



NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be released in September 2024.

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- Past newsletters
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the [Administrative Record \(AR\) 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 AFB Completes Transition to New Fluorine-Free Firefighting Foam!

The last step in Ellsworth's transition to fluorine-free firefighting foam was completed May 1! All emergency response vehicles at Ellsworth AFB transitioned to the new fluorine-free foam and the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)-containing foam was properly disposed of off-site.

PFAS were components of aqueous film forming foam, used by the military services, industry and commercial aviation to control fires and protect lives.

Even before the development of the new foam, the Department of the Air

Force took steps to limit use of PFAS-containing foam. Ellsworth firefighters stopped training with foam containing PFAS in 2017. While the foam was still available for emergency use, the Air Force directed all releases of foam be immediately contained and treated as a hazardous material. The Air Force also switched to water-only fire control systems in hangars and other facilities.

For more information on this major milestone read the news article [here](#) or: <https://tinyurl.com/PFASRemoval>

Air Force Determines No Further Action is Necessary at Site LF029 (Hardfill No. 2)

In May 2024, the Air Force determined no further action is necessary at LF029 (Hardfill No. 2) and closed the site (see *Figure 1 for location*).

The site was originally identified as "Hardfill No. 2" during the 1985 **Phase 1 Records Search** (AR# 3; see *instructions on the left*).

According to the 1985 report, the site was used for disposal of construction rubble and further investigation was not necessary because there was no evidence of hazardous waste disposal.

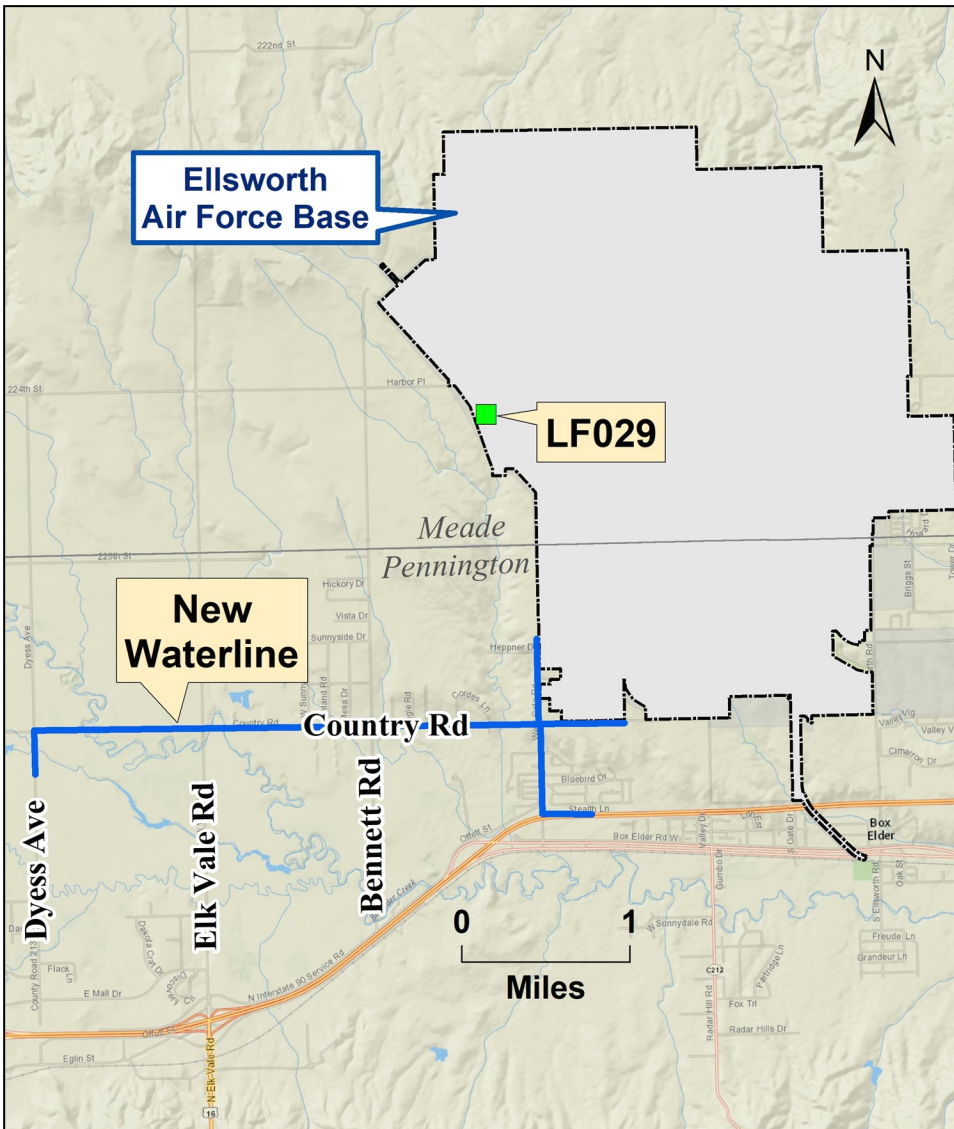
During a basewide cleanup day in 2020, evidence of improper disposal (battery cells, oil filters, tar, and other debris) was observed at the site.

A site inspection was completed in 2022-2023 to determine the presence

or absence of contamination above project screening levels.

The **Final Site Inspection Report of Hardfill No. 2 (LF029)** (AR# 8819) concluded the site is not an active source of contamination and is simply a remnant of construction debris disposal. Based on the current conditions at the site, no significant risk or threat to public health or the environment exists. Therefore, the Air Force documented that no further action is necessary at the site in the **No Further Response Action Planned Determination for Hardfill No. 2 (LF029) Site** (AR# 8825).

The items identified during the 2020 basewide cleanup day were likely the result of a one-time improper disposal. Note: these items have now been properly disposed of.



Recent Wins Pave the Way for New Waterline!

The Air Force entered into an Environmental Services Agreement with the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority (SDEDA) on June 7, 2024 to build a new waterline to provide alternate drinking water to PFAS-impacted residents near Ellsworth AFB. Under the agreement, the Air Force is paying SDEDA to build the new waterline (see *Figure 1* for location).

Once built, Rapid City will supply water and own the line west of Elk Vale Road. Box Elder will own and operate the line east of Elk Vale Road. The Rapid City and Box Elder city councils approved the plan in late May 2024.

SDEDA awarded the construction contract to Mainline Contracting in early June 2024. Advanced Design, designers of the new waterline, will provide construction oversight support.

More details on the construction schedule will be provided in the September 2024 Newsletter.

Figure 1. Location of the LF029 (Hardfill No. 2) site and the new waterline being built by the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority.

REMEDIAL PROJECT MANAGERS



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