

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter
will be released in
May 2020.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

View the following:

- RAB presentations
- Public announcements
- Meeting information
- Past newsletters
- Updates on PFOS/
PFOA

CONTACT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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

THE
ADMINISTRATIVE
RECORD WEB-
SITE IS MOVING
ON MARCH 10TH
[http://ar.afcec-
cloud.af.mil/](http://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/)

PFOS/PFOA Update: Treatment Systems Installed

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.

From 2017 through March 2019, 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 28 properties (served by 23 wells) with PFOS/PFOA above the Lifetime HA:

- 4 residences were connected to existing municipal systems and 1 residence is scheduled for connection;
- 18 residences had filtration systems installed and 1 residence is scheduled for installation;
- 1 large treatment system was installed at a property serving ~ 66 residences; and
- 3 residences do not yet have a signed right-of-entry.

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.

Long-Term Solutions Evaluated

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 will recommend the preferred alternative and is expected to be provided to the South Dakota Department of

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

The report is expected to be available for public review and comment in May/June 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/)

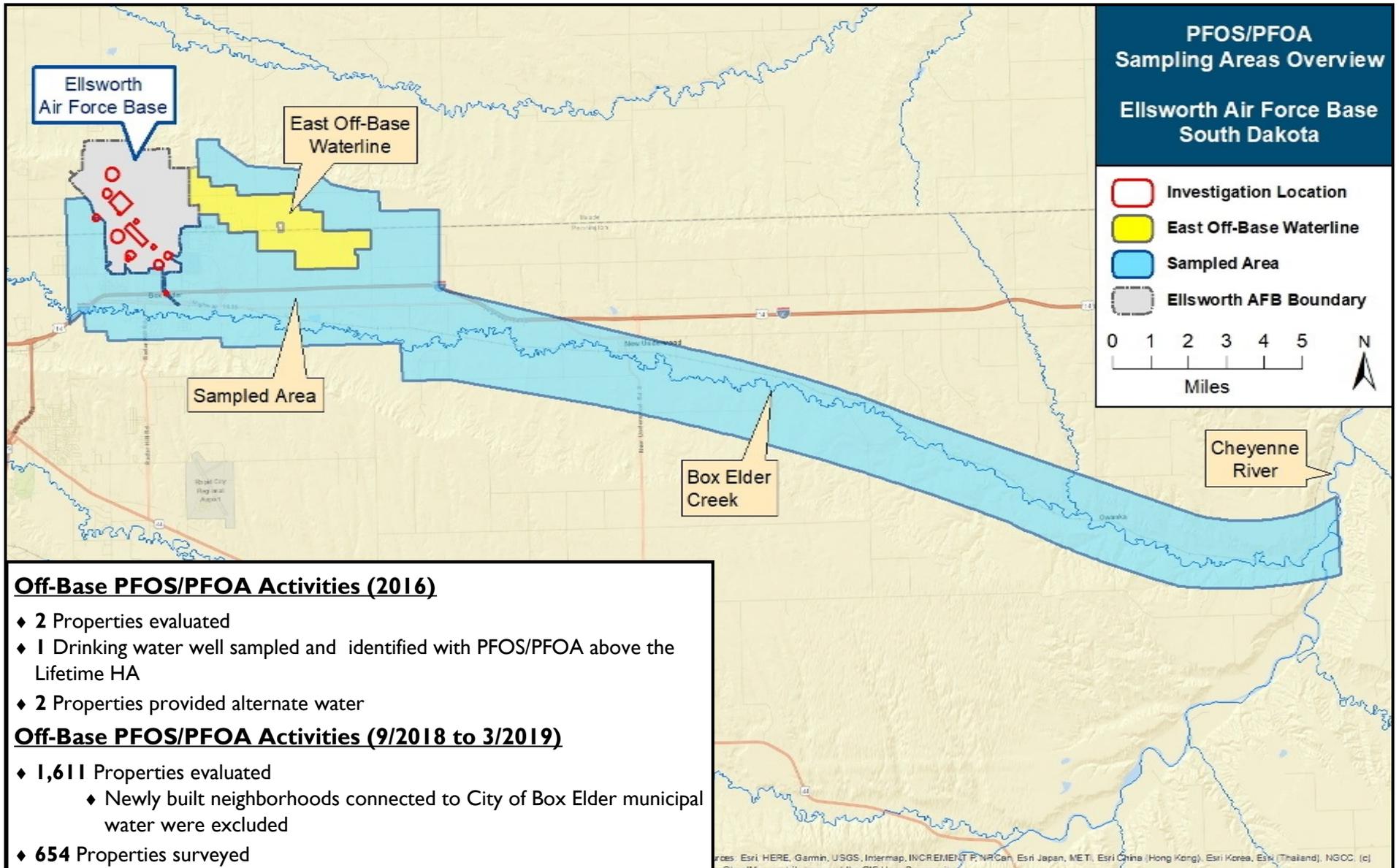
East Off-Base Waterline Update

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 or 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 to those residences still receiving water paid by the Air Force notifying them that they will be responsible for paying their own water bill. This may happen as early as December 2020.



Off-Base PFOS/PFOA Activities (2016)

- ◆ 2 Properties evaluated
- ◆ 1 Drinking water well sampled and identified with PFOS/PFOA above the Lifetime HA
- ◆ 2 Properties provided alternate water

Off-Base PFOS/PFOA Activities (9/2018 to 3/2019)

- ◆ 1,611 Properties evaluated
 - ◆ Newly built neighborhoods connected to City of Box Elder municipal water were excluded
- ◆ 654 Properties surveyed
 - ◆ Questionnaires were mailed to property owners and door-to-door surveys were conducted
- ◆ 112 Private drinking water wells sampled for PFOS/PFOA
- ◆ 22 Drinking water wells identified with PFOS/PFOA above the Lifetime HA
- ◆ 91 Residences provided alternate water

Important Sources of Information on PFOS/PFOA:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Website on PFOS/PFOA: www.epa.gov/pfas
- U.S. Air Force Civil Engineer Center: www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/