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CAMP LEJEUNE

SENATE OKS PLAN TO GIVE NOTICE ON TAINTED WATER

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C.

The military must notify as many as 1 million people that they were exposed to contaminated water while living or working at Camp Lejeune, under a measure approved in the Senate.

Contaminated wells at the Marine Corps base in eastern North Carolina were closed in 1987. But unborn babies exposed to the contamination have developed cancers and birth defects, said U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C. Government figures estimate that as many as 1 million people were exposed over the span of three decades.

Dole sponsored the amendment to the defense authorization bill, approved late Tuesday, which the House must approve and the president must sign.

The measure would require the military to notify people at the base between 1958 and 1987 and their families, Dole said in a statement. Notifications are to be expanded via the national media after a year and a survey is to be done to determine the health status of those people.