



## NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be released in March 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

## Update: New Community Water System

In September, the Air Force entered into a new agreement with the S.D. Ellsworth Development Authority (SDEDA) in which the Air Force will provide funds to build a community water system and connect PFAS-impacted residents to the system. System design was completed in September and the S.D. Water Management Board granted water rights on October 5, 2022.

SDEDA originally planned to do most of the work in Meade County. However, Meade County denied SDEDA's permit application to install the utility in the county right-of-way.

SDEDA is currently working on an alternate plan solely in Pennington County. Representatives from the Cities of Box Elder and Rapid City are key members of the team working to develop the new plan.

Tentative plans call for construction to

begin in 2023 and household connections to occur in 2024. PFAS-impacted residences in Area A and B (see Figure 1) will be connected to the new system.

The Air Force will continue to operate treatment systems or provide bottled water to the PFAS-impacted residents until households are hooked up to the new water system.

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

Those with questions about SDEDA's construction plans for the new community water system are encouraged to contact:

Mr. Glen Kane  
SDEDA  
(605) 390-7290

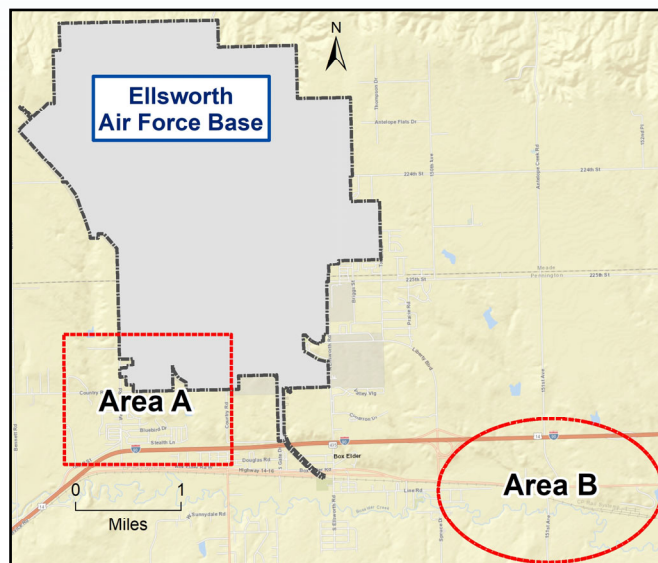


Figure 1. SDEDA is working to provide an alternate source of water to PFAS-impacted residents in Areas A and B.

## Why the Air Force Partnered with SDEDA on the New Community Water System

In 2021, after being unable to work out an arrangement with the existing municipalities close to Ellsworth AFB, the Air Force entered into a partnership with SDEDA. SDEDA, created by the State legislature in 2009, has a proven track record of collaborating with municipal governments, business leaders, and the Air Force on projects mutually beneficial to Ellsworth AFB and the local community.

Since its inception, SDEDA has worked to fix the issues responsible for Ellsworth being placed on the initial 2005 base closure list. A key issue they work on is protecting the public from airplane crashes and excessive noise by removing homes (with permission from landowners) located near the Ellsworth runway crash risk and high noise zones. SDEDA accomplishes this by acquiring properties and/or development rights from voluntary sellers.

SDEDA collaborated with the Air Force and City of Box Elder to build the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats wastewater from both the City of Box Elder and Ellsworth AFB. SDEDA continues to operate the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Air Force continues to provide safe drinking water to PFAS-impacted residences and is providing up-front capital costs to build the community water system.

The Air Force and SDEDA are working with a sense of urgency. Representatives from the Air Force and SDEDA met with the PFAS-impacted residents and realized that having Air Force operated treatment systems or getting bottled water deliveries is burdensome on the residents. The goal is to connect those impacted residents to a community water system as soon as possible.

## You Are Invited to the Next Town Hall Meeting Hosted by Pennington County on March 28, 2023

The Pennington County Commission is hosting a community town hall meeting on March 28, 2023 and the Air Force, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and SDEDA plan to participate.

The time has not been finalized yet but will be announced in the next newsletter.

For more information, please contact:  
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