

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment Addressing Air Force Research Laboratory Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Activities at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico

The United States Air Force (USAF), United States Space Force (USSF), Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB), Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) announce the availability of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) addressing the continuation of research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) activities on Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB), New Mexico. The Draft PEA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and USAF instructions implementing NEPA.

The Draft PEA describes the AFRL proposal to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with continuing to conduct RDT&E activities on Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. AFRL has been conducting RDT&E activities on Kirtland AFB since the 1960s and there are many existing Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Analysis Process documents spanning the decades from 1970 to present day. The Proposed Action consolidates all current and proposed future AFRL RDT&E activities into one PEA, ensuring these activities can continue to occur on Kirtland AFB into the future. Two units of AFRL conduct these activities, AFRL's Directed Energy Directorate (AFRL/RD) and AFRL's Space Vehicle Directorate (AFRL/RV). AFRL/RD develops directed energy weapons (including high energy lasers, high-power microwave, and high-power electromagnetic system prototypes) to counter, disable, and attack adversary sources. Equipment, components, and designs for warfighter weapons are created and tested in laboratories across Kirtland AFB before being tested outdoors at the High Energy Research and Technology Facility (HERTF)/HERTF Canyon, Frustration Canyon, Starfire Optical Range/1-Mile and 2-Mile sites, and Outdoor Laser Propagation and Firing Area to evaluate performance of the new technology. AFRL/RV ensures that the United States and its allies maintain space superiority by developing and transitioning technologies that provide space-based capabilities to the nation. Equipment, components, and designs for space-based technologies are created in laboratories across Kirtland AFB and then tested outdoors at the Skywave Technology Laboratory, Improved Solar Observing Optical Network, and South Park Antenna Field.

The Draft PEA evaluates potential impacts on the environment from the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The Draft PEA demonstrates that the Proposed Action would not significantly impact the environment and based on this analysis, AFRL has prepared a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The Draft PEA and Draft FONSI are available for review on the Kirtland AFB website at <http://www.kirtland.af.mil/Home/Environment> and at the San Pedro Public Library, 5600 Trumbull Avenue SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Comments regarding this document will be accepted for 30 days from the publication of this notice. Comments for consideration and other inquiries should be directed by mail to Ms. Martha Garcia, Unit Environmental Coordinator RV & RD, Building 464 | Room 405, 3550 Aberdeen Avenue SE, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico 87117, or by email to martha.garcia.3@spaceforce.mil.