

Jared Atwood

As a concerned citizen of the neighboring community of the Spokane International Airport I am taking this opportunity to submit my comment concerning the contamination to the water we used for drinking, eating, watering our vegetables, fruits and giving to our animals. I am very upset with the negligence of the airport hierarchy for not sharing this information with the public when the issue was found. It is unfortunate that a concerned citizen had to ask for a public record of the water samples and pass them on to the Department of Ecology, only then was the public made aware of the toxic levels of PFAS and other chemical contaminants in our private wells. One of the things that upsets me the most, is that the airport knew in 2017 that they had contaminated the water in the west plains. My daughter was born in 2016 and could have avoided a lifetime of toxic levels of exposure by simple honesty and transparency from city and county officials that knew the results of the test. For the past 42 years I have been exposed to toxic levels of the contaminants from either the airport or the airbase. The damage done to me is what it is. Could it have been avoided? Maybe. But the exposure to my family could have been minimal if not for the negligence of greedy public officials and airport management who were trying to make a profit from keeping this whole thing quiet and not letting the public know their dirty little secret. For this, these officials need to be held accountable. In my opinion, there are a few different issues here. Who is responsible for the contamination of the water in the west plains and who will be accountable for the cleanup response? The airport and the air base are also 2 different parties who have to share in their responsibility for this mess. But at least FAFB was upfront in letting the cat out of the bag of the contamination they caused. The attempted cover up by SIA is completely unacceptable. You have knowingly put public health in jeopardy. I don't know how this cannot be an issue that just isn't discussed with some passion. SIA is owned and operated by the city and county of Spokane. Why would they not share the information when it was found? What did they have to gain by not disclosing the information? Why in good conscience would they keep this information private and keep allowing people like my little girl to continue to be exposed to this poison? I deserve answers to these questions. The people and families of this community deserve answers. I look forward to attending every meeting and pursuing a proper resolution to this problem.