



NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be released in March 2024.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.ellsworth.af.mil/About-Us/Environmental/>

View the following:

- Past newsletters
- PFAS Updates
- Presentations
- Public announcements

CONTACT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the [Administrative Record Website](#)

<https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/>

- From the "Installation List" on the left, scroll down and select "Ellsworth AFB, SD"
- If you know the AR number enter it next to "AR #" and click "Search"
- Click on the magnifying glass to open
- Numerous other search blocks can be used

Ellsworth Community Clean Water Project on Track to Begin Construction in 2024

An Air Force-funded project to install a waterline serving residents near Ellsworth AFB is on track to begin construction in mid-2024!

In Oct. 2022, the Air Force's effort to provide a permanent source of water to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)-impacted residents near Ellsworth AFB came to a standstill when Meade County denied a permit application to install a waterline in the county right-of-way.

Soon after this setback, Pennington County and the Public Works Directors of Rapid City and Box Elder offered support for an alternate plan located solely within Pennington County. After several months of partnering meetings with representatives from Rapid City, Box Elder, Pennington County, Air Force, and the S.D. Ellsworth Development Authority (SDEDA), a new plan emerged. On Jan. 31, 2023, a "handshake agreement" was announced in a press conference.

Under the new plan, a waterline will be designed and built by SDEDA to supply

water to the impacted residents in Areas A and B (see Figure 1). Once built, Rapid City will supply water and own the line west of Elk Vale Road. Box Elder will own the line east of Elk Vale Road.

The new waterline will benefit the entire community surrounding Ellsworth AFB and will provide a much-needed additional connection between Rapid City, Box Elder, and Ellsworth AFB.

Tentative plans call for household connections to occur in 2025. The Air Force will continue to operate treatment systems or provide bottled water to PFAS-impacted residents until households are hooked up to the new waterline.

After hookups are complete, PFAS-impacted residences will begin receiving drinking water from the new waterline, the Air Force will stop providing alternate water, and treatment systems will be removed.

Those with questions on the waterline construction plans are encouraged to contact Mr. Scott Landguth with SDEDA at (605) 209-2538.

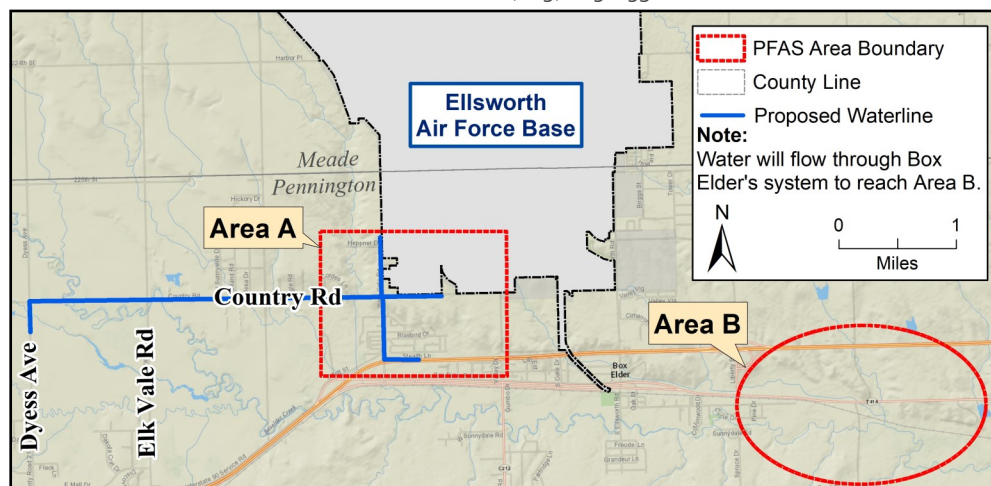


Figure 1. Proposed New Waterline.

Community Town Hall Meeting Thursday March 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. 130 Kansas City Street, Suite 100

The Pennington County Commission is hosting a community town hall meeting on March 28, 2024. The purpose of the Town Hall is to update the community on the Air Force response actions regarding PFAS.

The Town Hall will be in the Commission Chambers at the Pennington County Administration Building in Rapid City.

The Air Force, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and

Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and SDEDA plan to participate.

The meeting is scheduled for 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and specific topics and speakers will be announced in the March 2024 newsletter.

For more information, please contact:
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Community members listen to an Air Force presentation during the March 28, 2023 Town Hall Meeting.

Black Hills Defense & Industry Symposium

April 10-11, 2024 The Box, Box Elder

The Black Hills Defense and Industry Symposium, hosted by the Black Hills Military Advisory Coalition, is an annual event to bring academia, research, industry, military, and Black Hills communities together for meaningful dialogue on military issues in western South Dakota.

Ms. Rita Krebs, Remedial Project Manager for PFAS issues at Ellsworth AFB, will be speaking on "The Past, Present, and Future of PFAS at Ellsworth AFB" on April 10th. Five breakout sessions are being planned for April 11th to focus on the following topics with emphasis on PFAS issues: rural water; military construction; importance of partnerships; and innovation.

For more information, please contact:

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