



# Air Force Media Release



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## Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center

Public Affairs Division

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## **Public Information Session November 9: Update on response to PFOS/PFOA**

The Air Force is hosting an information session to update residents about ongoing efforts to identify and address perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in drinking water sources around Cannon Air Force Base.

The event is Friday, Nov. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the North Annex of the Clovis-Carver Public Library, 701 North Main Street, Clovis, New Mexico.

Subject matter experts from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, the New Mexico Environment Department, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the New Mexico Department of Health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will provide information and answer questions.

AFCEC recently sampled 25 drinking water sources near the southeast corner of Cannon. The center identified three locations where PFOS and PFOA concentrations in drinking water exceeded the EPA LHA. The Air Force is providing alternate drinking water at those locations and will work with property owners to determine a long-term solution.

PFOS and PFOA are a group of manmade chemicals used for a variety of residential, commercial, and industrial purposes. They are also present in a legacy formula of Aqueous Film Forming Foam, previously used by the Air Force to combat petroleum-based fires, such as those associated with burning aircraft.

In 2016, the EPA established lifetime health advisory levels of 70 parts per trillion for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water because of a potential risk to human health. The Air Force is using a comprehensive approach – identify, respond, prevent – to address the potential for mission-related PFOS/PFOA contamination of drinking water, and respond appropriately.

Air Force actions are guided by state and federal regulations; the EPA health advisories only apply to human consumption of drinking water. The Air Force is evaluating the need for future drinking water sampling and will keep the community informed as next steps are determined, according to Suzanne Bilbrey, director of AFCEC's Environmental Management Directorate.

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“We are focused on identifying and addressing drinking water impacted by the Air Force mission. We are fully committed to the community and will continue working with NMED and residents on long-term solutions,” she said.

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**ATTENTION EDITORS: Air Force representatives will be available for interviews from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the library. To schedule time for an interview, media must contact Cannon AFB Public Affairs at (575) 784-1327 by 5pm on Thursday, November 8.**