

Max A. Zuni
Governor



Lt. Governor, Eugene Jiron
Lt. Governor, Juan Rey Abeita

PUEBLO OF ISLETA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 1270
Isleta, New Mexico 87022
Telephone: 505-869-3111

Hon. Tim Keller
Attn: Lawrence Rael
Via email

Re: Atkore United Poly Systems Fire

August 8, 2023

Dear Honorable Mayor Keller,

On behalf of the Pueblo of Isleta, I write to request a meeting to discuss expanded industrial development in the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County and its impact on community health and the environment. The need for this discussion is prompted by Sunday's fire at the Atkore United Poly Systems plastic fabrication facility in Mesa del Sol directly north of the Pueblo.

The United Poly Systems fire on August 6, 2023 is an alarming example of the risk created by the continued growth of manufacturing and industrial development in southern Bernalillo County. Officials with the U.S. EPA have reported that 440,000 pounds of resin material, 1,500 gallons of diesel fuel, 400 gallons of fuel oil, and 125 gallons of propane were located at the United Poly Systems plant and potentially burned in the August 6th fire. The City of Albuquerque issued a health advisory Sunday evening warning residents to remain indoors through Monday morning to avoid the hazardous pollutants emitted from the burning plastics. The Pueblo issued a similar alert to community members. The Pueblo also responded directly to complaints from community members about toxic odors and concerns about the impact of the fire on members' health.

I appreciate the urgent response and communications from U.S. EPA and FEMA Region 6 regarding the nature of the fire and the potential impact to the Pueblo. Additionally, we appreciate the communication of Albuquerque and Bernalillo Fire & Rescue to keep Isleta Fire Chief Lester Gary apprised of ongoing development. However, since initial communications from emergency management on August 6, the Pueblo has received no further guidance or communication from Mesa del Sol or surrounding jurisdictions regarding ongoing impacts and consequences of the pollutants that burned in the fire.



Thus, I request a meeting with local leadership and agencies at 10 a.m. on August 21, 2023 at the Pueblo of Isleta to discuss: the impact of expanded industrial development in southern Bernalillo County, including in Mesa del Sol, on our communities; the protections and enforcement provisions presently in place to address expanding industry – including in “employment center” zones within Mesa Del Sol; and the collateral consequences of the United Poly Systems fire. The purpose of this meeting is to engage both the regulatory leadership charged with oversight and enforcement of these industries, but also leadership of the lands and communities impacted by expanded industrial development including within Mesa del Sol (which includes State and University land). To that end, I have invited the following to this meeting:

- Mayor of Albuquerque, Hon. Tim Keller
- Bernalillo County Commissioner Steven Michael Quezada
- Representative Harry Garcia
- Representative Andres Romero
- Senator Michael Padilla
- Senator Greg Baca
- Albuquerque Air Quality Program
- Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board
- New Mexico Environment Department Director, James C. Kenney
- City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department
- David Shaffer, Chair of the Albuquerque Environmental Planning Commission
- State Land Commissioner, Hon. Stephanie Garcia Richard
- University of New Mexico President, Garnett Stokes
- Kirtland Air Force Base Command, Col. Michael J. Power
- Village of Bosque Farms Mayor, Hon. Russell Walkup
- Village of Los Lunas Mayor, Hon. Charles Griegos

Please advise the Pueblo’s Senior Associate Counsel, Lindsay Cutler at Lindsay.Cutler@isletapueblo.com or by phone at (505)235-2435, by August 11 as to whether your office will attend this meeting and, if so, whether your office will do so in-person or virtually.

Sincerely,



Max A. Zuni, Governor
Pueblo of Isleta

cc: Chief Lester Gary, Pueblo of Isleta Fire Department
Director Clint Lente, Pueblo of Isleta Natural Resources Department
Ramona Montoya, Pueblo of Isleta Natural Resources Department

