting one of Albuquerque's drinking water resources. Characterization has been limited to property on the NPL, which



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revealed substantial vapor concentrations of PCE at depths up to 100-feet below the ground surface. Yet, only one monitoring well extends to the regional aquifer, and this will not provide enough information to determine the impacts on groundwater.

To ensure the protection of Albuquerque's groundwater resource, delineation of the nature and extent of vadose zone and groundwater impacts from this contamination site is a high priority for the WPAB. Therefore, the WPAB respectfully requests that the EPA continue to designate funding to the site for the purpose of completing the delineation of contamination.

The WPAB further requests a response from EPA Region 6 describing the timeline and annual funding appropriations for this site to assure that the nature and extent of this contamination will be identified as soon as possible to assure that our water resources are protected.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elaine W. Howe'.

Elaine Howe, P.E., BCEE

Chair, Water Protection Advisory Board

elaine@howewater.com

Cc: Secretary James Kenny, NMED
Nichole Rogers, Albuquerque City Councilor – District 6
Adriann Barboa, Bernalillo County Commissioner – District 3
Justin Ball, NMED
Mark Sanchez, Executive Director, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Cindy Chavez, Bernalillo County Manager
Tim Keller, City of Albuquerque Mayor