

## Next Newsletter

The next newsletter  
will be released in  
February 2021.

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- Presentations
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- PFOS/PFOA Updates

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

Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (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.

The Air Force has 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.

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.

The following is an update on the ongoing efforts to address impacts to the 30 properties

(served by 25 wells) with PFOS/PFOA above the Lifetime HA:

- 6 properties were connected to existing municipal systems;
- 20 filtration systems were installed at 18 properties and a filtration system is planned for 2 additional properties;
- 1 large treatment system was installed at a property serving ~ 66 residences; and
- 3 properties will be connected to an existing municipal system once rights-of-entry are signed.

## PFOS/PFOA Update: Long-Term Solutions

The Air Force would like to thank everyone who attended one-on-one meetings with us in October!

The meetings, which were also attended by representatives from the City of Box Elder and the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority (SDEDA), gave

residents an opportunity to ask questions about the long-term solutions being evaluated by the Air Force.

The upcoming Action Memorandum will document the chosen alternatives to provide an alternate drinking water source to residents with drinking water

wells with PFOS/PFOA concentrations above the U.S. EPA Lifetime HA.

The Air Force is currently discussing implementation options for carrying out the chosen alternatives with both the City of Box Elder and SDEDA.

## TCE Update: East Off-Base Waterline

In the 1990s, the Air Force installed the East Off-Base Waterline (see reverse for location) 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 consistent with the Record of Decision for Operable Unit 11 (Basewide Groundwater).

Results from August 2020

groundwater samples indicate TCE cleanup goals have been met. The Air Force is seeking regulator concurrence that the TCE cleanup goals have been met and then will notify residences receiving water at no charge that they will be responsible for paying their own water bills in 60 days.

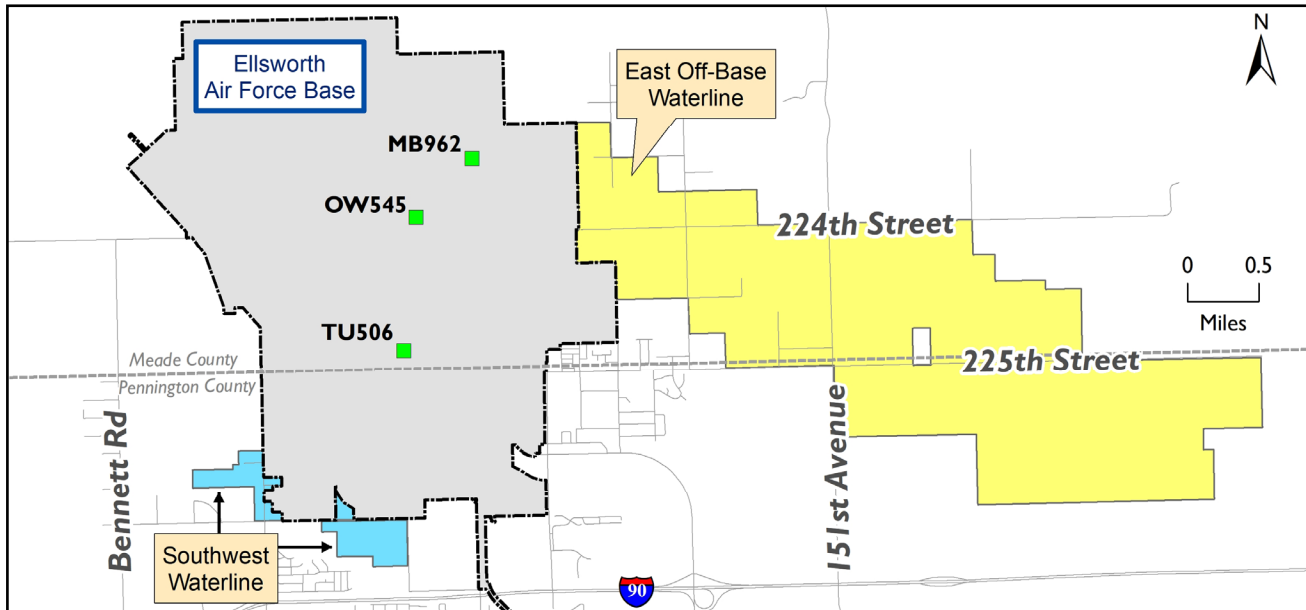
# PFOS/PFOA Quarterly Sampling Program Update

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.

As of September 2020 there were three drinking water wells still in the program. One drinking water well sampled in September 2020 had concentrations above the Lifetime HA and the household was immediately provided with bottled water. Actions are currently being taken to install a treatment system until a longer-term solution can be implemented.

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 increasing trends but continues to be below the Lifetime HA and will continue to be sampled on a quarterly basis.



Locations of the East and Southwest Waterlines and the three sites closed in 2019/2020.

## 2020 Five Year Review Finalized

The Air Force recently completed a Five Year Review of the status of Ellsworth's environmental cleanup program. Sitewide, the remedy for Operable Unit 11 (Basewide Groundwater) is classified as "protective" in the short-term. To be considered protective in the long-term, several TCE groundwater plumes require further investigation to define their boundaries to ensure cleanup goals can be met. The

work necessary to accomplish this task is scheduled to begin in 2021.

The 2020 Five Year Review Report is available on the Administrative Record website:

<http://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/Search.aspx>

- From the "Installation List" on the left, scroll down and select "Ellsworth AFB, SD"
- Next to "AR #" enter "8685" and click "Search"
- Click on the magnifying glass to open the document

## Three Sites Closed in 2019/2020!

The Air Force recently teamed with the U.S. EPA and State of South Dakota to close three sites (see map above for locations). No further remediation work is required at these sites.

Two of the sites (OW545 and TU506) are

former tank sites where petroleum releases occurred and were subsequently cleaned up. MB962 is a former burial site where nine empty jet-assisted-take-off rocket motors were removed in 2004. A 2018 investigation determined there were no additional buried items at the site.

### 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/)

**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 Remedial Project Manager at (605) 385-2688.