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James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruet, Deputy Secretary

NEWS RELEASE*For Immediate Release***Feb. 10, 2020**

The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

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PFAS detected in Clovis public drinking water system*Levels are below U.S. EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory*

CLOVIS — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), along with the citizens of Clovis, was notified by EPCOR of the presence of PFAS at an entry point of the Clovis public water system.

EPCOR, the company that owns and operates Clovis's public drinking water system, conducted testing for 21 PFAS chemicals in its production wells. Ten of the 82 wells indicated the presence of PFAS, according to EPCOR. EPCOR immediately took the affected wells out of service.

PFAS, or poly- and per- fluoroalkyl substances, are manmade contaminants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not yet established a drinking water limit for any PFAS chemical. The EPA has established a Lifetime Health Advisory level for two chemicals in the PFAS family – PFOA and PFOS – at 70 parts per trillion. This means there may be adverse health effects for someone who drinks water contaminated above that level over a lifetime. According to EPCOR, none of the test results indicated levels of PFOA and PFOS above 70 parts per trillion.

Communities like Clovis and others around the country are grappling with PFAS contamination. NMED and the New Mexico Attorney General are currently in litigation with the U.S. Department of Defense over its failure to clean up contamination it caused near two of its bases in New Mexico. In January, NMED [assessed penalties](#) of \$1.7 million to Cannon Air Force Base for failing to address PFAS through its discharge permit.

As the litigation moves through the courts, NMED continues to assist the Clovis community through our drinking water and groundwater protection programs, in coordination with the New Mexico Department of Health.

“We are working diligently across state agencies and with local officials to ensure public health and drinking water resources are protected,” said NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. “This is our number one priority.”

The Department of Defense has refused to map the PFAS contamination migrating in the groundwater under Cannon Air Force Base – a critical step in the clean-up process. NMED is seeking \$1.2 million from the legislature to map the contamination and develop preliminary remediation strategies.

In addition, Sens. Pat Woods (District 7) and Stuart Ingle (District 27) introduced [Senate Bill 275](#), which would appropriate \$700,000 to NMED to conduct water well testing in communities affected by the Department of Defense's PFAS contamination in Curry and Roosevelt Counties.

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