

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be released in December 2022.

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 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
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U.S. Geological Survey Continues Research along Box Elder Creek

The U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Dakota Water Science Center office in Rapid City is collecting data on stream flow, groundwater levels, subsurface geology, and water quality south of Ellsworth Air Force Base along Box Elder Creek.



USGS stream gage along Box Elder Creek

The Air Force funded study seeks to improve knowledge of local stream and aquifer hydrology and study how surface water-groundwater interactions contribute to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) migration.

In the summer of 2019, USGS constructed nine streamflow data sites at tributaries and the main stem of Box Elder Creek, collecting data on stream stage, discharge, and for some sites, precipitation measurements. The USGS also collects groundwater data at four well sites.

In 2020, the USGS started water-quality data collection for basic water chemistry, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds at the stream and well sites. In 2021, PFAS sampling began at four stream sites and two well sites.

The USGS plans to continue data collection through at least 2025.

The Air Force will use the data to explore clean-up options.

USGS collected data is publicly available at:

<https://maps.waterdata.usgs.gov/mapper/index.html>



USGS water quality sampling at a groundwater monitoring well near Box Elder Creek

U.S. EPA and S.D. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Visit Ellsworth AFB on July 6, 2022

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 Regional Administrator Kathleen (KC) Becker, S.D. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) Cabinet Secretary Hunter Roberts, members of their respective staffs, and Air Force, Army, and S.D. Ellsworth Development Authority representatives were acquainted with the 28th Bomb Wing long-range strike mission at Ellsworth Air Force Base on July 6, 2022.

The group toured the former and current fire training areas and discussed research projects, trichloroethene treatment progress, and historic use of aqueous film-forming foam.

The group also visited an Air Force operated PFAS treatment system located at an off-Base mobile home park.



Front L-R: Aaron Urdiales, Jens Christensen, Rita Krebs, Kelly Watkins, Natasha Lohwater, KC Becker, and Kate Need.

Back L-R: Mark Lawrensen, Ben Kindt, Gregory Johnson, Mark Mayer, Hunter Roberts, Col Seth W. Spanier, Mark Mahoney, Lauren Dempsey, and Glen Kane.

Pennington County Commission to Host Another Community Town Hall in March 2023

The Pennington County Board of Commissioners hosted a community town hall meeting in March 2022 to update the community on the Federal and State government response to PFAS.

Many members of the community attended the meeting to hear speakers from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry, U.S. EPA, S.D. DANR, Air Force, and S.D. Ellsworth Development Authority.

The slides presented by the Air Force and S.D. Ellsworth Development Authority are available here:

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

The Pennington County Commission is planning to host another town hall in March 2023 and the Air Force plans to participate. The date has not been finalized yet but will be announced in a future newsletter.

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