



CAF B 98  
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 27th SUPPORT GROUP (ACC)  
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO

10 MAR 1998

Colonel James A. Thomas III  
Commander  
110 E Sextant Avenue Ste 1098  
Cannon AFB NM 88103-5323

Ms. Debby Brinkerhoff  
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2044 Galisteo Street  
PO Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Ms. Brinkerhoff

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of actions Cannon Air Force Base (AFB) intends to take regarding your request for limited sampling of drinking water and groundwater monitoring wells for the presence of perchlorate. Prior to discussing our intentions, I want to emphasize that your assertion, as made in your 8 Feb 99 letter to Mr. Danny Barnett, that the American Water Works Service Company, Inc. report identified two wells on Cannon AFB as having perchlorate contamination, is incorrect.

As a result of data from three drinking water wells, the report identified Cannon AFB as a "possible source" for perchlorate contamination. These wells (see Attachment 1) are not on Cannon AFB, rather they are located south of Clovis, NM. In his 8 Jan 99 facsimile transmission to you, Mr. John Rebman stated neither drinking water wells, groundwater monitoring wells nor treated wastewater effluent have been analyzed for the presence of perchlorate. The report and Mr. Rebman's response to the report clearly indicate the wells are not located on Cannon AFB. The location of the base, in relation to the three wells, does not suggest Cannon AFB is a "possible source" for perchlorate contamination. It is much more likely, as the report mentions, that perchlorate contamination is the result of past mining activities involving flushing of ore cars into Santa Fe Lake. The lake is up-gradient (in relation to the south-easterly groundwater flows) of the wells identified in the report.

While, as Mr. Rebman indicated to you, there is no reason to suspect perchlorate is present, Cannon AFB will analyze the groundwater within six active drinking water production wells (see Attachment 2). This precautionary measure will help assure the protection of our consumers, however, as the report indicates, low levels of perchlorate do not pose a health or aesthetic risk. This view is shared by the Environmental Protection Agency and your department as drinking water systems are not tested for the presence of perchlorate. Results of this testing will be provided to you.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Mr. Rebman, Environmental Flight, at (505) 784-1099.

Sincerely

  
JAMES A. THOMAS III, Colonel, USAF

**Attachments:**

1. Map Identifying Wells in Report
2. Location of Active Drinking Water Wells

**cc:**

NMED, Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section (P. Bustamante)  
NMED, Clovis Field Office (D. Tanner)



