

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORRyan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****January 15, 2015**

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**New Mexico Environment Department Issues Notice Of Violation  
To Kirtland Air Force Base For Missing Interim Measures Deadline***Air Force Facing Significant Fines and Must Submit Ethylene Dibromide Clean-Up Plan Within 45 Days*

**Santa Fe** – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) today issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) after Kirtland Air Force Base missed a December 31, 2014 deadline to design and implement an acceptable interim measure to begin clean-up of ethylene dibromide (EDB) in the underground fuel spill.

“Deadlines matter,” said Secretary Ryan Flynn. “We believe the Air Force has made progress over the past year and are encouraged by the leadership exhibited by Colonel Miller and Deputy Assistant Secretary Ferguson. However, results are what ultimately matter the most and so far the Air Force has failed to implement an interim measure for removing EDB from the groundwater. Our expectations regarding the EDB Interim Measure will not be satisfied until the Air Force begins operating the groundwater pump-and-treat system.”

The EDB Interim Measure deadline was agreed upon in August of 2013. While NMED extended deadlines last summer for plan submission, those extensions did not remove the expectation for an EDB Interim Measure to be in place by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The goal of the EDB Interim Measure is to stabilize and collapse the dissolved phase EDB plume while final comprehensive corrective action measures are selected. To achieve this, the Air Force has presented a robust plan to install eight extraction wells, rather than one well as called for in the current plan. This EDB interim measure expansion has not been formally reviewed or approved by NMED. The NOV requires the Air Force to submit an EDB Interim Measure Implementation Plan for approval that outlines the more expansive approach.

In addition to monitoring well drilling to support eventual extraction of EDB contaminated groundwater, which is underway, extraction systems are in place that are pulling the gas plume vapors trapped in the soils above the aquifer. These Soil Vapor Extraction systems have removed more than 500,000 gallons of fuel and will increase significantly in 2015 with the addition of several more vapor extraction wells.

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