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SENATE MEMORIAL 42

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

INTRODUCED BY
Cisco McSorley

A 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, ethylbenzene, 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 SENATE OF THE STATE
8 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional delegation be
9 requested to fund and assemble an independent task force of
10 experts to report by November 2014 to the congressional
11 delegation, the appropriate committee of the legislature, the
12 Albuquerque city council, the Bernalillo county board of county
13 commissioners and the Albuquerque-Bernalillo county water
14 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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1 task force; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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