



NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be released in June 2024.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.ellsworth.af.mil/About-Us/Environmental/>

View the following:

- Past newsletters
- PFAS Updates
- Presentations
- Public announcements

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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

Community Town Hall Meeting Thursday, March 28th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. 130 Kansas City Street, Suite 100

Host: Pennington County Board of Commissioners

Purpose: Updates on Air Force response actions regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

Location: The Commission Chambers at the Pennington County Administration Building in Rapid City

The meeting will also be available remotely via the Zoom link below.

Speaker	Organization	Topics
Travis Lasseter	Pennington County Board of Commissioners	Opening remarks / introductions Closing remarks / questions
Jens Christensen	Air Force Civil Engineer Center	Status of Operable Units
Rita Krebs	Air Force Civil Engineer Center	PFAS Remedial Investigation Upcoming PFAS Cleanup Plans
Howie Aubertin	S.D. Ellsworth Development Authority	Ellsworth Community Clean Water Project Update
Rachel Puttmann	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8	Introducing the EPA Technical Team
Will Folland	U.S. EPA Region 8	Understanding PFAS Regulatory and Non-regulatory Values
Karen Scruton and Elizabeth Irvin	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	PFAS Exposure Assessment Results and Petition Process

****To watch the Community Town Hall via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7755207200?omn=81356022576> or

<http://tinyurl.com/pennco-town-hall>

Zoom Meeting ID: 775 520 7200 Passcode: 1234

Air Force Determines No Further Action is Necessary at Off-Base Sludge Disposal Site

The Air Force recently completed PFAS sampling at an off-Base private property where sludge from the former Base wastewater treatment plant was land applied. The sludge was land applied in 2004 and 2005 with approval from the State.

Based on laboratory analysis of soil samples collected in February 2023, seven PFAS constituents were detected below applicable screening levels. Shallow groundwater was not encountered. Therefore, the Air Force determined no further action is required at the site.

The **Final Site Inspection Report for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Land Application Site** is AR# 8820 on the Administrative Record (*see instructions on the left*).

Air Force Begins Decommissioning Obsolete Treatment Systems

Groundwater contamination (mostly trichloroethene or TCE) was first identified at Ellsworth AFB in the mid-1980s.

The selected remedy from the 1997 Operable Unit 11 (OU-11) Record of Decision (ROD) (AR# 442) was groundwater extraction, treatment, and reinjection back into the shallow aquifer. This remedy treated groundwater contamination from 1996 to 2012, when the systems were shutdown.

The 2012 ROD Amendment (AR# 7922) changed the primary remedy to bioremediation, which encourages natural bacteria living in the soil and groundwater to “eat” the harmful chemicals and change them into water and harmless gases.

The 2012 ROD Amendment required the extraction systems to be kept as backups. Since then, bioremediation has proven to be an effective remedy for treating TCE, making the treatment systems obsolete.

The Air Force, EPA, and South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources recently agreed upon which systems can be removed and which should stay in place for potential PFAS cleanup actions. The Final OU-11 Decommissioning Work Plan (AR# 8817)

documents this agreement and describes the systems to be decommissioned and removal methods.

Recycling of metal, stainless steel, brass, wooden fences, and other recyclable materials from the

treatment systems began in January 2024.

An Air Force contractor (OTIE/AECOM), will decommission the buildings and abandon 48 extraction wells later in 2024.

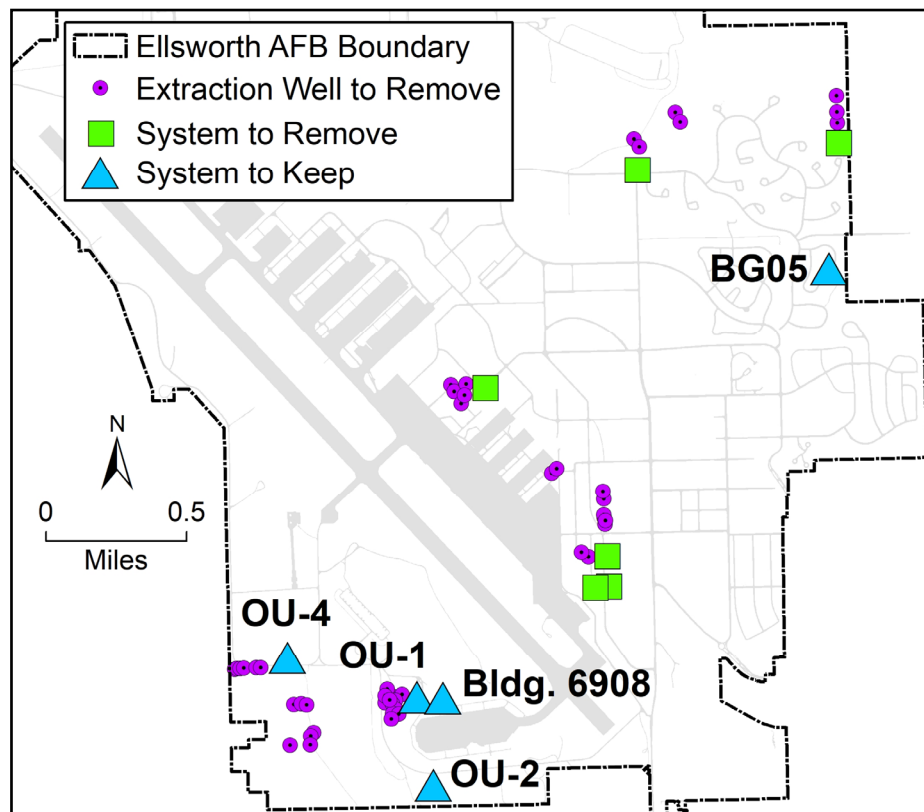


Figure 1. Treatment systems shown in green will be removed along with 48 extraction wells (purple). The treatment systems shown in blue will be kept for potential use during PFAS treatment.

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