

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter
will be released in
September 2021.

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- PFOS/PFOA Updates

CONTACT THE U.S. EPA

Natasha Lohwater
(303) 312-6225
Lohwater.Natasha@epa.gov

CONTACT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

28 BW/PA
1958 Scott Drive
Ellsworth AFB, SD 57706
(605) 385-5056

FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
VISIT THE
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RECORD WEBSITE
[https://ar.afcec-
cloud.af.mil/](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 #"
- Click on the magnifying glass to open
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East Waterline Update: MOAs Will Be Terminated

In the 1990s, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) installed the East Waterline (see reverse for location) to provide an alternate source of drinking water to residents whose groundwater was impacted by trichloroethylene (TCE). The waterline was turned over to the City of Box Elder in 2006.

Results from August 2020 groundwater samples indicate TCE cleanup goals have been met. The USAF recently mailed letters to residents connected to the East Waterline

notifying them that Memoranda of Agreements (MOAs) will be terminated.

Residents receiving water at no charge will be responsible for paying their own water bill starting in October (for water used in September). Those residents will need to establish an individual water account with the City of Box Elder to avoid a disruption in service. The City of Box Elder Public Works Department will be mailing out water account applications. Please

contact the City of Box Elder Public Works Department at (605) 923-1404 with questions.

Groundwater impacts from Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) will be addressed after the ongoing Remedial Investigation is complete.

If you have a shallow well you plan to use for drinking water and have questions about PFOS/PFOA, please contact Ms. Rita Krebs at (605) 385-2688.

PFOS/PFOA: New EE/CA Out For Public Comment

PFOS and 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 the USAF started using in 1970.

The USAF replaced legacy AFFF in fire vehicles, stockpiles, and hangar systems with a more environmentally responsible formulation. Legacy AFFF was last used at Ellsworth AFB in November 2016.

From 2017-2020, 29 properties (served by 24 drinking water wells) were identified with PFOS/PFOA above U.S. EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory (HA). The impacted properties are identified as Areas A through E (see locations on reverse).

An Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) was completed in 2020 and long-term solutions for Area C (connect to an existing community water system) and Area D (replacement shallow well) are currently underway.

A new EE/CA was completed in 2021 to evaluate alternatives not fully considered in the 2020 EE/CA. The new EE/CA is out for public comment and presents the following recommended alternatives for Areas A, B, and E:

- Areas A/B-Community water system owned/operated by the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority (SDEDA*)
- Area E-Deep replacement well

The 30-day public comment period for the new EE/CA is from June 8,

2021 through July 9, 2021. Written comments must be postmarked or emailed by July 9, 2021 to:

Ms. Rita Krebs
AFCEC/CZOM (c/o 28 CES/CEI)
2125 Scott Drive
Ellsworth AFB, SD 57706
Rita.Krebs.1@us.af.mil

The new EE/CA is AR# 8707 on the Administrative Record website (see sidebar on the left for instructions).

The USAF and SDEDA* are currently collaborating on the way forward for Areas A, B, and E.

*SDEDA, created by the State legislature in 2009, collaborates with municipal governments, business leaders, and the USAF on projects mutually beneficial to Ellsworth AFB and the local community. SDEDA collaborated with the USAF 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.

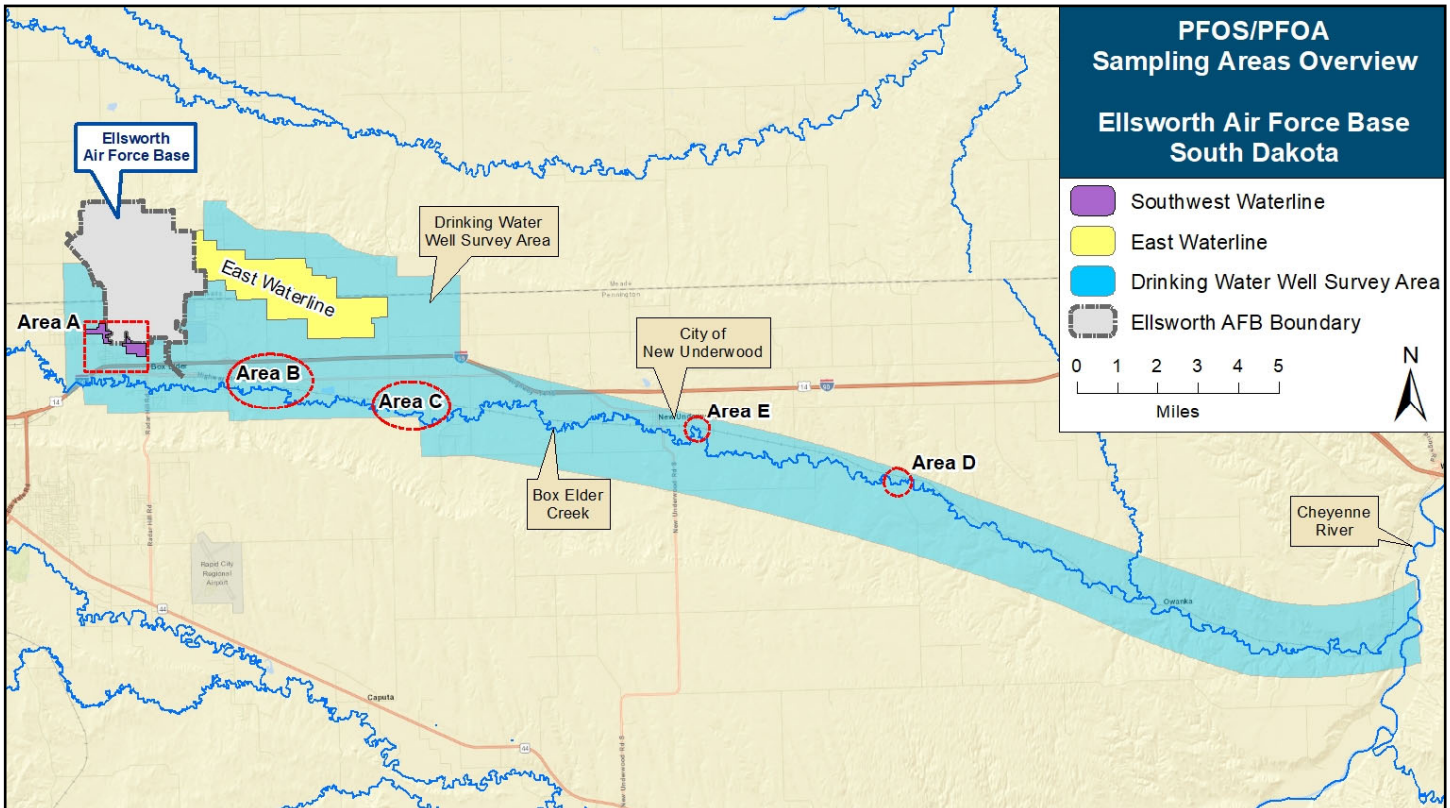
Need Added to Our Mailing List?

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Mr. Jens Christensen at (605) 385-6625 or Ms. Rita Krebs at (605) 385-2688.

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 USAF to sample it for PFOS/PFOA, please contact Ms. Rita Krebs at (605) 385-2688.



Locations of the East and Southwest Waterlines and the PFOS/PFOA Drinking Water Well Survey Area.

Update: City of Box Elder Municipal Water and Ellsworth AFB Drinking Water **NOT IMPACTED** by PFOS/PFOA

City of Box Elder drinking water comes from deep wells that are approximately 4,500 feet deep in the Madison Aquifer.

The City of Box Elder tested the municipal wells in August 2018. PFOS/PFOA were not detected in any of the samples. If you pay a City of Box Elder

water bill or are connected to the East Waterline, you are connected to their system. For more information, please contact the City of Box Elder Public Works Department at (605) 923-1404.

Ellsworth AFB receives drinking water from Rapid City. Base officials tested the water in 2016 and PFOS/PFOA

were not detected. The water was tested again in April 2021 and PFOS/PFOA were not detected.

If you live on Ellsworth AFB or are connected to the Southwest Waterline and have questions about your drinking water, please contact Bioenvironmental Engineering at (605) 385-3172.

Update: PFOS/PFOA Quarterly Sampling Program

If initial PFOS/PFOA results from a drinking water well are below the Lifetime HA (70 parts per trillion [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.

Currently, two drinking water wells remain in the quarterly monitoring program. These wells have at least one

year of sample results to date. One well exhibits stable trends below the Lifetime HA and will now be sampled annually for two years. The other well exhibits decreasing trends and will continue to be sampled on a quarterly basis for at least one more quarter.

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/