

**THE TOWN OF ANDREWS**  
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July 10, 2020

John Baron  
Remediation Project Manager  
Raytheon Technologies  
9 Farm Springs Road, MS9 FS-101  
Farmington, CT 06032

RE: *Town of Andrews Drinking Water*

Dear Mr. Baron,

I write in response to your July 7, 2020 letter.

You claim you share our commitment to safe drinking water in Andrews, and that you want to identify steps which can be taken to prevent this water issue from occurring again.

If you really cared about our drinking water, you would immediately begin aggressive remediation of our aquifer. Your company polluted our town decades ago. Yet, recent testing ordered by IDEM showed that vinyl chloride levels in our well 1 are the highest they have ever been. When the air stripper was installed in 1994, the town was told that it would be a temporary solution to give United Technologies time to clean up the groundwater contamination. That was 26 years ago, and now the contamination in well 1 is so bad that we can't even use it anymore. Both Raytheon and IDEM have failed this community.

When your air stripper stopped working in June, you should have immediately told the town so that we could warn the residents to stop drinking the water. We don't have access to the stripper, and we're not sure what went wrong. All we knew was that it blew out our clear well. You never did warn us, and we had to conduct our own investigation to try to determine what happened. By the time we determined through our own investigation that the stripper had gone down, vinyl chloride and cis-1,2-DCE had already made their way through the town's entire water distribution system.

You have indicated that the town should have notified you when it started using well 1 in May. That is nonsense. Since 2012, we have temporarily activated well 1 about a dozen times and not had any problems. You have never asked us in the past to notify you when we turned on well 1. Besides, your stripper is supposed to be capable of treating all three wells. The Operations and Maintenance Manual you gave to IDEM says the stripper is supposed to be able to treat up to 500 GPM of water to below detectable limits. You should have told us that it was not functioning properly. I have recently learned that almost every finished drinking water sample collected since 1994 has had cis-1,2-DCE in it. You have never operated that stripper properly, and our residents have been drinking contaminated water for decades. I am also surprised to learn that IDEM has let you use the stripper for all of these years even though it was not removing all of the contamination as you promised it would. This demonstrates the lack of respect that IDEM and Raytheon have for our community.

You indicate in your letter that the town has not provided you with all of the information you have requested. That is not true. We have provided you with copies of all of the documents that we have, and we had a conference call with you last week so that you could ask us questions about those documents. We don't know why wells 2 and 3 lost pumping capacity. We just know that when we operate them alone, we get alarms on our high service pump indicating it is not able to keep the tower full. The reason we were able to pump the additional gallons on June 27 when we flushed our lines is because we put each pump on manual and ran them at the same time. That is not the way they normally operate.

If Raytheon is now agreeing to clean and service pumps 2 and 3 at its sole expense, then we are happy to work with you to get that accomplished as a temporary measure. But, your contamination has polluted our aquifer so much that it is no longer safe. We demand that you remove all of your contamination from our town. In the interim, we want you to install new wells in an uncontaminated aquifer.

Raytheon destroyed this community. Instead of paying to properly dispose of its hazardous waste, it dumped it on the ground. When you closed the factory and left town, you just left all of your pollution behind for us to deal with. We now have toxic vapors in our homes and hazardous chemicals in our drinking water.

Raytheon has created a drinking water emergency. When we talked about moving our wells in 2015, IDEM and Stantec said the contamination was not impacting the wells. That statement was false. Raytheon and IDEM are now telling us there is contamination in our wells but we should not be concerned about drinking it because the levels are low. IDEM and Raytheon clearly do not care about the health and safety of our community. Recent drinking water samples collected from the Andrews Elementary School contained cis-1,2-DCE even after we flushed our lines and you said the stripper was fixed. Are you saying you don't care if the children in Andrews drink a toxic chemical?

I know I don't want my wife and daughter and grandchildren (or anyone else in Andrews) to be forced to drink any amount of hazardous chemicals. I'm sure that if you knew cis-1,2-DCE was in your children or grandchildren's drinking water (regardless of the levels) you would do whatever it took to get them clean water. We want you to treat our families the same way you would treat your own family.

We are a small community doing the best we can to provide safe water to our residents. You work for one of the largest companies in the world. If you or IDEM cared about our community, you could get this contamination cleaned up quickly. I am asking you as the Andrews Town Council President to please clean up the pollution you left in our town. Raytheon should not be allowed to force us to breath toxic vapors in our homes and drink hazardous chemicals in our water.

Sincerely,



John Harshbarger

Andrews Town Council President

cc: Robert Jeffers  
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