



## JOINT RELEASE

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **For Immediate Release**

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### **NMED, DAF verbally agree to collaboration that advances PFAS cleanup at Cannon AFB**

Interagency collaboration will fast-track environmental response

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF) today announced a verbal agreement to establish a collaborative groundwater sampling framework to support ongoing PFAS investigation and clean-up activities at Cannon Air Force Base in Curry County.

Under the verbal agreement, NMED will lead off-base groundwater sampling — including at multiple dairies — while the Department of the Air Force provides funding and technical resources. This sampling effort will accelerate PFAS response around Cannon AFB. The DAF will continue its cleanup efforts that have been ongoing for years, representing an investment of \$74M.

“In leading the New Mexico Military Base Planning Commission, my priority is to sustain strong partnerships with the many military installations across our state and the communities that support them,” said **Lt. Governor Howie Morales**. “This verbal agreement not only supports that mission, but ensures New Mexican farmers can live, work, and support their families in Curry County for generations to come.”

“A unified sampling approach with NMED ensures our cleanup decisions are guided by transparent, high quality data that all stakeholders can rely on,” said **Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations, and Environment, Michael Borders Jr.** “This agreement marks an important step in advancing PFAS response efforts and strengthening our partnership with the communities surrounding Cannon Air Force Base.”

“The verbal agreement is a testament to the grassroots partnership between Curry County dairy farmers and the New Mexico Environment Department,” said **Environment Secretary James Kenney**. “Together, the Air Force and NMED are forging a path that will lead to better results much sooner for the community.”

The verbal agreement, which will be formalized in the coming weeks, was the result of a meeting at the Pentagon last week brokered by Lt. Governor Howie Morales, New Mexico Environment Secretary James Kenney, and Department of the Air Force Assistant Secretary for Energy, Installations and Environment Michael Borders Jr.

Today's announcement is the culmination of years of work by all parties — including [the recent and pivotal signing of access agreements](#) between four Curry County dairy farms with NMED to facilitate this effort.

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