HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 13

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO FUND AND

ASSEMBLE AN INDEPENDENT TASK FORCE OF EXPERTS TO ADDRESS THE

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE BULK FUELS SPILL CLEANUP AND TO REPORT

ITS FINDINGS BY NOVEMBER 2014.

WHEREAS, Albuquerque has the largest underground

contamination threatening any city's drinking water aquifer in

the history of the United States, now estimated at twenty-four

million gallons, more than twice the Exxon-Valdez spill; and

WHEREAS, the department of environment has not exercised

the necessary legal authority to order and enforce a

comprehensive clean-up plan by the United States air force for

the jet fuel spill; and

WHEREAS, aggressive and timely characterization and

remediation measures have not been enforced by the department

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1   of environment since the spill occurred in 1992; and

2   WHEREAS, a conceptual site model for understanding the

3   site and remediation of the site has not been developed and

4   presented to the public; and

5   WHEREAS, the liquid plume of jet fuel and aviation gas

6   containing benzene, toluene, ethylbenzine, xylene, ethylene

7   dibromide and other cancer- and disease-causing chemicals is

8   dissolving into ground water, extends more than a mile long and

9   a one-half mile wide and is moving in the direction of

10   Albuquerque-Bernalillo county water utility authority drinking

11   water supply wells; and

12   WHEREAS, the air force recognized the spill in 1992, but

13   there is still insufficient understanding of the size, depth

14   and rate of the expansion of the plume of contamination; and

15   WHEREAS, the air force and other experts confirm that the

16   dissolved plume of toxic and carcinogenic chemical ethylene

17   dibromide will contaminate Albuquerque's municipal wells; and

18   WHEREAS, eighty percent of the jet fuel plume has spread

19   off of Kirtland air force base and is moving beneath

20   Albuquerque's homes and businesses; and

21   WHEREAS, the federal agency for toxic substances and

22   disease registry states that ethylene dibromide is very

23   persistent in ground water; and

24   WHEREAS, no comprehensive remediation plan has been put

25   forth, and no direct remediation of the ground water has been

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1 performed, to remove the liquid portion of the jet fuel and the

2 dissolved plume of ethylene dibromide from Albuquerque's

3 drinking water aquifer; and

4 WHEREAS, the full size of the dissolved ethylene dibromide

5 plume is unknown, and there are no monitoring wells close to

6 the city wells;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional

9 delegation be requested to fund and assemble an independent

10 task force of experts to report by November 2014 to the

11 congressional delegation, the appropriate committee of the

12 legislature, the Albuquerque city council, the Bernalillo

13 county board of county commissioners and the Albuquerque-

14 Bernalillo county water utility authority and to:

15 A. identify and make recommendations for

16 implementation of an effective scientific plan for the use of

17 technology to clean up the Kirtland air force base bulk fuels

18 facility jet fuel contamination;

19 B. determine the emergency and long-term clean-up

20 measures necessary to protect the public health and environment

21 and the city of Albuquerque and its drinking water supply; and

22 C. work with the affected neighborhood

23 associations; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to

25 direct all state and local agencies to fully cooperate with the

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task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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