

Taylor, Bob (Thune)

From: Taylor, Bob (Thune)
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2005 1:21 PM
To: 'Beauchamp, Arthur, CIV, WSO-BRAC'
Subject: Ellsworth Environmental Clean-up Costs

Art, we will likely send you an overall cost/savings paper that includes this later today, but wanted to pass to you our estimates on actual clean-up costs if Ellsworth closes.

We believe the Air Force grossly underestimated the cost of environmental clean-up. I believe their estimate was only \$1.15 million total cost.

According to DoD's own 2004 Environmental Programs Annual Report to Congress, (dtd Feb 25, 2005) Ellsworth has received \$69.5 million to date for environmental clean-up and remediation.

The estimated cost of completion in this report is stated to be at least \$26.4 million (through FY 2028).

Keep in mind these estimated costs were put together as if Ellsworth continues to operate as an active military base. Cost to clean-up a closed base about to be handed over for civilian use rise markedly.

Therefore, it's safe to assume that these costs will increase dramatically should Ellsworth be subject to closure:

- 1) Additional remediation/clean-up costs could pop-up once the base is shut down;
- 2) The duties that the Air Force was otherwise was taking care of (i.e. monitoring and treatment of contamination) will be passed along to the state and/or the surrounding town/county, but the costs will still be borne by DoD.

We think the costs are probably more accurately in the range of \$52 million, conservatively.