



Eielson Air Force Base

Installation Restoration Program Update

July 2023



Why is the Air Force Distributing this Flier?

You are receiving this flier because the Air Force has received questions from several members of the North Pole community regarding their private drinking water wells and actions that the Air Force is taking to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) originating from Eielson Air Force Base.

Introduction to PFAS and Drinking Water

PFAS are a group of synthetic fluorinated chemicals used in many industrial and consumer products. Two compounds (Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)) were components of aqueous film forming foam used by military, commercial and industrial entities to control petroleum-fueled fires. The Department of Defense began using the foam in the 1970s, including at Eielson Air Force Base. There is no nationwide regulatory standard for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water. In the absence of such a standard, the Air Force has taken action in Moose Creek and other locations nationwide to provide an alternative source of drinking water where the total of PFOS and PFOA in drinking water exceeds 70 parts per trillion (ppt). This 70-ppt level is based on a Lifetime Health Advisory for drinking water for humans issued by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2016. For context, one ppt is equivalent to one drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

What is the Air Force doing to Address PFAS Originating from Eielson Air Force Base?

The Air Force has been investigating PFAS groundwater concentrations in the areas surrounding Eielson Air Force Base since 2015. To date, the only private wells exceeding the concentration of 70 ppt for the sum of PFOS and PFOA in drinking water were in Moose Creek, but the wells associated with these properties have been decommissioned, and the residential structures on these properties have been connected to municipal water. The Air Force began a remedial investigation (RI) at Eielson Air Force Base and surrounding off-base areas in 2021 to identify potential source areas, map the extent of the PFAS plume, and to assess potential PFAS risks to human health and the environment.

Groundwater Sampling and Modeling of PFAS Originating from Eielson Air Force Base

As part of the RI effort, the Air Force is mapping the PFAS groundwater plume originating from Eielson Air Force Base and modeling groundwater flow, which generally flows in a northerly direction in this area. PFAS groundwater concentrations within the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project area, located between the community of Moose Creek and the city of North Pole, are currently below the concentration of 70 ppt for the sum of PFOS and PFOA. Please see the figure on the back depicting the extent of the PFAS plume (the red 70 ppt contour line) originating from Eielson Air Force Base. In the fall of 2023 or early in 2024, the Air Force will be installing groundwater monitoring wells in North Pole to better define the nature and extent of the PFAS plume, validate the groundwater flow models, and to monitor for any changes to the PFAS plume over time. The data collected from these groundwater monitoring wells will allow the Air Force to determine if private drinking water wells need to be sampled in the North Pole area in the future. However, the Air Force does not plan on sampling any private drinking water wells in the North Pole area in 2023.

Where Can I View Reports that are Made Public for Eielson Air Force Base?

The public can access final reports on the Air Force Civil Engineer Center Administrative Record at <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/> by searching for records under "Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska".

How Can I Become More Involved with Environmental Clean-up Projects at Eielson Air Force Base?

Eielson Air Force Base is currently assessing whether there is enough interest to form a Restoration Advisory Board, which is a community group that meets to discuss clean-up projects at the base. If interested, please contact Bethel Environmental Solutions LLC by August 18, 2023 at EielsonPublicAssessment@bncak.com or at 907-644-1764.

Whom Should I Contact with General Questions Related to Eielson Air Force Base?

For general questions, please contact **354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs** (Telephone: (907) 377-2116; E-mail: 354fw.pa.publicaffairs@us.af.mil; Web: <https://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/>).

