

NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative

Ellsworth Air Force Base Rapid City, South Dakota

On December 4, 2006, EPA deleted a portion of the Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB) site from the National Priorities List (NPL). This partial deletion pertains to surface soil, unsaturated subsurface soil, surface water, and sediments at Operable Units 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 (approximately 542 acres) and the surface soil, unsaturated subsurface soil, surface water, and sediment media of an additional 4,300 acres which are not associated with an OU. The ground water medium at the Ellsworth AFB (OU-11, Basewide Ground Water), and the soil medium at OU-1, Fire Protection Training Area, will remain on the NPL. Two additional areas not associated with an OU, the Gateway Lake Ash Study Area and the Pride Hangar Study Area, are currently under investigation and are not part of this partial deletion.

Ellsworth AFB is a U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command installation located 12 miles east of Rapid City, South Dakota. The main AFB covers approximately 4,858 acres within Meade and Pennington counties and includes runways, airfield operations, industrial areas, housing, and recreational facilities. The site was officially activated in July 1942 as the Rapid City Army Air Base, a training facility for B-17 bomber crews. Operations at Ellsworth AFB over the years generated a variety of waste materials including municipal solid waste, wastewater treatment plant sludge, industrial wastes including waste oils, solvents, paints, spilled fuels, waste pesticides, shop waste, metals remains from ordnance disposal, and radiological wastes. Contaminants of concern at Ellsworth AFB include chlorinated solvents, waste fuels, and metals.

Ellsworth AFB was placed on the NPL on August 30, 1990. At that time, the entire base was included in the listing. Upon listing, the facility began identifying areas where activities involving hazardous substances may have occurred. The areas requiring further investigations were grouped into OUs. Twelve OUs have been identified at Ellsworth AFB. Records of Decision (RODs) have been finalized for all of these OUs. Appropriate response actions for soil have been completed per ROD decisions at the 10 OUs proposed for deletion. Remedial actions were not required for surface water or sediment at these OUs.

The initial five-year review for Ellsworth AFB was completed in September 2000 and the second review was completed in September 2005. The reviews focused on the final remedial activities at each OU. Discussions and recommendations were included for the long-term ground water actions at the OUs and for Operation and Maintenance issues with landfill covers.

The EPA, with the State of South Dakota's concurrence, has determined that no additional response is necessary at Ellsworth AFB for surface soil, unsaturated subsurface soil, surface water, and sediment media at OU-2, OU-3, OU-4, OU-5, OU-6, OU-7, OU-8, OU-9, OU-10, and OU-12 and the surface soil, unsaturated subsurface soil, surface water, and sediment media of an additional 4,300 acres which are not associated with an OU.