



EIELSON

AIR FORCE BASE Restoration Newsletter



Dec 2024
Volume 1

Newsletter Purpose: Introduction to the Eielson Air Force Base Restoration Team and their Work to Address PFAS in the Groundwater from Eielson Air Force Base

Next newsletter:
March - April 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 # 635665, the Final 2022 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

Introduction to PFAS and Our Restoration Team

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of synthetic chemicals used to make products to resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. Two PFAS (PFOS and PFOA) are components of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (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 the release of PFAS to 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 now been detected in groundwater in some North Pole residential locations, and the DAF will be conducting further investigations in North Pole in 2025 to identify groundwater and private drinking water wells that have been impacted by PFAS from the use of AFFF at Eielson AFB. The DAF will be conducting an open house in North Pole in the April - May 2025 timeframe to answer questions residents have regarding PFAS. The next newsletter will provide specific details about this open house event.

PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

Earlier this year the EPA issued a nationwide drinking water standard for certain PFAS chemicals under the Safe Drinking Water Act. 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>) on September 3, 2024 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 Maximum Contaminant Level (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 virtual public information and listening session regarding the policy memorandum for residents nationwide, and the DAF mailed a postcard to community members outside of Eielson AFB alerting them of the opportunity to register for and attend the event. For those that missed the event or would like to watch the presentation again, a recording of the event can be accessed at <https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/po/quarterly-events.html>. Select the down arrow for the "Public Outreach" tab on the upper right of the webpage, next select "Outreach Events", and then select the "November 19, 2024" box to access the event recording and the slidedeck for the presentation.

General Contacts

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

Telephone: (907) 377-2116,

E-mail:

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.

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/>.

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/dph/Epi/eph/Pages/PFAS.aspx>.

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/ee/ecc/pfas/data/cleanup-pfas.html>.

Groundwater Sampling in North Pole



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Moose Creek Water Expansion Project