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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Issues for Public Comment Draft Hazardous Waste Permit for Kirtland Air Force Base

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department released for public comment today a draft hazardous waste facility permit for the U.S. Department of Defense Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) near Albuquerque.

The draft permit addresses the operation of the facility's open burn and open detonation units that treat hazardous wastes and the investigation and cleanup of groundwater and other sites contaminated during current and past operations at the facility. The permit includes an enforceable schedule for cleanup work at that facility.

The central mission of KAFB is the administration of defense programs for the U.S. Department of Defense. The 377th Air Base Wing (ABW) is the Base's host organization. The ABW supports more than 200 tenant organizations, including the New Mexico Air National Guard, the Department of Energy, Albuquerque Office, United States Customs, Sandia National Laboratories and other government agencies.

The base generates and treats solid and hazardous wastes, which have the potential to be harmful to human health and the environment. Wastes include fuel contaminated waste, volatile organic compounds, semivolatile organic compounds, metals and perchlorate. KAFB treats the wastes at its Explosive Ordnance Disposal Range, comprised of both the open burn and open detonation units. The Range is also used for training in demolition and explosives-handling methods.

WHAT: NMED invites the public to submit written comments on the draft Permit during a 60 day public comment period that ends June 15. Members of the public may submit to NMED written comments on the draft permit at any time during the public comment period. NMED will issue a final permit after considering all written comments received from the public. The department will schedule a hearing, if requested and granted, after the end of the public comment period.

WHEN: Written comments and requests for a public hearing will be accepted until 5 p.m., June 15, 2007

WHERE: The draft Permit and the administrative record may be reviewed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau at 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303. Procedures for submitting written comments, requests for a public hearing, and a copy of the draft Permit are also available at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/kafbperm.html>

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