



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

CAB-99
State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
2044 Galisteo Street
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
(505) 827-1557
Fax (505) 827-1544



PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

January 20, 1999

To: Benito Garcia, Chief, HRMB

Through: John Tymkowych, Program Manager, HRMB *J.T.*

From: Debby Brinkerhoff, Environmental Specialist, HRMB *DB*

Re: Occurrence of Perchlorate and MTBE in two Cannon AFB wells

According to a study performed by the American Water Works Service Co. Perchlorate and Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) are found in two possibly three wells associated with Cannon AFB. The wells are # 44,45, and 48.

The levels found during the sampling were very low in the microgram/l level. The levels were well below the 18 microgram/l level used as a guideline by the California Department of Health.

The Roswell company, Longhorn Manufacturing Company received shipments of Perchlorate from Kerr-McGee sometime between 1978 and the present. An HRMB file search found no company with that name.

It is believed that when perchlorates are buried in landfills they may form compounds with other chemicals and then leach into the groundwater.

Cannon AFB contends that there is no reason to suspect that perchlorate is present in any of its wells and does not intend to do any sampling. *or what*

I recommend that Cannon should at least sample the three wells the American Water Works sampled and probably other wells in the vicinity for perchlorate and MTBE to protect the personnel from contaminated drinking water. In my opinion, it is better to be proactive than reactive in this situation. *I agree*

I also recommend that the enforcement section inspect Longhorn Manufacturing if they still are operating in Roswell. *Also agree*