

Joseph Hollenback

To Whom it May Concern:

I am Joe Hollenback and I am the Appraisal Supervisor at the Spokane County Assessor's. Fairchild Air Force base is inside of our boundaries and we are finding numerous parcels which have been impacted by the PFAS/fire retardant which has been put into the groundwater surrounding the Air Force Base. In many cases, we are finding the study/affected parcels are numerous miles away from the initial area. At this time, the Air Force has provided little to no information for site specific test results in order for us to make an informed decision about what parcels are impacted. On their website, we know how many properties are over the federal standards (ie;81) and we also can figure out how many properties have noted contaminants below the federal standards. However, the AFB will not provide any information to our office of specific properties which have been impacted.

In prior issues related to contaminated wells (ie;Nike Missile Site), the EPA provided very specific data (GIS noted wells and their specific results). In the case with the Nike Missile Site, sharing of well data/results allowed our office to make informed decisions about what parcels needed to be addressed/studied for potential value decreases, as a result of contaminated wells. It appears the AFB, this time, has the jurisdiction over this matter and it has been extremely frustrating trying to obtain well data. Unfortunately, taxpayers of affected wells may pay the ultimate higher price in property taxes as a result of our inability to acquire accurate and/or more consistent well results.

Currently, we are only aware of about 10% or less of the PFAS contaminated parcels. This means there is still 170 +/- property owners which have test results which have observed contaminants below or above federal standards which we are unable to identify, as we have no access to the well data. The only reason we are able to acquire the results we received is the taxpayers have contacted us or we have requested their test results.

Although, I may understand why they may want to hold onto this information, as it is my understanding this is a national problem and lawsuits are likely pending. It has become increasingly frustrating to do our jobs in "treating taxpayers" in a fair and equitable fashion if we are unable to even identify the known impacted homeowners.

My request is hopefully to provide a forum for us to access information, either privately from the known parcel owners who had wells tested or them providing some information to some of our local County officials. In my view, we have an obligation to monitor this situation and unless we are able to obtain more information we are unable to do so.

I hope you would consider this information and hopefully some of the well testing, etc. can start to be shared, either privately or by some other means, so we are able to better assess and/or study these issues.

Thanks,

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