

## Next Newsletter

The next newsletter  
will be released in  
August 2020.

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## PFOS/PFOA Update: Municipal Connections and Treatment Systems Installed and/or Pending

PFOS/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 which the Air Force started using in 1970. AFFF was last used at Ellsworth AFB in November 2016.

In 2016, the U. S. EPA established the drinking water Lifetime Health Advisory (HA) for

PFOS/PFOA of 70 parts per trillion (ppt).

Starting in 2017, the Air Force identified and sampled drinking water wells for PFOS/PFOA in the areas east, south, and west of Ellsworth AFB (see reverse).

The following is an update on the ongoing efforts to address impacts to the 29 properties (served by 24 wells) with PFOS/PFOA above the Lifetime HA:

- 5 properties were connected to existing municipal systems and 1 residence is in the planning phase;
- 18 properties had filtration systems installed and 1 residence is in the planning phase for a filtration system;
- 1 large treatment system was installed at a property serving ~ 66 residences; and
- 3 properties do not yet have a signed right-of-entry.

## PFOS/PFOA Update: Long-Term Solutions

In 2019, the Air Force awarded a contract to identify the alternatives, cost, and estimated time for implementation of each alternative for those residents whose drinking water wells have PFOS/PFOA concentrations above the Lifetime HA.

The project will also evaluate options for connecting the properties currently connected to the

Southwest Waterline to a municipal system.

The Air Force attended meetings in August 2019 with the City of Box Elder, the City of Rapid City, and the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority.

The project report recommends the preferred alternatives and was provided to the South Dakota Department of Environment

and Natural Resources and the U.S. EPA for review in March 2020.

The report is expected to be available for public review and comment in June/July 2020. A notice will be printed in the Rapid City Journal and the report will be posted at:

[www.ellsworth.af.mil/About-Us/  
environmental/](http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/About-Us/environmental/)

## TCE Update: East Off-Base Waterline

In the 1990s, the Air Force installed the East Off-Base Waterline to provide an alternate source of drinking water to the residents whose groundwater was contaminated by trichloroethylene (TCE). The waterline was turned over to the City of Box Elder in 2006; however, the Air Force has continued to pay the

water bill for several residences until cleanup activities are completed as defined by the Record of Decision for Operable Unit 11 (Basewide Groundwater).

The Air Force is close to meeting the cleanup goals and our upcoming exit strategy assessment will include sampling groundwater monitoring wells this summer.

Once cleanup activities are completed, the Air Force will provide 60 days notice starting as early as October to those residences still receiving water paid by the Air Force notifying them that they will be responsible for paying their own water bill as early as December 2020.

# PFOS/PFOA Quarterly Sampling Program

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

One drinking water well sampled during

the March 2020 quarterly event had concentrations above the Lifetime HA. Bottled water delivery and municipal system connection planning have begun.

Currently, three drinking water wells remain in the quarterly monitoring program. These wells have at least one year of sample results. One well exhibits stable trends and will now be sampled annually for two years. The other two wells exhibit increasing trends and will continue to be sampled on a quarterly basis.



## NEED YOUR DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLED FOR PFOS/PFOA?

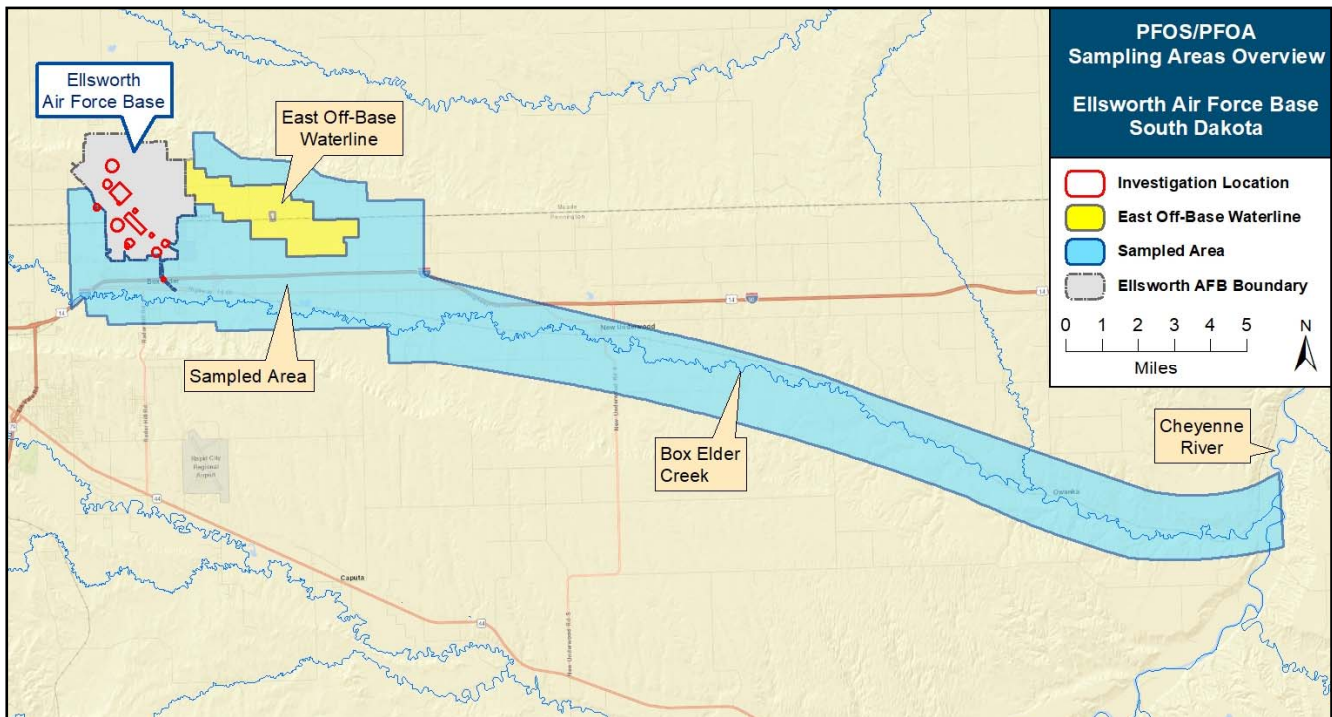
We made every effort to identify and sample all drinking water wells in the survey area; however, not all properties were accessible.

If you have a shallow well used for drinking water and would like the Air Force to sample it for PFOS/PFOA, please contact Public Affairs at (605) 385-5056.

## Upcoming Meetings

The Air Force will be hosting one-on-one meetings in August 2020. Invitations will be sent to residents whose drinking water wells have PFOS/PFOA concentrations above the Lifetime HA, residents on the East Waterline who receive water paid by the Air Force, and residents on the Southwest Waterline.

We are looking at various opportunities for hosting the meetings and more details will be provided in the invitations.



### Important Sources of Information on PFOS/PFOA:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/pfas](http://www.epa.gov/pfas)
- U.S. Air Force Civil Engineer Center: [www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/](http://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/)