



EIELSON

AIR FORCE BASE Restoration Newsletter



April 2025
Volume 2

Newsletter Purpose: Update on the Eielson Air Force Base Restoration Team's Efforts to Investigate PFAS-impacted Groundwater and Drinking Water Wells

Next newsletter:
Aug. - Sep. 2025



Did you know?... You can review documents about DAF's investigation of and response to PFAS from DAF activities such as firefighting, to include test results from groundwater sampling. Visit the Administrative Record (AR) at <https://ar.cce.af.mil/> for more information.

- From this link, click "Continue to site" and type "Eielson" in the installation list.
- Numerous search blocks can be used to find documents of interest.

To go through all documents, make sure nothing is highlighted and click "Search". This will generate all documents uploaded to the AR for Eielson.

To learn more about PFAS impacts to groundwater outside of Eielson AFB, search for AR # 640822, the Final 2023 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

Restoration Team's Efforts to Investigate Off-base PFAS

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of synthetic chemicals used to make products resistant to heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. Two PFAS (PFOS and PFOA) are components of Aqueous Film Forming Form (AFFF), which was used historically by Eielson Air Force Base (AFB) as a firefighting agent. PFOS and PFOA from past AFFF use migrated into groundwater at Eielson AFB, which later migrated off-base and was first detected in the groundwater in Moose Creek in 2015. The Department of the Air Force (DAF) has been leading the effort to investigate PFAS groundwater concentrations in the areas surrounding Eielson AFB since DAF first discovered PFAS in the groundwater. The Eielson AFB Restoration Team works closely with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on all studies, monitoring and clean up efforts related to PFAS originating from the Base. PFAS has been detected in groundwater in North Pole and the DAF will be conducting further investigations in North Pole to identify groundwater and private drinking water wells that have been impacted by PFAS from the use of AFFF at Eielson AFB. To learn more about the PFAS concentrations in groundwater emanating from Eielson AFB, the Final 2023 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report for PFAS at Eielson AFB is available on the Air Force Administrative Record (see inset on the left for instructions).

PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

In April 2024 the EPA issued a nationwide drinking water standard for certain PFAS chemicals under the Safe Drinking Water Act (<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>). EPA standards for drinking water are in the form of Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). In September 2024 the Department of Defense (DoD) issued a policy memorandum (<https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/docs/policies/epa-mcl-implementation-memo.pdf>) describing how it is incorporating the EPA standards into ongoing PFAS cleanups. The policy memorandum also describes how DoD will, on a nationwide basis, prioritize actions to first address drinking water wells with the highest levels of PFAS (at or above three times the MCL values) that may be associated with DoD mission activities such as firefighting, before addressing private drinking water wells with lower concentrations in excess of the MCLs. As the DAF is one of the three military departments within the DoD, the DAF response to PFAS-impacted private drinking water wells in North Pole will be conducted consistent with DoD policy. On November 19, 2024, DoD hosted a public information session regarding the policy memorandum. Please visit <https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/po/oe.html> for the presentation and a recording of the event. DAF is in the process of acquiring contracts to respond to groundwater impacted by PFAS nationwide. The contract supporting Alaska is expected to be awarded this summer. Once awarded, an open house public meeting will be scheduled and the next newsletter will include the event details.

General Contacts

For general questions related to Eielson Air Force Base, please contact the 354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Telephone: (907) 377-2116,

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354fw.pa.publicaffairs@us.af.mil

For questions concerning PFAS originating from Eielson Air Force Base, or to get on the mailing list for newsletters, please e-mail pacaf.afcec.alaska@us.af.mil with your name, contact information, and question. For members of the public without e-mail, please contact the 354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs at (907) 377-2116.

Monitoring Well Sampling near Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the potential health effects from PFAS?

The science on PFAS is evolving. There is extensive research being done to determine where PFAS exist and what impact they have on human health and the environment. The DAF looks to and supports the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and state health departments' ongoing PFAS environmental exposure and health effects research correlating blood levels to adverse health impacts. Information about PFAS exposure can be found on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>, and on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry website at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>.

What should I do if I have PFAS exposure concerns?

For health concerns/questions related to PFAS exposure, contact your local healthcare provider and visit the Alaska Department of Health website at <https://health.alaska.gov/en/education/pfas-polyfluoroalkyl-substances/>. To reduce PFAS in drinking water with a home filter, please refer to EPA's fact sheet (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/water-filter-fact-sheet.pdf>).

Where can I find more information related to the Department of the Air Force response to PFAS?

You can find this information at <https://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/>.

Where can I find more information about PFAS investigations by the Department of the Air Force?

The DoD provides the status of its PFAS investigations across over 700 installations and National Guard facilities quarterly on the DoD PFAS website at <https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/data/cleanup-pfas.html>.

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