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Eielson Air Force Base Confirms Off-Base Migration of Contaminated Groundwater, Schedules Public Meeting with Moose Creek Residents

(JUNEAU, AK) – Recent sampling of residential drinking water supply wells in Moose Creek, near Eielson Air Force Base, has revealed the presence of the chemical perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) at levels exceeding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Provisional Health Advisory (PHA) level.

PFOS is an "emerging contaminant," or chemical with limited data on human health effects. It is an ingredient found in many products, including fire-fighting foam. Contamination from PFOS likely originates from historical fire-fighting foam use at Eielson AFB, roughly from 1970 to 2000.

The Air Force has responded quickly to this evolving groundwater contaminant problem. Since the discovery of PFOS in drinking water wells on-base in late March, the Air Force has changed to alternate supply wells on base, sampled groundwater for PFOS near the northern base boundary, and offered to sample drinking water wells for Moose Creek residents.

To date, preliminary sample results from 57 Moose Creek wells have been returned, and 46 of these wells have PFOS at the PHA level or above. More samples are currently being processed. For those wells where the results indicate drinking water contains PFOS above the PHA level, the Air Force is providing residents with clean water for drinking and cooking, while it investigates long-term treatment options.

The Air Force has scheduled a public meeting in order to address the public's concerns. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, at 6:00pm at the Moose Creek Fire Station. Representatives from federal and state agencies, including the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, will also participate. Moose Creek residents and interested members of the public are encouraged to attend.

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