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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Woods, Ingle ORIGINAL DATE 03/07/19
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Cannon AFB Contaminant Cleanup SM 72

ANALYST _____

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		No fiscal impact				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

Senate Memorial 72 requests the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security take immediate action to address and stop the spread of the known underground contaminants resulting from the use of aqueous film-forming foam fire retardants at Cannon Air Force base.

SM72 provides the following:

- Curry County is composed primarily of agricultural land, with ranching, farming, and dairies being the primary nongovernmental activities as part of Curry County's agricultural base
- Curry County recognizes the importance of Cannon Air Force base and supports its mission, its personnel and their commitment, not only to the security and protection of the United States, but to the community
- Cannon Air Force Base and the U.S. Air Force have disclosed that the water table below and primarily to the east-southeast of Cannon Air Force Base has been infiltrated with contaminants from fire retardants at Cannon air force base over the last several decades
- Aqueous film-forming foam fire retardant contaminants have been found in the paleochannel that flows in a south-southeast direction and is a major water source for property owners south and southeast of Cannon Air Force base
- According to reports provided to the residents of Curry County, these contaminants are moving east, following the deepest and best water supply at the approximate rate of 1,000

feet per year, presenting an immediate threat to Curry County's agricultural industry, livability, commodities, land valuation and more importantly, the water supplied to individual residents and their property and businesses

- Drinking water samples have been found to have contaminant levels that exceed the lifetime health advisory for human consumption
- The water contaminants have caused significant injury and loss to at least one business and have affected those property owners who have ingested drinking water obtained from their wells east and south of Cannon Air Force base
- The contaminants have created a negative impact on crops, dairy and beef operations and caused agricultural losses in Curry county
- A letter from Heather Wilson, secretary of the U.S. air force, to U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich states in part, " The Air Force's priority is to protect drinking water supplies for humans from unacceptable levels of perfluorooctanic and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid that result from our activities"
- To date, Curry County is unaware of any plans or operations to remove these contaminants from the underground water supply in Curry County to prevent the spread of the underground contaminants or to provide compensation to the residents or businesses that are economically damaged by the contaminants.

SM72 requires this memorial be transmitted to the governor, New Mexico congressional delegation, United States Air Force, secretaries from the U.S. Department of Defense and United States Department of Homeland Security, and the Cannon Air Force base wing commander.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is fiscal impact to transmit the memorial but this action could speed up the military's efforts to contain or clean up dangerous PFAS chemicals that have seeped into New Mexico's groundwater.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This week, the Attorney General and Environment Department filed a complaint in federal district court asking a judge to compel the Air Force to act on, and fund, cleanup of PFAS in groundwater, under both Cannon and Holloman Air Force bases. PFAS includes both perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate. PFAS substances are toxic, human-manufactured chemicals that move through groundwater and biological systems. Even in small amounts, exposure to PFAS increases the risk of testicular, kidney, and thyroid cancers.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SM22 further provides that immediate steps be taken by the U.S. air force, U.S. Department of Defense, and Curry County congressional delegation, including providing assistance to Curry county residents and businesses impacted by the contaminants; take immediate action to prevent the spread of these contaminants and participating in a town hall meeting in Clovis, New Mexico to address a prompt response to the spread of the contaminants in the water supply, in addition to provide access to information and financial compensation for Curry County residents and businesses that have already been negatively impacted by the contamination.