

Jose Anguamea Lorenzo Villegas

Dear Environment Improvement Board,

On behalf of the El Valle de La Cieneguilla Land Grant Association and the Texas Band of Yaqui Indians, I am submitting this comment in support of the proposed Rule No. EIB 25-81(R).

As someone who is directly affected by the contamination of my blood due to the Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) in my body and the contamination of our private wells by a DoD - New Mexico Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility (AASF-SANTA FE), I see firsthand how the current system falls short and how this rule would make a meaningful difference in innocent people's lives in NM.

The proposed rule if adopted, would help protect vulnerable populations, improve access to clean safe drinking standards, strength accountability among the masses of chemical industries not adhering to protecting our environment and precious water resources. These improvements are not abstract--they would positively impact "real-people" like me and my community every day.

I appreciate that the New Mexico Environment Department Cabinet Secretary James Kenney has been proactive with the La Cieneguilla Land Grant community by intervening in addressing our PFAS contamination of our private wells in the last few months. He has truly kept his word to protect our best interests of public health, welfare and safety for all in New Mexico.

Finalizing this rule would demonstrate a commitment to fairness and evidence-based solutions regarding what is best for New Mexico from an environment justice perspective.

I strongly encourage the EIB to finalize the rule as proposed. It is a good policy decision on behalf of all New Mexicans.

Respectfully,

Chaplain "Chappy" Jose L. Villegas, Sr.
El Valle de La Cieneguilla Land Grant Association
Texas Band of Yaqui Indians, Tribal Administrator Government Affairs (DC)