

Bulk Fuels Facility Project Update

Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Keeping the Public Informed



This newsletter marks the beginning of regular updates 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 377abw.pa@kirtland.af.mil.

INITIAL TREATMENT/INTERIM MEASURES UPDATE

- A new soil vapor extraction (SVE) unit was brought online in January 2013 to remove and treat fuel located at the top of the water table and within the vadose zone - soil area above the water table that is partly filled with both air and water.
- New SVE unit startup occurred January 22, 2013 with representatives from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department observing unit testing.
- The Mayor of Albuquerque toured the new unit January 23, 2013 with Col. John Kubinec, Installation Commander.
- A Radius of Influence (ROI) evaluation is being conducted to define optimal operating conditions and settings for the new SVE unit. ROI testing will identify the area being treated, making the remediation process more efficient and effective than the four previously used units.
- Albuquerque drinking water remains unaffected by the fuel plume and is expected to remain so indefinitely.
- Interim measures (IM) for early treatment/remediation are in place at Kirtland AFB; the results of IM operations are used in the Corrective Measures Evaluation and are not end points of remediation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- A new website is being developed for a mid-February 2013 release to share project information with the public.
- Documents related to the fuel spill investigation currently are available at www.kirtland.af.mil/environment.asp.
- Information is also provided at the quarterly Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meetings held at the Cesar Chavez Community Center, 7505 Kathryn Avenue SE, Albuquerque.
- CAB meetings are open to the public and interested community members are encouraged to attend.



New soil vapor extraction unit at Kirtland Air Force Base

WELL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

- Drilling, installation and development of nine new groundwater monitoring wells was completed in October 2012—no additional wells are scheduled for installation at this time.
- Data from the nine new groundwater wells will confirm the northeast extent of the plume through quarterly sampling events.
- 2012 Fourth Quarter data from the nine well clusters northeast of the plume show that no fuel-related contaminants are present, e.g. ethylene dibromide (EDB) or volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Results were confirmed by NMED.
- These wells have been added to the regular quarterly sampling schedule performed on the plume.

Calendar of Events

February 19, 2013: Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting at Cesar Chavez Community Center, 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

March 29, 2013: 2012 Fourth Quarter Report delivered to NMED

May 21, 2013: CAB meeting at Cesar Chavez Community Center, 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Important
DATES!

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RCRA Flowchart

RCRA CORNER

- BFF project activities are being conducted in accordance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), a federal regulation outlining the control of hazardous waste from “cradle-to-grave,” including the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste
- Oversight authority has been delegated from the Environmental Protection Agency, a federal agency, to the New Mexico Environment Department, a state agency
- Investigation results and quarterly monitoring data will be used in a Corrective Measures Evaluation that that will identify, develop and evaluate potential remedial alternatives for contamination removal, containment, and treatment

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Kirtland AFB Bulk Fuels Facility (BFF) operated from 1953 through 1999, when the receiving facility was removed from service due to discovery of underground leakage
- Three types of fuel were processed by the BFF: aviation fuel (AvGas) or high-octane gasoline, Jet Propellant Fuel-4 (JP-4) and JP-8
- AvGas and JP-4 use was phased out in 1975 and 1993, respectively. JP-8 use continued until the leak was discovered in 1999
- Investigation activities identified jet fuel on the groundwater table on-base in February in 2007 and off-base later that year
- An SVE unit was installed in 2003 to begin treating soil contamination, with an additional three units added in 2007