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**(Neb.)-Air Force To Pay For Tank Violations In Panhandle**

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 09/28/2012 01:52 PM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - The U.S. Air Force has agreed to pay a \$12,800 fine for an apparent leak in an underground diesel tank in western Nebraska, as well as other environmental violations.

An Environmental Protection Agency spokesman said Friday that the violations occurred at Air Force facilities in Banner, Cheyenne and Kimball counties in western Nebraska.

The agency says the agreement requires the Air Force to conduct a "tank tightness" test to determine if one of its tanks is leaking. The Air Force is unable to account for nearly 1,500 gallons of diesel fuel that was in that tank.

Regulators say other violations included a failure to provide overfill protection for an existing tank, failure to conduct annual inspections, and failure to report a suspected leak.

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