

Ellsworth Air Force Base Restoration News

Keeping local residents informed of cleanup activities

December 2021 Issue 19

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be released in March 2022.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.ellsworth.af.mil/About-Us/environmental/

View the following:

- Past newsletters
- PFOS/PFOA 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 Involvement Plan Updated

The updated Community Involvement Plan is available in the Administrative Record. The Community Involvement Plan:

- Summarizes community concerns about the cleanup;
- Describes how, when, and where Ellsworth AFB will involve the community; and
- Provides information the community needs to understand the work.

The Ellsworth AFB Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities defined in the Community In-

volvement Plan.

The Community Involvement Plan was revised and updated in October 2021 based on information gathered from community feedback and current site conditions.

Community involvement activities began in 1990 and the plan was last updated in August 2005.

The Community Involvement Plan is a “living document” and will be updated as new information and issues develop throughout the restoration process.

The overall goal of the community involvement program is to promote two-way communication

between citizens and the Environmental Restoration Program. The following are key components of the plan:

- Maintain the Administrative Record;
- Distribute the Restoration Newsletter;
- Host meetings as necessary; and
- Maintain the Environmental Matters Website.

The Community Involvement Plan is AR# 8727 on the Administrative Record website (see sidebar on the left side for instructions).

Site Inspection Underway at New Site LF029

During a Basewide cleanup day in 2020, evidence of historic improper hazardous material disposal was observed west of the runway (see Figure 1 for location). Soil erosion at the site revealed battery cells, oil filters, tar, and miscellaneous debris.

The site was originally identified as “Hardfill No. 2” during a 1985 records search. According to the 1985 report, the site was used for disposal of construction rubble and further investigation was not necessary because the site posed little to no threat to human health or the environment.

Based on a review of areal photographs, the site was possibly used between 1954 and 1974.

A site inspection is underway to determine the presence or absence of contamination. The work plan is in process and sampling is scheduled to begin in summer 2022.

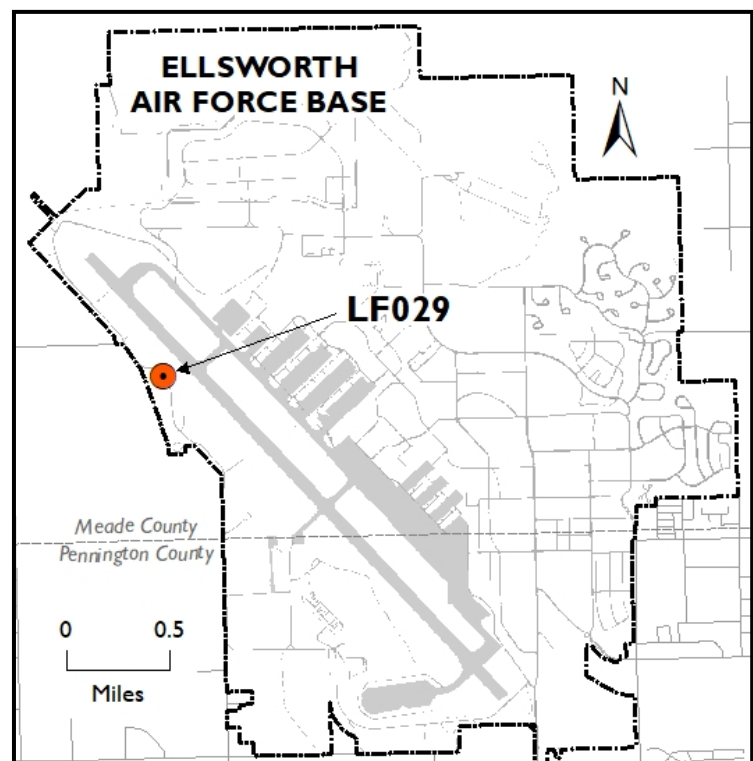


FIGURE 1. Location of new site LF029 (Hardfill 2)

Meet the Remedial Project Manager Group

The Ellsworth AFB Environmental Restoration Program is managed by the remedial project manager (RPM) group, which is composed of representatives from the following:

- Air Force (lead agency),
- U.S. EPA (Federal regulator), and
- South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (State regulator).

The lead agency has overall responsibility for funding and oversight of the remediation work. The Federal and State regulators review work plans and reports, provide regulatory oversight, and enforce regulations.

Contact information for the RPM group are provided on the right.



Ellsworth Air Force Base RPMs

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Coming Soon!

The Pennington County Board of Commissioners is planning to host an informational meeting for area residents impacted by PFOS/PFOA. The date has not been finalized yet but is tentatively planned for spring 2022. For more information, please contact Mr. Travis Lasseter, County Commissioner, District 4, at (605) 391-0416 or travis.lasseter@pennco.org.

Restoration Advisory Board Interest Assessment Completed

The Air Force recently assessed interest in reestablishing the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). An article in the February 2021 Restoration Newsletter asked community members interested in attending RAB meetings or serving as a RAB member to contact the Air Force. The following feedback was received:

- Seven community members expressed interest in a RAB in order to receive information about PFOS/PFOA-related issues.
- The U.S. EPA sent a "RAB Support" letter on June 25, 2021 to the Pennington County Commissioner for Ward 4.
- The Chairman of the Pennington County Board of Commissioners sent a letter to the Air Force on July 20, 2021 request-

ing reinstatement of the RAB due to PFOS/PFOA impacts to the community.

The Air Force decided to not reinstate the RAB based on the determination that there is not sufficient and sustained community interest because only 7 community members, representing less than 3% of the newsletter mailing list, expressed interest.

Additionally, the focus of community interest is solely PFOS/PFOA issues. There was no indication of any community interest in any of the other extensive environmental restoration activities on Ellsworth AFB. The scope of a RAB's focus must be broader than one restoration site or activity.

The community is kept informed through this newsletter, the Administrative Record, the Environmental Matters Website, and one-on-

one meetings. The Air Force receives valuable feedback from community members as a result of these efforts. 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.

The Air Force will review community interest in reestablishing the RAB at least every 24 months while environmental restoration activities are still ongoing. The next assessment is scheduled to occur in 2023.

The Memorandum for Record documenting the biennial reevaluation for a RAB is AR# 8723 on the Administrative Record website (see sidebar on the left side of the reverse page for instructions).

Helpful 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/