



Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority

Albuquerque/Bernalillo
County
Government Center
One Civic Plaza
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Legislation Text

File #: R-12-14, Version: 1

ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY

BILL NO. R-12-14

RESOLUTION

Protecting Albuquerque's Water Supply

WHEREAS, Albuquerque has the largest underground contamination threatening any city's drinking water aquifer in the history of the U.S., now estimated at 24,000,000 gallons, more than twice the Exxon-Valdez spill; and

WHEREAS, the Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico Environment Department, and other experts do not deny that a dissolved plume of the toxic chemical contamination from Ethylene Dibromide (EDB) may arrive at the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's five Ridgecrest well number 5 within five years; and

WHEREAS, The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry characterizes Ethylene Dibromide (EDB) breakdown in ground water as "hardly at all"; and

WHEREAS, a liquid plume of jet fuel (LNAPL) containing Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylene and other toxic components is dissolving into groundwater and extends to a mile long and a half mile wide; and

WHEREAS, Soil Vapor Extraction technology cannot remove the LNAPL to keep it from moving further toward Albuquerque's municipal drinking water wells; and

WHEREAS, although the Air Force recognized the spill in 1997, there is still only poor understanding of the size, depth and rate of the expansion of the plume of contamination; and

WHEREAS, there is no approved containment plan, no remediation plan, or ongoing effort to remove the liquid portion of the jet fuel (LNAPL) and the dissolved plume of EDB from Albuquerque's drinking water aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the full size of the dissolved EDB plume is unknown and there are no monitoring wells close to the city wells; and

WHEREAS, The City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County joint Water Utility Authority is the only governmental entity that can demand that the Air Force take action to implement treatment technology to save the City's highly productive Ridgecrest and other drinking water wells from the dissolved EDB plume:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WATER AUTHORITY:

Section 1. That in order to protect the public health and environment, the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County through its Water Utility Authority act immediately to enter into negotiations with the Air Force for emergency measures:

- A. To save Albuquerque's drinking water resource;
- B. To place groundwater monitoring as close as possible to the Ridgecrest municipal wells;
- C. To begin the investigation for technologies and installation of water treatment facilities for the wells including financial assurance;
- D. To halt the further movement of the liquid LNAPL jet fuel;
- E. To plan for and implement remediation technology to address the long-term contamination of soils and the aquifer.

