

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****June 21, 2016**

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*The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.*

**Kirtland Plume Cleanup Progress To Be Discussed  
Wednesday at Albuquerque Water Authority*****Pump and Treat System in Operation Less than a Year Already Yielding Results***

**Santa Fe** – Progress toward reducing the jet fuel plume at Kirtland Air Force Base is occurring thanks to the pump and treat system which has been operating throughout 2016. Experts from the New Mexico Environment Department will be presenting the latest findings on the jet fuel plume at the 5 p.m. Wednesday meeting of the Albuquerque Water Users' Authority in Bernalillo to be held in the Vincent E. Griego Chambers, in the basement of One Civic Plaza Government Center.

The latest findings about the plume's extent, and its likelihood for collapse, are related to the pump and treat system which is creating a "cone of depression" believed to encompass the plume. "Just as sucking on a straw at the middle of a milkshake, creates a cone of depression that is visible on the surface of the milkshake, so do extraction wells installed into the center of the Kirtland jet fuel plume," said Environment Department Chief Scientist Dennis McQuillan. "The data, so far, demonstrate a cone of depression, which is the first milestone toward collapsing and shrinking the plume."

Under the administration of Governor Susana Martinez, the Environment Department brought increased focus to the Kirtland Air Force Base jet fuel plume bringing the U.S. Air Force, community stakeholders, and environmental experts together to launch and execute on the cleanup effort. Environment Department Secretary Ryan Flynn said, "We will not be satisfied until we have successfully cleaned up the entire leak. Our collaborative strategies, so far and throughout 2016, will aggressively and effectively address the contamination."

For more information about remediating soil and groundwater at the Kirtland Air Force Base fuel site throughout 2016, visit <http://bit.ly/28NoLMU> for the Environment Department's 2016 Strategic Plan on the Kirtland Air Force Base Fuel Leak. Or contact Project Communications Lead Jill Turner at [jill.turner@state.nm.us](mailto:jill.turner@state.nm.us) or 505-222-9548.

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