

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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Jefferson County -- Boulder County -- City and County of Broomfield -- City of Arvada -- City of Boulder
City of Golden -- City of Northglenn -- City of Westminster -- Town of Superior
League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders -- Ken Foelske

2006 Work Plan

Approved May 1, 2006

Mission:

The mission of the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council is to provide continuing local oversight of activities at the Rocky Flats site and to ensure local government and community interests are met with regards to long-term stewardship of residual contamination and refuge management. The mission also includes providing a forum to track issues related to former site employees and to provide an ongoing mechanism to maintain public knowledge of Rocky Flats, including educating successive generations of ongoing needs and responsibilities regarding contaminant management and refuge management.

Preface: 2006 Challenges and Opportunities

2006 is an important year for the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council. Work will primarily focus on completing the steps necessary to establish the organization – hiring permanent staff, finalizing all of the legal documents, establishing systems, etc. – and on analyzing and addressing, as necessary, the final site closure and post-closure regulatory documents. As appropriate, the Stewardship Council will focus on the nexus between the Department of Energy and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) management responsibilities, as well as issues that are the sole domain of the USFWS.

The Stewardship Council is uniquely situated as the first Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO) in the DOE complex. The organization thus has the opportunity to establish the framework for how a successful LSO is formed and functions. In this vein, the involvement of the four non-governmental entities on the Stewardship Council provides new ideas and new opportunities for engaging potential new audiences on issues and histories related to the site. These members coupled with the experience of the local government members provides for a broad perspective on the Stewardship Council.

As a new organization there are bound to be challenges as well. Some of the challenges to address in 2006 will likely include:

- Expanding and strengthening the organization's relationship with DOE's Office of Legacy Management (LM);

- Developing an effective public outreach program that not only reaches the current Rocky Flats audience but identifies new opportunities to educate others about the ongoing management needs at Rocky Flats;
- Identifying successful mechanisms to help ensure the Stewardship Council's and others' interests are incorporated into the final regulatory documents, including the Proposed Plan, CAD/ROD, post-closure regulatory agreement, and long-term surveillance and maintenance plan;
- Developing organizational systems to ensure the Stewardship Council functions efficiently; and,
- Strengthening the Stewardship Council's relationship with the USFWS, as well as evaluating USFWS fund and responding as appropriate.

Background:

The Stewardship Council occupies two roles: (1) serving as the LSO for Rocky Flats, and (2) engaging USFWS on the management of the future Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

Local Stakeholder Organization

Legacy Management approved the LSO Plan for Rocky Flats on December 21, 2005. This Plan identifies how the main responsibilities Congress identified in the legislation authorizing the creation of LSO (Section 3118 of the Fiscal Year 2005 Defense Authorization bill) will be carried out at Rocky Flats. These responsibilities are summarized as follows:

- Solicit and encourage public participation in appropriate activities relating to the closure and post-closure operations of the site.
- Disseminate information on the closure and post-closure operations of the site to the State and local and Tribal governments in the vicinity of the site, and persons and entities having a stake in the closure or post-closure operations of the site.
- Transmit to appropriate officers and employees of DOE questions and concerns of governments, persons, and entities referred to in the preceding bullet.

In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Stewardship Council has been tasked with helping DOE meet its public involvement obligations identified in the Post-Closure Public Involvement Plan (PCPIP) for Rocky Flats. An important component of the PCPIP is public communication which is divided into two time periods: site transition (from now until regulatory closure) and post-closure. There is a strong possibility that regulatory closure will occur in 2006, so for practical purposes the Stewardship Council will consider the two time periods 2006.

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge

"The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001" established that Rocky Flats shall become a national wildlife refuge following EPA certification that the site has been cleaned to the agreed-upon regulatory standards. With this certification, which is expected in late 2006 or early 2007, DOE shall convey to the Department of the Interior all Rocky Flats lands, with the exception of those lands DOE shall retain as part of its ongoing management responsibilities.

In April 2005, USFWS published the Rocky Flats Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), the site-specific conservation plan for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The CCP describes the desired future conditions of the Refuge and provides long-range guidance and management direction. Per the CCP, in the coming years USFWS anticipates developing the following “step-down” management plans, which provide specific guidance for achieving the objectives established in the CCP:

1. Vegetation and Wildlife Management Plan
2. Integrated Pest Management Plan
3. Fire Management Plan
4. Visitors Services Plan
5. Health and Safety Plan
6. Historic Preservation Plan

Work Plan Elements

The Work Plan is divided into the following five sections:

1. DOE Management Responsibilities
2. Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge
3. Former Rocky Flats Workforce
4. Outreach
5. Business Operations

DOE Management Responsibilities

Overview:

One of the key roles of the Stewardship Council is to understand and engage the various issues regarding the closure and post-closure management of Rocky Flats, and to provide a forum to foster discussions among DOE, the regulatory agencies, and community members.

2006 Activities:

1. Review and comment on as necessary the final regulatory documents including:
 - a. Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
 - b. Proposed Plan
 - c. CAD/ROD
 - d. Post-Closure Regulatory Agreement
 - e. Long-term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan
 - f. Environmental Protection Agency Certification
2. Transmit to DOE community comments on final regulatory documents, as appropriate.
3. Review information regarding the long-term stewardship and management of the Rocky Flats site, including but not limited to the results of the operational and performance monitoring data of site operations.

4. Work with DOE on designing and implementing its Post-Closure Public Involvement Plan (PCPIP), including the meetings DOE identified in the PCPIP.
5. Review DOE budgets for implementation of DOE responsibilities.
6. Participate in DOE, CDPHE, and/or EPA assessment(s) of remedy operations and effectiveness.
7. Evaluate legal and regulatory issues regarding implementation of site-wide long-term stewardship plans and provide information to the Stewardship Council and to the community.
8. Work with DOE and the regulators to understand technical data regarding implementation and effectiveness of cleanup remedies and long-term controls, and provide information to the Stewardship Council and to the community.
9. Transmit to appropriate officers and employees of the DOE questions and concerns of governments, persons, and entities regarding Rocky Flats.

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge

Overview:

A core function of the Stewardship Council is to engage on issues related to the development and management of the future Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, and to track and address as necessary issues related to the interface of the Refuge to lands that DOE will retain as part of its management responsibilities. Further, in 2006 Congress and the Natural Resource Trustees (which includes DOE and USFWS) will be negotiating acquisition of certain privately-held mineral rights at Rocky Flats.

2006 Activities:

1. Work with USFWS and DOE on access restrictions to both DOE and refuge lands.
2. Work with USFWS and DOE on signage for both DOE and refuge lands.
3. Track issues related to acquisition of mineral rights.
4. Provide a forum for the community to raise issues related to aforementioned issues; forward comments to appropriate agency.

Former Rocky Flats Workforce

Overview:

One of DOE's primary post-closure responsibilities is to manage the health and pension benefits of former site workers. Many of these workers are the constituents of the Stewardship Council governments. Further, the Rocky Flats Homesteaders, which represents more than 1800 former site workers, sits on the Board of the Stewardship Council. For these and other reasons, as noted in the Stewardship Council's IGA, worker issues will continue to play a role for the new Stewardship Council.

2006 Activities:

1. Track issues related to the implementation of the Energy Employee Compensation Act (EEOIPCA). Act as needed.

2. Track issues related to LM's development and implementation of health and pension benefit programs for former Rocky Flats workers,, especially during the transition from Kaiser-Hill to a permanent health and pension benefits administrator.

Outreach

Overview:

As the LSO for Rocky Flats, a core responsibility for the Stewardship Council is reaching out to the community and providing a mechanism to educate people about Rocky Flats and the ongoing management needs. As part of this mission it remains essential that the Stewardship Council maintain close communications with DOE, EPA, CDPHE, USFWS, and Congress. As a new organization with a new mission, 2006 activities will also focus on developing communication mechanisms to expand deeper into the public arena.

The local communities have developed over the period of many years a very good working relationship with the two primary regulatory agencies that oversee the site, EPA and CDPHE. It is imperative that the Stewardship Council continue this tradition of partnership with these agencies. As the site transitions, CDPHE will take on more of a lead regulatory role, while the EPA will assume more of an advisory role. Nevertheless, both agencies will still provide a layered protection of site regulatory oversight so communication with both remains essential.

The Colorado congressional delegation likewise played a critical role in closing Rocky Flats. The Stewardship Council shall remain an important vehicle for addressing issues of concern to the delegation and for providing community interface with the delegation on the numerous site-specific issues and concerns.

2006 Activities:

1. Hold quarterly Board meetings and provide opportunity for public comment and public dialogue.
2. Communicate with other local officials, DOE, state and federal regulators, the Colorado congressional delegation, and other stakeholders about the Stewardship Council's mission and activities, as appropriate.
3. Seek public input and involvement on issues related to DOE and USFWS responsibilities at Rocky Flats.
4. Evaluate congressional action for funding LM and other legislative and administrative action that could affect Rocky Flats.
5. Maintain communication with state legislators, as appropriate, and track state legislation as needed.
6. Provide opportunities at meetings and in between meetings for education and feedback.
7. Work with DOE to disseminate information on the closure and post-closure operations of the site.
8. Identify mechanisms for educating succeeding generations about the residual hazards at Rocky Flats and the continued need for a comprehensive site-wide stewardship program.
9. Develop and implement mechanisms for the Stewardship Council and the general public to be informed of the results of the monitoring data and other relevant information, recognizing

that not all communication between LM and Rocky Flats constituencies will flow through the Stewardship Council. Potential options include:

- Periodic newsletters and/or annual reports
- Email updates

Business Operations

Overview:

Business Operations refers to organizational management responsibilities – conducting the annual audit, hiring staff, submitting financial reports to DOE, adopting annual Work Plan and annual budget, etc.

2006 Activities:

1. Operate Stewardship Council in compliance with state and federal regulations.
 2. Conduct final Rocky Flats Coalition audit.
 3. Prepare and adopt the annual Work Plan and the annual budget.
 4. Submit financial reports to DOE, as appropriate.
 5. Identify Stewardship Council staffing needs and hire as appropriate.
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Success Measurement Criteria

How the Stewardship Council will measure its success is important. Many organizations use sophisticated techniques to measure success, but these are not necessary for the Stewardship Council. Rather at the end of the year the Stewardship Council will pause and reflect on its Work Plan elements to help determine its ability to accomplish the stated mission and objectives. The review shall include an assessment of how the organization can improve in the coming year, focusing on areas of weakness and opportunities for improvement.