



## NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be released in June 2023.

## 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

## Community Town Hall Meeting Tuesday March 28th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. 130 Kansas City Street, Suite 100

The Pennington County Board of Commissioners is hosting a Community Town Hall meeting.

The purpose of the town hall is to update the community on Air Force response actions regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The Town Hall will be in the Commission Chambers at the Pennington County Administration Building in Rapid City. The meeting will also be available remotely via an online forum\*\*

Scheduled speakers are listed below. All are welcome to attend!

Speaker	Organization	Topics
Travis Lasseter	Pennington County Board of Commissioners	Opening remarks / introductions Closing remarks / questions
Glen Kane	S.D. Ellsworth Development Authority	Ellsworth Community Clean Water Project
Rita Krebs	Air Force Civil Engineer Center	Quarterly monitoring program Upcoming risk assessment Ways to stay informed RAB interest assessment
Sisay Ashenafi	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Technical Assistance Needs Assessment

\*\*To watch the Community Town Hall live, join on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@PenningtonCountyBOC/streams>

Please join on Zoom ONLY if you want to speak or provide a comment:

<https://tinyurl.com/2vhy5fh4>

or

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/7755207200?pwd=eHBoNGoyRXVkekk2dFhZaEJwRVdEUTog>

Zoom Meeting ID: 775 520 7200

Zoom Passcode: 1234

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Interest Assessment Underway Through April 30, 2023

The Air Force is assessing community interest in re-establishing the RAB.

Please see the attached flier for more information. The assessment ends on April 30, 2023.

## Restoration Advisory Board vs. Public Meeting

Many people have casually expressed interest in reinstating the Ellsworth RAB; so we wanted to compare and contrast a formal RAB versus Public Meetings.

### RAB

The purpose of a RAB is stakeholder involvement in the environmental restoration process at current and former Department of Defense properties. Regulations regarding the scope, characteristics, composition, funding, establishment, operation, adjournment, and dissolution of a RAB are in Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 202.

The RAB is a formal board made up of Government and Community members which follows formal procedures (similar to a city council meeting). The RAB receives and discusses information and can make comments or recommendations. RABs have no decision making role in restoration activities.

The RAB holds meetings that are open to the public; however, all public questions or comments may not be heard during the meeting due to time constraints and would have to be submitting in writing for

follow-up. Also, RABs discuss the entire environmental restoration program at the installation, not just one specific site, activity, or issue.

### Public Meeting

Public meeting are more flexible than RABs. They are held to share information and can discuss specific topics or the entire restoration program. Public meetings allow community members to express their opinions and receive information on specific topics, such as PFAS.

### Compare and Contrast

Ellsworth had a formal RAB established in the 1990s which dissolved in the 2000s due to lack of community interest. Public meetings continued under the "RAB Meeting" title; however, they were just regular public meetings since the RAB was dissolved.

During the 2021 RAB interest assessment, the focus of community interest was solely PFAS issues. There was no interest expressed in the other environmental restoration activities on Ellsworth AFB. According to DOD regulations, the RAB's focus must be broader than

one restoration site or activity.

Currently, the community is kept informed through this newsletter, the Administrative Record, the Environmental Matters Website, one-on-one meetings (held as needed/requested), and the public meetings hosted by the Pennington County Board of Commissioners. The Air Force receives valuable feedback from community members as a result of these efforts.

Due to the Global COVID-19 pandemic, public meetings of all kinds came to a screeching halt. As we have been able to get back to meeting in person, Pennington County, Air Force, and U.S. EPA have collaborated to provide a Community Town Hall forum and the March 2022 public meeting was well attended and highly effective in the hybrid in-person/online format.

A RAB would be another way to accomplish the same thing, but it would come at a cost by diverting resources away from the current programs and into the RAB.

Programs at risk of discontinuation include this newsletter, one-on-one meetings, and individualized mailings.

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