

*For Immediate Release*

**March 5, 2019**

**Contact:** Maddy Hayden, Communications Director  
New Mexico Environment Department  
505.231.8800 | maddy.hayden@state.nm.us

David Carl, Communications Director  
New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas  
505.288.2465 | dcarl@nmag.gov



## **State sues Air Force over PFAS contamination at Cannon, Holloman**

**ALBUQUERQUE** — The New Mexico Environment Department and the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General filed suit today against the United States Air Force to compel the military to address contamination caused by decades of discharge of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Cannon and Holloman Air Force bases.

“No one has a right to pollute New Mexico’s vital water resources,” said Attorney General Hector Balderas. “We will fight to ensure that New Mexico families and military families have access to safe, clean water. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson must do the right thing.”

“In the absence of cooperation by the Air Force, the New Mexico Environment Department will move swiftly and decisively to ensure protections for both public health and the environment,” said Environment Secretary James Kenney. “In addition to violating environmental laws, the Air Force violated our public trust. Today we begin holding them accountable.”

The complaint filed in New Mexico federal court alleges violations of the state’s Hazardous Waste Act and that PFAS contamination constitutes an imminent and substantial danger to communities on and off base.

The state is requesting immediate injunctive relief from the court that requires the Air Force to clean up contamination at the two bases and to pay for abatement activities.

In continued efforts to address this matter, the New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico Department of Health recently collected additional water samples at locations around Cannon and Holloman. Laboratory results will be returned in the next two to three weeks and posted online.

More information on PFAS is available at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/> and <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

###

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED’s non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact:

Kristine Yurdin, Non-Discrimination Coordinator

New Mexico Environment Department

1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050

P.O. Box 5469

Santa Fe, NM 87502

(505) 827-2855

[nd.coordinator@state.nm.us](mailto:nd.coordinator@state.nm.us)

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above.

###