



Superfund Sites in Continued Use

Ellsworth Air Force Base

28th Bomb Wing Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota



B-1 bomber military jets and runways at the base.



On-base solar panels.



The South Dakota Air and Space Museum at the base.

Supported Site Uses: A U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command base has continued to operate during cleanup activities at the site. The site contains an active runway, munitions storage area, maintenance facilities, residential housing, service commercial and recreational use areas. Since the site has been designated as a Superfund site, Ellsworth AFB has undergone many changes. Additional missions were added. New facilities were constructed, existing facilities have been repurposed to support the changing mission. Renewable energy projects have been completed, such as a closed loop geothermal energy system and solar panels that generate up to 38 kilowatts, enough power for about 20 homes. Shut-off valves have been installed in 69 airfield storm drain inlets that are used for spill containment and preventing spills from reaching the environment.



Restricted Use: Institutional controls limit access to portions of the site, disturbance of landfill caps, construction at the site without prior review and approval, installation of groundwater wells and potable use of groundwater.

Setting:

- The site occupies approximately 4,800 acres in a rural area near Rapid City, South Dakota.
- The site employs over 4,000 people including active-duty military and civilian personnel.
- 283 military members and their dependents live in Military Family Housing. Another 700 single military members live in dormitories. The remaining military members and civilian workforce live within the commuting area.
- Ellsworth receives its potable water from an allotment from Pactola Reservoir. The water is treated and transported to the site by the city of Rapid City, SD. The surrounding community of Box Elder, SD receives its municipal water from both shallow and deep wells.
- Surrounding land uses include agricultural and ranching uses to the north and west, and residential and commercial uses to the east and south.
- Surrounding population includes 9,370 people within four miles of the site.

Disclaimer: EPA does not warrant that the property is suitable for any particular use.

Remedial Status:

- Cleanup began in 1995. Cleanup of soil contamination and surface wastes ended in 1999. Cleanup includes groundwater and soil treatment, capping of waste, removal of contaminated soil and waste, institutional controls and groundwater monitoring.
- In 2007, the Air Force began inserting treatment solution directly into contaminated groundwater.
- Groundwater treatment is ongoing. As of 2013, EPA has deleted the land portions of the site from the National Priorities List.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Site Summary:

<http://www2.epa.gov/region8/ellsworth-air-force-base>