PFAS contamination public meeting

6-8 p.m.|April 29|Dr. Jay Gurley Town Hall Room Clovis Community College

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NMDA New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Agenda

- Presentation by New Mexico Environment Department Secretary James Kenney
- Update from New Mexico Department of Agriculture Secretary Jeff Witte
- Q & A

What are PFAS?

- Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of man-made chemicals
- Widely used until phasing out began around 2000
- Experts are concerned about the potential health effects of PFAS exposure
- PFAS are mobile and persistent in groundwater
- PFAS are what's known as "emerging contaminants"

PFAS uses and applications

Aerospace

Apparel

Building and Construction

Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals

Electronics

Oil & Gas

Energy

Healthcare and Hospitals

Aqueous Film-Forming Foam

Semiconductors

What is an emerging contaminant?

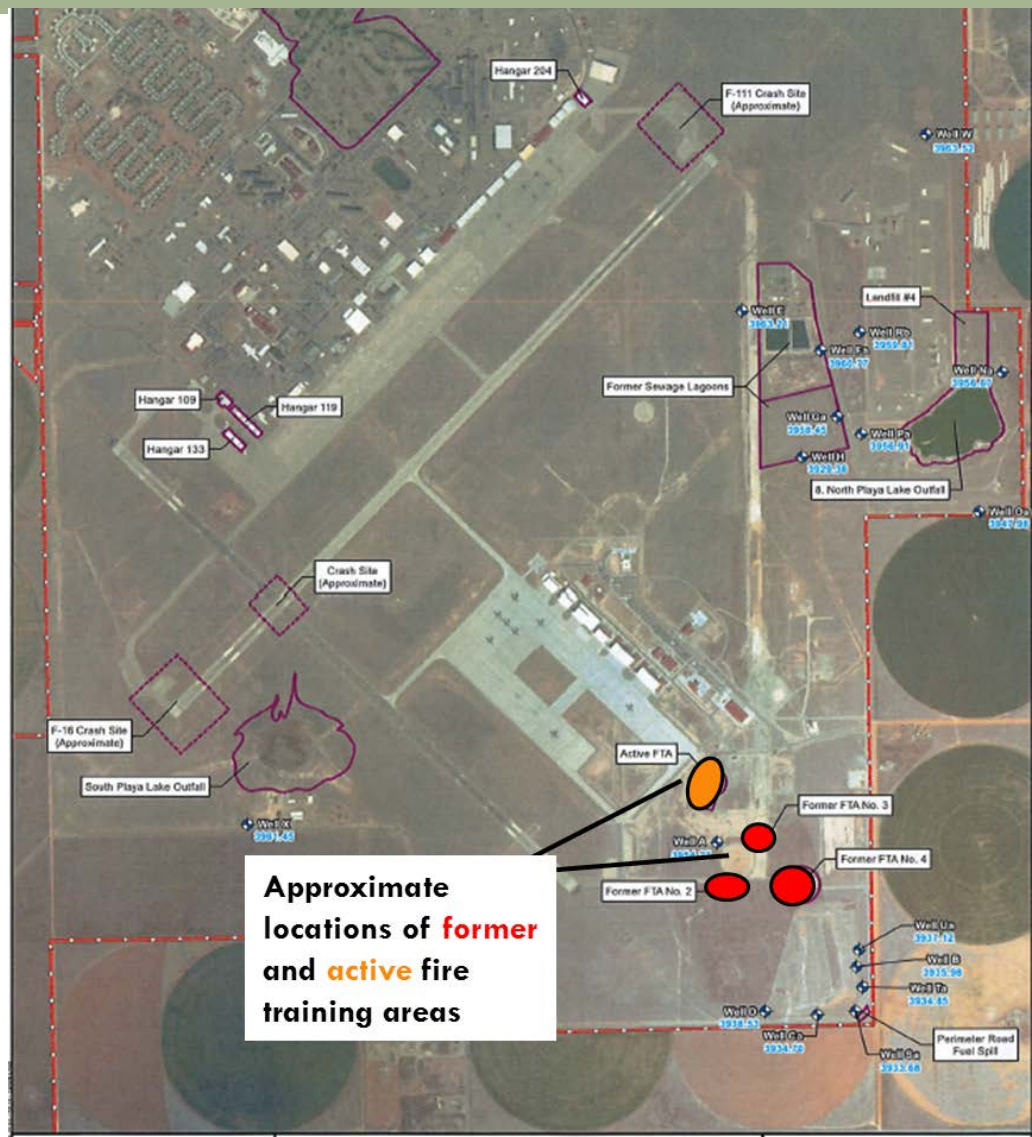
- Contaminants whose risks to human health and the environment are not yet fully understood.
- Often lacking peer-reviewed human health standards.
- Often federal and state standards and regulations are still evolving due to new science, detection capabilities or pathways.

Cannon Air Force Base

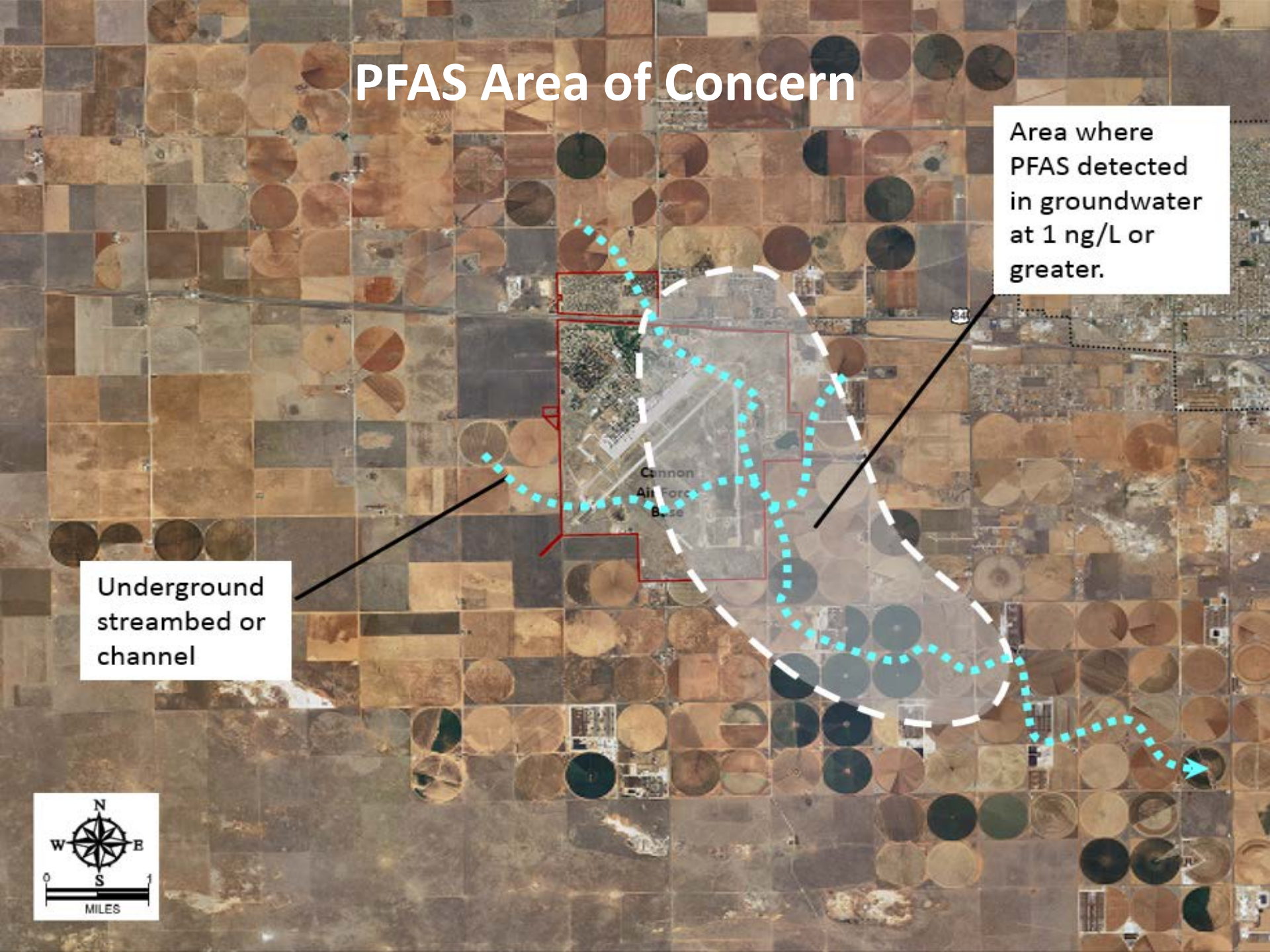
- Nov. 2018 – NMED issues Notice of Violation to the USAF for failing to contain and remove/mitigate the damage caused by its discharge of PFAS into groundwater
- Dec. 2018 – NMED requires the USAF to conduct corrective actions pursuant to its hazardous waste permit
- Mar. 2019 – NMED and NM Office of the Attorney General sue the USAF seeking abatement of imminent and substantial endangerment caused by PFAS pollution

Cannon Air Force Base

- The USAF began studying the potential for PFAS releases at Cannon AFB in 2015.
- The USAF disclosed the results of their study to NMED in August 2018.



PFAS Area of Concern



Water testing

- NMED and Department of Health tested public drinking water systems and private wells within 4 miles of the boundary of Cannon AFB.
- More than 80 water samples were collected.
- PFAS were detected in one house served by a public water cooperative and in one private domestic well.
- No PFAS were detected at entry points (where water enters the system to be delivered to customers) in Cannon's or Clovis' drinking water system.

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1. Cannon AFB: Drinking water: Testing by USAF and NMED indicates no exceedances of EPA health advisory limit for PFOA + PFOS. There were some detections of other PFAS constituents.
Groundwater: Monitoring wells tested by the Air Force found total PFAS levels up to 56,504 ppt and 26,200 ppt of PFOA + PFOS.

2. Clovis water system: NMED testing of 11 entry points into drinking water system (where water enters the distribution system) indicates no detections of PFAS.

3. Dairies: The N.M. Department of Agriculture learned from USAF that two dairies near Cannon AFB had wells that tested above the EPA's PFOA and PFOS drinking water health advisory levels. Milk from one of those dairies tested above the FDA's screening level and all milk from that dairy was pulled off sale. NMDA continues to monitor milk as needed to keep the food chain protected. At this time, NMDA is testing milk at the affected dairy every two to four weeks. Milk at other dairies would only be tested if water test results at those dairies exceeded the EPA's PFOA and PFOS drinking water health advisory levels.

4. Irrigation wells: At least one irrigation well tested by owner indicated high levels of PFAS (30,126 ppt), including PFOA + PFOS (14,320 ppt).

5. Private domestic wells: 90+ wells tested by NMED and Department of Health in 2018-19. PFAS were detected in one well located east of CAFB (87 ppt total PFAS, but no PFOA or PFOS).

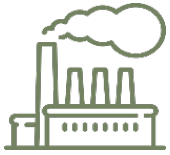
6. Turquoise Estates: NMED and Department of Health testing detected PFAS (not PFOA or PFOS) at one of two drinking water wells and in the distribution system.

Now what?

Science – Using the best available science to inform our decision-making in protecting public health and the environment.

Innovation – Employing creative engineering and technological solutions to address environmental problems.

Collaboration – Engaging communities and interested stakeholders in environmental decision-making.



Compliance – Ensuring meaningful compliance with state regulations and permits.

Path forward

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a health advisory for two PFAS chemicals, PFOS and PFOA, at a level of 70 parts per trillion.

- In February, the EPA announced its PFAS “action plan,” which includes the development of maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for PFOS and PFOA under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- State agencies will continue protecting public health and the environment.

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