

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Brown and committee members:

I WANT TO START TODAY BY EXPRESSING MY THANKS TO THIS COMMITTEE AND TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE AS A WHOLE FOR MAINTAINING VIGILANCE ON THE REMEDIATION OF THE BULK FUELS FACILITY CONTAMINATION AT KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE.

HANDLING THIS PROPERLY IS VITAL TO EVERY CURRENT AND EVERY FUTURE RESIDENT OF BERNALILLO COUNTY.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO GIVE THE PERSPECTIVE OF ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD. I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE OF THE WATER AUTHORITY BOARD FOR MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS AND I REPRESENT THE DISTRICT THAT'S HOME TO KAFB AND THE NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ARE CLOSEST TO, AND MOST AFFECTED BY, THE BULK FUELS FACILITY CONTAMINATION.

THE WATER AUTHORITY BOARD IS SERIOUS ABOUT OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY'S WATER SUPPLY.

ON THIS BFF CONTAMINATION ISSUE, THAT HAS SOMETIMES BEEN CHALLENGING BECAUSE THE UTILITY DOES NOT HAVE A FORMAL ROLE IN THE RCRA REMEDIATION PROCESS, BUT WE DO HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLY AND THE INTERESTS OF OUR RATEPAYERS.

WE HAVE TAKEN A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THIS SITUATION, TAKING THE ACTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO US –

- MAKING SURE THAT WE – AND THE PUBLIC – UNDERSTAND HOW THIS FUEL SPILL HAPPENED,
- UNDERSTAND THE NATURE & EXTENT OF THE CONTAMINATION
- & UNDERSTAND WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO PREVENT THE CONTAMINANTS FROM REACHING OUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY WELLS.

SINCE LATE 2008, THE WATER AUTHORITY HAS BEEN CONDUCTING ITS OWN VOLUNTARY MONTHLY SAMPLING/TESTING OF PRODUCTION WELLS IN THE AREA OF THE CONTAMINATION. THAT INCLUDES MONTHLY SAMPLING FOR ETHYLENE DIBROMIDE (EDB) AND AVIATION GAS/JET FUEL CONSTITUENTS –

THAT IS **IN ADDITION TO** THE BIENNIAL SAMPLING REQUIRED UNDER THE FEDERAL SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT.

TO DATE THERE HAVE BEEN NO DETECTIONS OF CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO THE FUEL SPILL AT ANY OF OUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY WELLS.

WE HAVE ALSO CONTRACTED WITH THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SERVICE (USGS) TO INSTALL OUR OWN INDEPENDENT, EARLY WARNING WELL SYSTEM TO ALERT THE WATER AUTHORITY SHOULD THE CONTAMINATION REACH THE ZONE OF THE AQUIFER FROM WHICH OUR DRINKING WATER IS PRODUCED. THAT USGS “WELL NEST” IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE PLUME AND OUR PRODUCTION WELLS. (COST +-\$500,000)

THERE HAS BEEN NO DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS AT THE SENTRY WELL SITE.

MORE THAN SIX YEARS AGO - WE HIRED OUR OWN REMEDIATION EXPERT TO ANALYZE ALL AVAILABLE DATA SO THAT THE WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY AND OUR RATEPAYERS HAVE AN **INDEPENDENT REVIEW** OF THE STATUS OF THE CONTAMINATION AND AIR FORCE/NMED'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS IT.

SIMPLY PUT, WE KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE OF THIS COMMUNITY ARE JUSTIFIABLY CONCERNED ABOUT ANY OF THE CHEMICALS FROM THE FUEL SPILL GETTING INTO OUR WATER SUPPLY AND WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR AND SUPPORT THE REMEDIATION EFFORTS.

GOOD NEWS

WE HAVE SEEN TREMENDOUS PROGRESS SINCE THE ENGAGEMENT OF AFCEC TWO YEARS AGO.

YOU HAVE JUST BEEN BRIEFED ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE REMEDIATION EFFORTS AND WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE WORK UNDERWAY IS APPROPRIATE AND THAT PLANNING FOR FUTURE ACTIONS IS THOROUGH, AGGRESSIVE, & FIRST-RATE

THAT SAID, WE WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW ACTIONS AND PLANS AT EVERY STEP AND, AS ALWAYS, WILL REMAIN VIGILANT ON BEHALF OF OUR RATEPAYERS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO "TRUST, BUT VERIFY".

THE WATER UTILITY IS PLEASED WITH THE FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM THE AIR FORCE AND NMED, WITH THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC INFORMATION EFFORTS – AND BY THE LEVEL OF TRANSPARENCY THAT ALL PARTIES NOW DEMONSTRATE.

AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT KATE LYNNESS, THE AIR FORCE LEADERSHIP'S **HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERT** (HQE) REQUESTED BY CONGRESSWOMAN MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO OVERSEE THE REMEDIATION PROJECT.

MS. LYNNESS WILL STAY HERE IN ALBUQUERQUE, ON SITE - YEAR IN, YEAR OUT - SO THAT WE WILL HAVE CONSISTENCY IN LEADERSHIP WHEN BASE COMMANDERS CHANGE EVERY TWO YEARS.

WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN WORKING WITH THE AIR FORCE TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR SOME OF THE COSTS OUR WATER UTILITY CUSTOMERS HAVE PAID AS A RESULT OF THE FUEL SPILL.

I MENTIONED EARLIER THAT THE WATER UTILITY HIRED USGS TO INSTALL A SENTRY WELL AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$500,000. WE ARE IN NEGOTIATIONS SO THAT THE AIR FORCE CAN REIMBURSE THOSE COSTS SO THAT RATEPAYERS DON'T BEAR THAT EXPENSE.

WE HAVE ACHIEVED ALL THIS VERY SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS THROUGH A COOPERATIVE, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS THAT HAS INCLUDED

- AIR FORCE LEADERSHIP
- OUR FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
 - REP. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
 - US SENATORS UDALL & HEINRICH
- STATE LEADERSHIP –
 - SEC. RYAN FLYNN AT NMED &
 - THE LEGISLATURE
- WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY
- LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- ADVOCATES
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
- NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

AND WE SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP.

IN FACT, OUR PARTNERSHIP & OUR SUCCESSES ARE NOW SEEN AS MODELS FOR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY, - BY COMMUNITIES WHO FACE SIMILAR CHALLENGES WITH WATER CONTAMINATION RESULTING FROM DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS. THEY WANT TO LEARN FROM US – HOW DID WE GET THIS DONE?

IN FACT TODAY, WE HAVE IN ALBUQUERQUE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE AQUIFER THAT SERVES THE HONOLULU AREA. THEY WANT TO LEARN FROM US!

OUR PROCESS HAS NOT BEEN PERFECT: WE HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED FOR BEING TOO SOFT ON THE MILITARY – AND FOR BEING TOO HARD ON THE AIR FORCE BASE

BUT WE HAVE MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WILL CONTINUE.