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**Environment Department Requires Accelerated Cleanup at Kirtland for Underground
Jet Fuel Spill**

Base Will Add Product Removal System and Five New Monitoring Wells

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department required Kirtland Air Force Base to pursue an accelerated cleanup plan for an underground jet fuel spill at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque.

The plan, which the department approved this week, calls for the immediate installation and operation of a twin-engine RSI Internal Combustion Engine Soil Vapor Extraction system at Kirtland Air Force Base's Fuel Storage Facility.

"The New Mexico Environment Department will continue to drive this cleanup to protect groundwater and ensure residents are aware of ongoing tasks," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "We required Kirtland to install the new system and monitoring wells that will contribute to efficient and successful completion of the project."

The soil vapor extraction system will allow the base to remove fuel from groundwater at a depth of 500 feet as Kirtland continues to define the extent of the plume. The system will be installed at monitoring well KAFB-1065, where floating fuel was first found.

The system operates through engines that power a vacuum blower that draws vapors from soil while burning vapor as fuel through the engine air intake. The department also approved the installation of five monitoring wells that will further define the extent of floating fuel on groundwater. That project is scheduled to begin Monday..

The department will require the base to submit a full-scale remediation plan once Kirtland defines the extent of the plume. The department will provide details of the plan to residents prior to deciding whether to approve it.

The discovery of fuel floating on groundwater at Kirtland and the ensuing investigation, as well as the public notice about its existence, resulted at the direction of the department. The department, which also worked with

the City of Albuquerque on the issue, also required Kirtland to install the initial four monitoring wells near the base. One of those wells detected the jet fuel leak in groundwater outside base boundaries. Once the department learned of the leak, it required a quick turnaround from Kirtland on a cleanup plan.

The department's Ground Water Bureau provided information to residents about the spill at a recent public meeting and recently tested a private irrigation well in the area. The department will continue to test other wells for residents.

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