



Air Force Media Release



Air Force Civil Engineer Center
Office of Public Affairs

2261 Hughes Ave, Ste 155, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland TX 78236-9853
(210) 925-0956 afcec.pa@us.af.mil www.afcec.af.mil

Release No. 20140827-12

Date: August 27, 2014

Air Force, NMED fine-tuning Kirtland fuel cleanup plan

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas – The Air Force and the New Mexico Environment Department are collaborating to revise the short- and long-term plans to clean up a fuel release at the Kirtland Air Force Base Bulk Fuels Facility in New Mexico.

The first product of this collaboration, the “*Groundwater Extraction Pilot Implementation and Additional Characterization Work Plan*,” was prepared by the Air Force and approved by NMED on Aug. 20, 2014. The work plan includes drilling 16 additional monitoring wells to better define the extent of contamination, and installing an extraction well to remove contamination and prevent migration toward public drinking water supply wells.

The Air Force initially submitted Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation, or RFI, Vadose and Groundwater Zone reports to the NMED March 31, 2014. These reports will be revised after data gained from the new wells is available, and resubmitted for NMED approval.

"Having this knowledge ensures that we choose the safest and most effective treatment available to clean the site," said NMED Environmental Health Director Tom Blaine. "We are also installing a number of new monitoring wells to help us better characterize the plume, address any existing data gaps, and give us a better understanding of the size and location of contaminants, as well as how fast it is moving."

While the Air Force and NMED revise the RFI reports, progress continues to be made in monitoring and remediating the fuel plume. Some key efforts include:

--More--

CLEANUP 2-2-2

- The U.S. Geological Survey is currently drilling a total of nine groundwater wells at three key locations to provide advanced notice should the groundwater plume begin to approach the City of Albuquerque municipal drinking water supply wells;
- A soil vapor extraction working group is planning installation of new SVE well clusters and expansion of the current SVE system to remove contamination from the soil;
- The Air Force will implement the approved work plan to install an extraction well to pump and treat the ethylene dibromide groundwater contamination;
- NMED and the Air Force are designing an aerobic treatability study to treat the light non-aqueous phase liquid, or LNAPL, portion of the plume.

“With NMED’s partnership, we are working toward efficiencies that will be smarter, faster, and more effective in executing and solving this environmental problem,” said Dr. Adria Bodour, Air Force Civil Engineer Center technical lead for the Kirtland Bulk Fuels Facility project. “While the Air Force revises the conceptual long-term plan at the BFF site, we will implement multiple interim measures to reduce the EDB plume and protect the city’s water supply.”