

West Plains Water Coalition (John Hancock)

The City's website gegwater.org is a fine start towards clean water services for families in the plume. It's clearly designed to be helpful and trust-building, by skilled staffers now authorized to get serious about helping.

But the leaders and spokespeople of the responsible parties are not doing their duty to explore or explain the competing difficulties of protecting both public health and Airport survival.

The Coalition challenges the leaders of the responsibility parties to step up into public-forum accountability. Explain what you know and what we may not, name the cost and technical obstacles, and defend or give up your gripes about Ecology. Cost allocation among the 3 parties must not be a block to aquifer cleanup and safe drinking water. Give up Airport's legal excuses to block Air Force testing in its own plume. Clean it up now, and litigate later.

We understand "joint and several liability" to mean that Airport's grudge against the National Guard's PFAS is Airport's private concern, not a block to the authority of Ecology. And absent a new letter from FAA, Airport can't excuse itself from MTCA. I'd like to hear the details from the electeds, not their attorneys. Give us your views, please, as our public safety representatives, and stand at the microphone for questions.

We all know that the twin plumes of Fairchild and Airport blend together, because Hayford Rd is no water boundary. That's a topic for the eventual allocation of cost—it must not be used to delay progress towards cleanup. The City of Tucson, for instance, also with adjacent airport/AF base, admitted its drinking PFAS trouble immediately, more than 20 years ago. It didn't wait to assign blame for contamination of City sources. They cleaned it first, building the professionalism and public support required to allocate responsibility and experiment with new technology.

Ecology, please find a way to pry loose the residential well test locations from Fairchild/EPA.

Surely the professional engineers in both camps are producing objective underground chemical information, towards unified fate and transport mapmaking (to supplement Dr. Pritchard's). Without that data, there can be no comprehensive aquifer-wide factfinding.