

# Bulk Fuels Facility Project Update

Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Keeping the Public Informed



*This newsletter is a collaboration between Kirtland AFB, Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC), and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). It is issued regularly to share project progress and information with neighbors of Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB). If you do not wish to continue receiving these updates, please let us know via email at [afcec.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afcec.pa@us.af.mil)*

## PROJECT BOTTOM LINE

- Fuel from Kirtland AFB Bulk Fuels Facility only leaked into on-base surface soil. Because the fuel traveled down about 480 to 500 feet below the surface, roughly the height of a 45-story building, impacts to residential gardens from this depth are unlikely.
- Ethylene dibromide (EDB) dissolved from the jet fuel and moved with the flow of groundwater, extending north of Gibson.
- Contamination has not been identified in any water production wells, on or off-base.
- Drinking water for neighborhoods near the project area and Kirtland AFB comes from city and Base water systems that are monitored monthly to ensure contamination is not present.

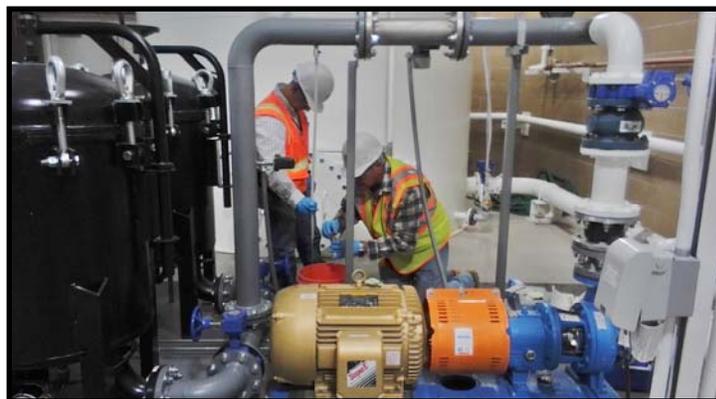
## INTERIM CLEANUP UPDATE

- Contaminated soil (4,822 tons) above regulatory standards, was removed in phases beginning in 1999 with the last removal in 2015.
- In 2003, the Air Force installed the first soil vapor extraction (SVE) system on-base - SVE has removed 550,000 gallons of fuel over 12 years.
- An additional 200,000 gallons of fuel and associated components have been removed through biodegradation (when naturally occurring bacteria breakdown contaminants into non-toxic products such as carbon dioxide, water, and ammonia).
- The pump and treat system installed in 2015 was built to capture and treat EDB that has moved off-base in groundwater.
- As of March 22, 2016, about 36.8 million gallons of groundwater have been pumped from the off-base contaminant plume and treated to remove 15,000 milligrams (mg) of EDB.

### *Calendar of Events*

**April 19, 2016:** Quarterly Public Update meeting at the African-American Performing Arts Center, 5:30 to 8:30 pm

**April 23, 2016:** Field Trip of Fuel Project Area, Kirtland Air Force Base. For more information or to sign up for the tour, please visit the registration website: <https://www.portageinc.com/kirtland/>.



*Project personnel preparing to take a water sample of treated water at the full-scale treatment facility located on Kirtland AFB. (Courtesy photo)*

## CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

- Quarterly environmental sample results show that contaminants are not present in the environment at or near the ground surface at levels that pose a threat to human health or the environment.
- To date, 134 groundwater monitoring wells and 284 soil vapor monitoring points have been installed to ensure the extent of the contamination is identified.
- Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (LNAPL), or product that does not dissolve in water, fuel product has been identified at only slightly detectable amounts (i.e., sheen to 0.1 foot ) in groundwater monitoring wells for the last two years and data show the benzene plume is stable and not moving.
- A detailed risk assessment, to be done this year, will address potential risks to people and the environment – results will be in the RCRA Facility Report which will be available to the public later this year.

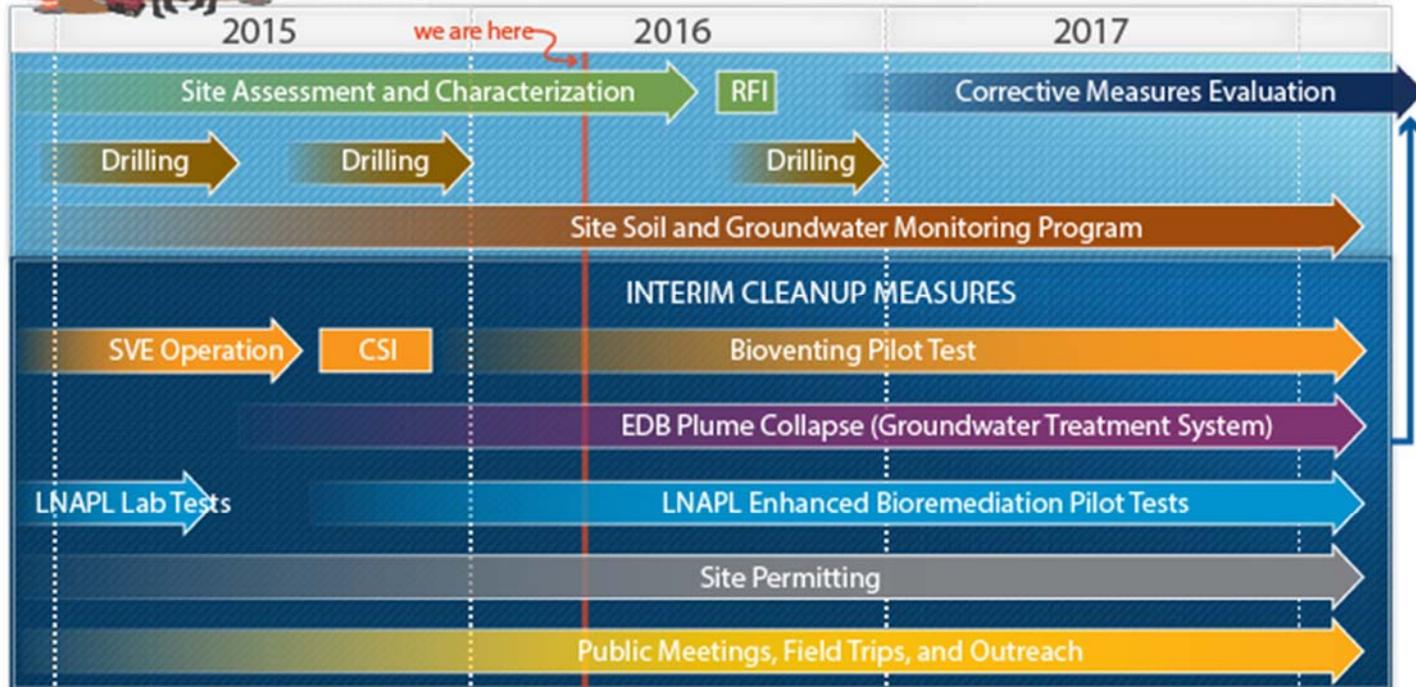
## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Information specific to the fuel plume investigation is provided at the quarterly Public Update meeting. The April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at the African-American Performing Arts Center, 310 San Pedro Dr. NE, Albuquerque.
- These meetings are open to the public. Interested community members are encouraged to attend with no RSVP required.
- [www.kirtlandjetfuelremediation.com](http://www.kirtlandjetfuelremediation.com) is a project-specific website available to provide information related to the fuel spill investigation to the public.

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» CSI - Complex Site Initiative • EDB - Ethylene Dibromide • LNAPL - Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid • RFI - RCRA Facility Investigation Report • SVE - Soil Vapor Extraction

## REGULATORY CORNER

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) is a federal regulation that outlines the control of waste from “cradle-to-grave,” to include generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal.
- RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) results and quarterly monitoring data, will be used to inform a Corrective Measures Evaluation (CME).
- Interim measures (IM) for early treatment/remediation are in action at Kirtland AFB. The results of IM operations are used in the CME evaluation and determination of final remedy, and are not end points of remediation.
- Permits and other regulatory permissions are obtained from local and state agencies to ensure project work is done per regulations. NMED and the Water Utility Authority ensure standards of the Safe drinking Water Act are met by the project.

### Contact the Air Force

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[www.kirtlandjetfuelremediation.com](http://www.kirtlandjetfuelremediation.com) or  
<http://www.kirtland.af.mil>

(Public records in Environmental Issues section)

### Contact NMED

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[www.env.nm.gov/NMED/Issues/KirtlandFuelPlume](http://www.env.nm.gov/NMED/Issues/KirtlandFuelPlume)