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December 13, 2019

Mr. Mark Correll, SES, P.E.
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Environment, Safety, and Infrastructure)
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1665

Subject: Funding agreement between the U.S. Air Force and the New Mexico Environment Department to support regulatory oversight of the Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) Bulk Fuels Facility (BFF) project

Dear Mr. Correll:

The Water Protection Advisory Board (WPAB) was established as an interagency advisory board to oversee protection of water quality in the Albuquerque, NM metropolitan area by joint ordinances passed by three local jurisdictions. The WPAB is made up of citizen advisors appointed by the City of Albuquerque Council, Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners, and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Board. The purpose of the WPAB is to advise those entities of concerns and make recommendations regarding protection of both groundwater and surface water resources.

The WPAB met on Friday, November 11, 2019 and received an update presentation from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) about the status of the US Air Force (USAF) Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) Bulk Fuels Facility (BFF) remediation project. During the presentation, the WPAB learned that USAF has not yet renewed a two-year Cooperative Agreement with NMED as provided in Paragraph D of the December 2015 Memorandum of Agreement for Funding to Conduct Regulatory Activities at KAFB BFF.

The WPAB is concerned about the delay in re-establishing this two-year Cooperative Agreement because the agreement provides the funding resources necessary for NMED to conduct proper and timely regulatory oversight of the KAFB BFF remediation project. NMED oversight of the KAFB BFF remediation is crucial and beneficial to both the USAF and local community, and we urge USAF to renew the Cooperative Agreement with NMED immediately so that needed funding for regulatory oversight is made available.

Respectfully,

Dr. Kerry Howe, Chair
Water Protection Advisory Board

Cc: City of Albuquerque Council
Bernalillo County Manager's Office
Bernalillo County Commission
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Executive Director's Office
James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)
Stephanie Stringer, Resource Protection Division Director, NMED
Kathryn Lynnes, Senior Advisor, SAF/IEE, Bulk Fuels Facility Project
Senator Tom Udall, United States Senate
Senator Martin Heinrich, United States Senate
Representative Debra Haaland, United States House of Representatives