



RESOLUTION 2019-17

**Requesting Action and Assistance from the United States Air Force to Abate and Prevent the Further Spread of PFOA, PFOS, and Other Contaminants From the Leakage at Cannon Air Force or at the Air Force Bombing Range**

**WHEREAS**, Roosevelt County is comprised primarily of agricultural land with ranching, farming and dairies being the primary non-governmental activities, as part of Roosevelt County's agricultural foundation; and,

**WHEREAS**, Roosevelt County recognizes the importance of Cannon Air Force Base and supports the mission and the personnel at Cannon Air Force Base and their commitment not only to the security and the protection of the United States but to our community; and,

**WHEREAS**, Cannon Air Force Base and the United States Air Force have disclosed that the water table below and primarily to the East, and Southeast of Cannon Air Force Base has been infiltrated with contaminates used in the past with fire retardant at Cannon Air Force Base over the last several decades and it remains undetermined if such hazardous waste is also present at the Air Force bombing range located in Roosevelt County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the spread of these contaminates presents an immediate threat of damage to individual County residents, to the aquifer which supplies water to the City of Portales and County residents as well as to their property and businesses and to Roosevelt County as a whole; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Air Force, Department of Defense, or Cannon Air Force Base has obtained drinking water samples which are above the accepted standards and has provided drinking water to those individuals where the wells were found to have levels that exceeded the Lifetime Health Advisory for human consumption; and,

**WHEREAS**, in a letter from Heather Wilson, the Former Secretary of the Air Force, to the Honorable Senator Martin Heinrich, she states in part, "...the Air Force's priority is to protect drinking water supplies for humans from unacceptable levels of PFOS/PFOA that result from our activities."; and,

**WHEREAS**, to date, Roosevelt County is unaware of any plans or any operations being undertaken to remove contaminates from spreading to the underground water supply for the City of Portales and to Roosevelt County; to prevent the spread of the underground contaminates or, provide compensation to any Roosevelt County residents or businesses and economically damaged now or in the future by the contaminates.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Roosevelt County Commissioners that:

1. The United States Air Force, the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies take immediate action to address and stop the spread of the known underground contaminates resulting from the use of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) fire retardants Cannon Air Force Base. These contaminants have been located in the PALEO Channel which flows in a South, Southeast direction and is a major water source for property owners South and Southeast of Cannon Air Force Base, and which will spread to Roosevelt County if not contained.



2. Cannon Air Force Base, the United States Air Force and the Department of Defense take immediate steps to provide financial, physical, and professional assistance to any and all Roosevelt County residents/businesses that have been, or are currently impacted by the known contaminants and those who will be impacted by the contaminants based upon current flow reports in the water table below the impacted area. The contaminants has caused significant injury and loss to at least one business in adjacent Curry County and has affected those property owners who have ingested the same through drinking water obtained from their wells East and South of Cannon Air Force Base.

3. That representatives of Cannon Air Force Base, the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense and Roosevelt County's Congressional Delegation or their designees shall include Roosevelt County officials in all future meetings, and communications both formal and informal, to address a prompt response to the spreading of the contaminants in the County's underground water supply, addressing the issue of removal of the contaminants from the water supply and to also clarify and address concerns that PFOS contamination is present in hazardous amounts at the Air Force bombing range located in Roosevelt County and providing information and financial assistance to any Roosevelt County residences and businesses that have already been negatively impacted by the contamination.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Manager is to send a copy of this Resolution to Senator Martin Heinrich, Senator Tom Udall, Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, State Senator Stuart Ingle, State Representative Phelps Anderson, State Representative Martin Zamora, State Representative Jack Chatfield, and Cannon Air Force Base Wing Commander.

**PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** this 7th day of May, 2019.



*Stephanie Hicks*  
Stephanie Hicks, County Clerk

**BODY OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

*absent*  
Lewis (Shane) Lee, Chairman – District III

*Matthew Hunton*  
Matthew Hunton, Vice-Chair – District II

*[Signature]*  
Dennis Lopez – District I

*Tina Dixon*  
Tina Dixon – District IV

*Paul Grider*  
Paul Grider – District V



*[Handwritten mark]*