

# Crystal A Bingham

At our first West Plains citizens meeting in May 2024 Mr. French tried to pawn off the contamination on when the military owned the airport.

A quick google check during that meeting found the airport was transferred to civilian control in 1945: "(formerly Geiger Field) was transferred from the U.S. War Department to Spokane County by the War Assets Administration in 1945."

Likewise: the fire fighting foam was not developed until 1960s:

"PFAS-based firefighting foam, specifically Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF), was invented in the 1960s through a collaboration between the U.S. Navy and the 3M company.. .A patent for a PFAS-containing fire-suppressing foam was obtained in 1966."

I advised Mr. French of these facts during the meeting.

Mr. French admitted at those two meetings that he knew of the contamination in 2017. We were not advised until 2024 by the State of Washington. Not SIA, Not our County Commissioner(s). Not the City of Spokane.

The County and City are responsible for making us whole. We do not blame SIA, the City and County for the use of this product at a time when no one knew its dangers. We blame them for keeping it secret.

Thankfully, gratefully, the State of Washington provided drinking water for those of us who had our water tested. For seven years longer then necessary for us and nine years for many of our neighbors we drank and they are drinking toxic water.

Mr. French in particular has our ire and anger because he is our representative and he was part of the cover-up for seven years. He has lied to his constituents in these meetings, and has lied to me personally.

Our local government, city and county, failed us. They have been disloyal and betrayed the trust we placed in their elections.

The State's water program has now ended. Many neighbors are not finding the under-sink (ONE sink) installation satisfactory.

Our family purchased a whole-house filtration and storage system, which supplies our garden and livestock, at a cost of about \$15K with installation.

We should be reimbursed. ONLY reimbursement would make us 'whole.'  
Our neighbors deserve the same.