



**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

PMB 2020
JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182
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7 February 2013

Ms. Melody Jensen
Environmental Restoration Program Manager
28 CES/CEANR
2125 Scott Drive
Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD 57706-4711

Subject: Emerging Contaminants Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) in Ground Water at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota

Dear Ms. Jensen:

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Department) has reviewed the information provided at the December Project Managers meeting regarding perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in ground water at Ellsworth Air Force Base. PFOS and PFOA were both detected in ground water at Operable Unit-1 at concentrations greatly exceeding EPA's provisional health advisory levels. Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) § 74:54:01:05 prohibit the presence of Potential Toxic Pollutants in ground water at concentrations exceeding the detection limits of currently acceptable sampling and analytical techniques until an MCL or Health Advisory Level is set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A violation of state standards is subject to South Dakota Codified Law 34A-2-75.

PFOS/PFOA contamination appears to have migrated off-Base and the extent has not been fully defined. The Limited Preliminary Assessment Report indicates there are over 150 homes in the Thunderbird Subdivision located approximately 1,400 feet south of the Base boundary, and some of those homes may have private wells. Since the extent of PFOS/PFOA contamination has not been defined, it is possible that ground water in this area may be impacted. For this reason, the Department is requiring you to confirm the existence of private wells in the Thunderbird Subdivision and, if present, sample for perfluorinated compounds (PFCs). Because of the potential immediate threat to human health, the Department is requesting that you make every effort to perform this survey as soon as possible in the current calendar year.

In his 30 November 2012 letter, Mr. Jerald Styles indicated projects for delineating the extent of PFC contamination from OU-1, and for performing sampling at other sites where releases of PFCs may have occurred, are being developed, but implementation is dependent on the availability of funds. The Department understands the need to prioritize funding, but is respectfully requesting that you secure funding to define the extent of PFC contamination from OU-1 during the 2013 or 2014 field seasons.

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Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at (605) 773-3296.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joane Lineburg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Joane Lineburg, M.S.
Environmental Scientist III
Ground Water Quality Program

cc: Pat Smith, U.S. EPA (Mail Code: 8EPR-SR), Denver, Colorado