

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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City of Golden -- City of Northglenn -- City of Westminster -- Town of Superior
League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
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2009 Work Plan

Approved November 3, 2008

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: 2009 Challenges and Opportunities

In 2007 jurisdiction over Rocky Flats transferred from DOE's Office of Environmental Management to both DOE's Office of Legacy Management and the Department of the Interior. With this transfer of management responsibility, the Stewardship Council fully stepped into its long-term mission – engage on the range of issues underpinning the long-term management of Rocky Flats and use and protection of the site as a national wildlife refuge.

As the sole Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO) in the DOE complex, the Stewardship Council has established the framework for how a successful LSO functions. The involvement of the four non-governmental entities on the Stewardship Council provides important ideas and opportunities for engaging broad audiences on issues and histories related to the site.

Some of the challenges to address in 2009 will likely include:

- Continuing to expand and strengthen the organization's relationship with DOE's Office of Legacy Management (LM)
- Developing relationships with the new Administration and new members of the Colorado Congressional delegation.
- Identifying new opportunities to educate constituencies beyond the Stewardship Council's core constituencies about the ongoing management needs at Rocky Flats

- Reviewing and modifying as necessary organizational systems to ensure members remain engaged and the Stewardship Council functions efficiently

Background:

The Stewardship Council occupies two roles: (1) serving as the LSO for Rocky Flats, and (2) engaging USFWS on the management of the 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 3120 of the Fiscal Year 2005 Defense Authorization bill) are to 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.

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. In July 2007 DOE conveyed jurisdictional responsibility over nearly 4000 acres to the Department of the Interior for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Additional lands will likely be conveyed in 2009.

In April 2005, USFWS published the Rocky Flats Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), the 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

Due to funding restrictions, USFWS has delayed implementation of the CCP, including delaying the timeline for opening the Refuge for public access. As USFWS implements steps to open the Refuge, the Stewardship Council will work with USFWS and DOE to ensure the current access restrictions to DOE-retained lands remain effective and to address issues as needed.

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 cleanup and post-closure management of Rocky Flats, and to provide a forum to foster discussions among DOE, the regulatory agencies, and community members.

2009 Activities:

1. 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 and DOE status reports.
2. Work with DOE on implementing its Post-Closure Public Involvement Plan (PCPIP), including the meetings DOE identified in the PCPIP.
3. Review DOE budgets for implementation of DOE responsibilities.
4. Participate in DOE, CDPHE and/or EPA assessment(s) of remedy operations and effectiveness.
5. As needed, 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.
6. 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.
7. Track issues related to DOE's petition to Colorado Water Quality Control Commission to change uranium and other standards for Rocky Flats.
8. Transmit to appropriate officers and employees of the DOE questions and concerns of governments, persons and entities regarding Rocky Flats.
9. Work with USFWS and DOE on interpretative signage on refuge lands that includes history of Rocky Flats and cleanup, and ongoing DOE monitoring and surveillance program.

10. Support the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum efforts to establish a museum and on mechanisms for educating successive generations about the history of Rocky Flats, particularly about residual contamination and continued need for long-term stewardship.
11. Track issues related to transfer of administrative jurisdiction over former mineral parcels from DOE to Department of the Interior for inclusion in the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

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 Stewardship Council.

2009 Activities:

1. Track issues related to the implementation of the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Program Compensation Act (EEOIPCA), including ongoing federal legislation and pending review of the program by the General Accountability Office. Respond as needed.
2. Communicate worker concerns to the new Administration and to new members of the Colorado Congressional delegation.

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.

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.

The Colorado congressional delegation likewise played a critical role in addressing Rocky Flats issues. 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.

2009 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 affecting DOE and USFWS and administrative action that could affect Rocky Flats.
5. Maintain communication with state legislators, as appropriate, and track state legislation as needed.
6. Provide communications materials to newly elected officials.
7. Provide opportunities at meetings and in between meetings for education and feedback.
8. Work with DOE to disseminate information on the cleanup and post-closure operations of Rocky Flats.
9. Begin to identify methods for keeping constituencies engaged on Rocky Flats issues.
10. Identify mechanisms for educating successive generations about the residual contamination at Rocky Flats and the continued need for a comprehensive site-wide stewardship program.
11. Participate in local, regional and national forums.
12. 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 DOE and Rocky Flats constituencies will flow through the Stewardship Council. Options include:
 - Periodic reports
 - Email updates
 - White papers
 - Letters
 - Press releases

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. This work includes tracking and addressing as necessary issues related to the interface of the Refuge to lands that DOE will retain as part of its management responsibilities.

2009 Activities:

1. As necessary, work with USFWS on implementation of Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
2. Track Congressional action affecting funding for USFWS.
3. Provide a forum for the community to raise issues related to development of management plans and other issues affecting USFWS responsibilities at the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
4. Work with Energy Communities Alliance on development of a peer exchange on refuge issues.

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.

2009 Activities:

1. Operate Stewardship Council in compliance with state and federal regulations.
 2. Conduct financial audit.
 3. Prepare and adopt the annual work plan and the annual budget.
 4. Submit financial reports to DOE.
 5. Renew the Intergovernmental Agreement.
 6. Review and renew as necessary consulting agreements.
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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 each 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.