

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be released in November 2020.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD WEBSITE
<http://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/>

PFOS/PFOA Update: Municipal Connections and Treatment Systems Installed and/or Pending

PFOS/PFOA are man-made compounds present in many products like nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabric and carpet, and some food packaging. They were also present in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a fire-fighting foam which the Air Force started using in 1970. AFFF was last used at Ellsworth AFB in November 2016.

In 2016, the U. S. EPA established the drinking water Lifetime Health Advisory (HA) for

PFOS/PFOA of 70 parts per trillion (ppt).

Starting in 2017, the Air Force identified and sampled drinking water wells for PFOS/PFOA in the areas east, south, and west of Ellsworth AFB.

The following is an update on the ongoing efforts to address impacts to the 29 properties (served by 24 wells) with PFOS/PFOA above the Lifetime HA:

- 6 properties were connected to existing municipal systems;
- 20 filtration systems were installed at 18 properties and a filtration system is planned for 1 additional property;
- 1 large treatment system was installed at a property serving ~ 66 residences; and
- 3 properties will be connected to an existing municipal system once ROEs are signed.

PFOS/PFOA Update: Long-Term Solutions

The Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) identified the alternatives, cost, and estimated time for implementation of alternatives for drinking water wells with PFOS/PFOA concentrations above the Lifetime HA.

The project also evaluated options for connecting the Southwest Waterline to a municipal system.

The EE/CA report recommended the preferred alternatives and was made available for public review and comment June 18 through July 18, 2020.

The Air Force met with the City of Box Elder twice in July 2020 to discuss the alternatives.

The chosen alternatives will be documented in the final Action Memorandum, which includes a

Responsiveness Summary to address comments received by the public. The draft Action Memorandum was provided to the State and U.S. EPA for review on July 31, 2020.

The Air Force is evaluating the process to implement the chosen alternatives identified in the Action Memorandum.

TCE Update: East Off-Base Waterline

In the 1990s, the Air Force installed the East Off-Base Waterline (see reverse) to provide an alternate source of drinking water to the residents whose groundwater was contaminated by trichloroethylene (TCE). The waterline was turned over to the City of Box Elder in 2006; however, the Air Force has continued

to pay the water bill for several residences until cleanup activities are completed as defined by the Record of Decision for Operable Unit 11 (Basewide Groundwater). The Air Force is close to meeting the cleanup goals. The exit strategy assessment is underway and groundwater samples were collected in August 2020.

Once cleanup activities are completed, the Air Force will provide 60 days notice starting as early as October to those residences still receiving water paid by the Air Force notifying them that they will be responsible for paying their own water bill as early as December 2020.

PFOS/PFOA Quarterly Sampling Program

If initial PFOS/PFOA results from a drinking water well are below the Lifetime HA (70 ppt), but above one-half the Lifetime HA (35 ppt), the well is placed into the quarterly monitoring program. Wells in the quarterly monitoring program will be sampled for one year and if results continue to remain below the Lifetime HA and do not show an increasing trend, the well will then be sampled annually for two years.

One drinking water well sampled during the March 2020 quarterly event had con-

centrations above the Lifetime HA. The property was connected to a municipal system in August 2020.

Currently, three drinking water wells remain in the quarterly monitoring program. These wells have at least one year of sample results. One well exhibits stable trends below the Lifetime HA and will now be sampled annually for two years. The other two wells exhibit increasing trends and will continue to be sampled on a quarterly basis.

Upcoming Meetings

The Air Force will host one-on-one meetings in September 2020 for residents on the East Off-Base Waterline who receive water paid by the Air Force.

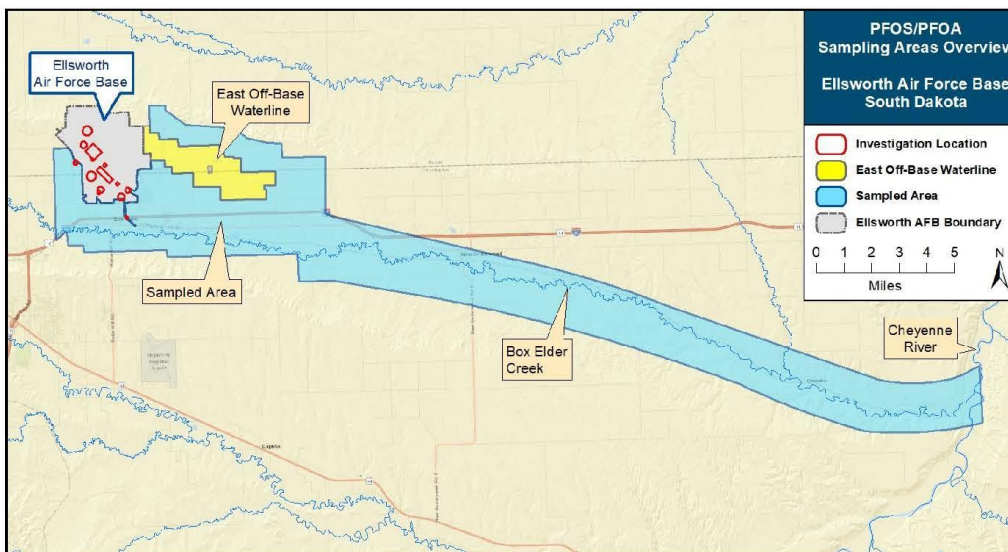
Future one-on-one meetings will be held for residents whose drinking water wells have PFOS/PFOA concentrations above the Lifetime HA and residents on the Southwest Waterline.



NEED YOUR DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLED FOR PFOS/PFOA?

We made every effort to identify and sample all drinking water wells in the survey area; however, not all properties were accessible.

If you have a shallow well used for drinking water and would like the Air Force to sample it for PFOS/PFOA, please contact the Remedial Project Manager at (605) 385-2688.



Important Sources of Information on PFOS/PFOA:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/pfas
- U.S. Air Force Civil Engineer Center: www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/