



March 2025 | Issue 32

Keeping residents informed of cleanup activities

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be released in June 2025.

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.cce.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 eye icon to open
- Numerous other search blocks can be used

Community Town Hall Meeting Tuesday, March 25th at 4:00 to 5:45 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	Topics
Travis Lasseter, Meeting Moderator	Opening remarks / introductions Closing remarks / questions
Howie Aubertin, South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority	Ellsworth Community Clean Water Project (new waterline construction)
Rita Krebs, Air Force Civil Engineer Center	Ellsworth's Conversion to Fluorine-Free Foam Upcoming PFAS Cleanup Plans Air Force Plans to Comply with new Maximum Contaminant Levels Update on the Supplemental PFAS Remedial Investigation (RI) in the East Off-Base Area
Artie Wickham, BEM	Results of the Basewide PFAS RI

Meeting is subject to postponement in the event of inclement weather or federal government shutdown. To inquire about the status of the meeting, please contact Ms. Vanessa Urbach at (402) 294-1594.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7755207200?pwd=eHB0NGoyRXVkekk2dFhZaEJwRVdEUT09&omn=82474692312>
or

<https://shorturl.at/u1IPR>

Zoom Meeting ID: 775 520 7200 // Passcode: 1234

Air Force Begins Integrating new PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) into Cleanup Program

A contract is planned for award in early 2025 to address the new MCLs for PFAS published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2024.

Drinking water wells with PFAS levels greater than three times the MCLs will be prioritized, and point-of-use treatment systems (which filters water at a single tap) will be installed as an interim measure until a sustainable solution is implemented. The Air Force will also resample wells that were tested previously to ensure PFAS levels are below the new MCLs.

Previously, the Air Force took action to address 23 drinking water wells near Ellsworth AFB where perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) levels were above 70 parts per trillion (ppt). The new MCLs (for PFOS, PFOA, and three other PFAS compounds) are between 4-10 ppt. For more information on the MCLs, visit:

www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas

Second Round of Sampling Completed for the Supplemental Remedial Investigation (RI) of PFAS in the East Off-Base Area

The second round of RI sampling for PFAS was completed from October 2024 to February 2025 in the area east of Ellsworth AFB called the “East Off-Base Area” (see *Figure 1 for location*). An Air Force contractor, HGL-APTIM, conducted the work.

The goal of the Supplemental RI is to determine the extent of PFAS impacts from the Air Force’s historic use of aqueous film-forming (*firefighting*)

foam. Soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment samples were collected along public rights-of-way and on private properties. The Air Force is grateful to the 31 property owners who signed access agreements allowing sampling to occur.

Samples were collected in accordance with the 2023 Work Plan and 2024 Work Plan Addendum signed by the

Air Force, S. D. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and EPA. The Work Plans are AR# 8806 and 8839 respectively, on the Administrative Record website (see *sidebar on reverse for instructions*).

The scope of the third round of RI sampling, planned for Fall 2025, will be determined once the second round sample results are received and evaluated.

The Supplemental RI Report is scheduled to be finalized in early 2028. After the RI is complete, a Feasibility Study will evaluate alternatives to address unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

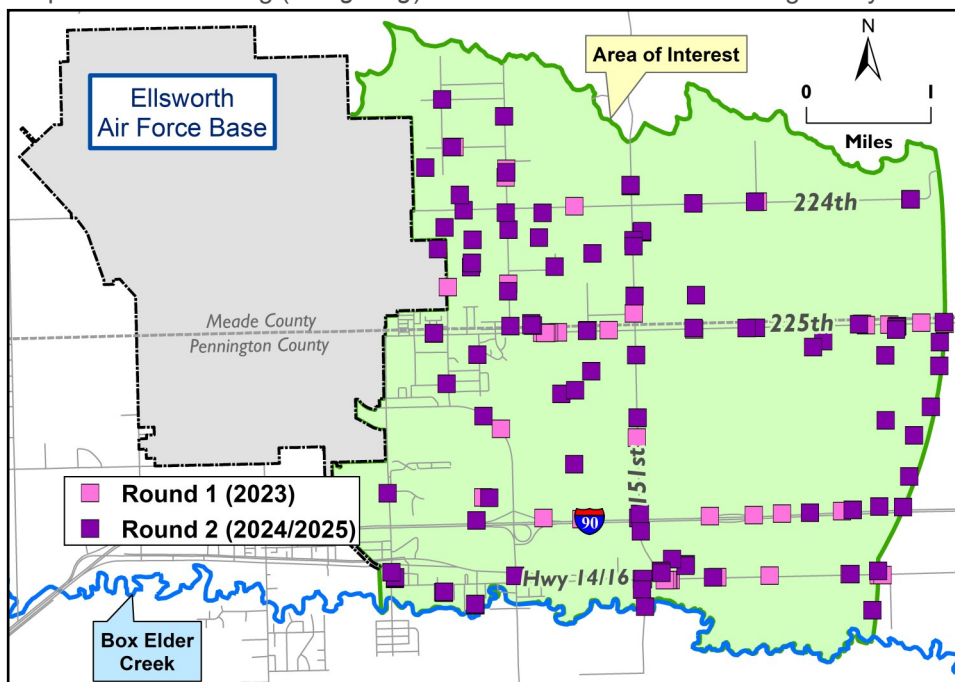


Figure 1. Locations sampled to date during the Supplemental RI of PFAS in the East Off-Base Area are shown in pink (Round 1) and purple (Round 2).

Drilling in the public right-of-way. Picture courtesy of HGL-APTIM.

REMEDIAL PROJECT MANAGERS



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