



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin:

I write you today to request action by the Department of Defense (DOD) on identifying and treating water in Arizona contaminated by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the areas of Luke Air Force Base, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Morris Air National Guard Base and the former Williams Air Force Base. These four installations are located in the two most populous metropolitan areas in Arizona, and each is surrounded by businesses and residential communities where thousands of Arizonans live, work and rely on clean groundwater for drinking.

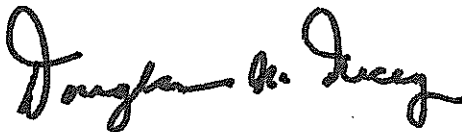
The situation in Arizona deserves attention. Near Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, the drinking water supply for 4,000 people within the Valley Utilities Water Company service area has already been impacted. To compound matters, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has identified 10 additional public water systems serving groundwater to 45,000 people within a 4-mile radius of Luke Air Force Base that are at risk. In Tucson, the City has had to shut-off 18 production wells impacted by PFAS. ADEQ is currently conducting an accelerated investigation and designing an early response action north of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to protect Tucson Water's central wellfield, which serves as a primary drinking water source for Tucson. Areas surrounding former Williams Air Force Base and other installations across the state are either still being assessed or need to be assessed for PFAS impacts. What is known related to Williams Air Force Base is that approximately 12 percent of Mesa's water supply is sourced from groundwater in the area.

Ensuring that all Arizonans have the cleanest possible drinking water from public water systems today and for our future is critical for our health and well-being and a top priority of our state. To that end, I ask DOD to take quick action to prevent additional human exposure to PFAS by:

1. Sharing any and all PFAS data from DOD installations in Arizona, including from its contractors, and the public water systems and private wells DOD has sampled, to help determine the extent of PFAS impacts.
2. Developing a *preliminary* conceptual site model for each facility based on available groundwater, geological and facility data.
3. Estimating a preliminary time range for when PFAS plumes may reach public drinking water systems in the vicinity.
4. Conducting accelerated remedial investigations with the primary purpose of designing early response actions to stop the PFAS plumes.
5. Designing and installing early response actions to protect public drinking water systems that are at risk.

Arizona, through ADEQ, is acting to contain the spread of PFAS now, and I ask you to make a similar commitment on behalf of DOD for prompt remedial actions to address the DOD-related PFAS contamination of groundwater throughout Arizona and protect the health and safety of Arizonans. I look forward to your response on the five issues above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona