

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 Thornton -- City of Westminster -- Town of Superior
League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Arthur Widdowfield

Monthly Status Report – January 2013

Board meeting summary

There was no board meeting this month.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's December 2012 Rocky Flats activities included:

Groundwater Treatment Systems

Routine inspections of the treatment systems were conducted as follows.

- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): DOE reports optimization of the system is ongoing.

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Collected and processed Uranium geochemistry samples.
- Collected the Walnut Creek ambient surface water samples.
- Collected and processed automated surface water samples suites.

Ecology

- There was no fieldwork during this month.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

- There were no significant changes to report at either landfill.
- Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (federal endangered species) inspections were completed.

Federal Budget Delayed

In mid-January, officials at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) confirmed that due to the fact that The American Taxpayer Relief Act was signed into law on January 2, 2013, the Obama Administration will delay submitting the budget to Congress until March if not later.

Part of the challenge is that the sequestration cuts were also delayed but not resolved, necessitating OMB to require agencies to begin preparing for such cuts should the President and Congress not be able to resolve ongoing budget disputes.

According to a January 14, 2013, report by Federal News Radio, Acting OMB Director, Jeff Zients, directed all federal agencies to begin planning for budgetary reductions, including:

- Identifying “the most appropriate means to reduce civilian workforce costs where necessary,” including hiring freezes and early-retirement and early-out offers
- Reviewing grants and contracts, while being mindful of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act
- Considering ‘funding flexibilities,’ such as reprogramming or transferring funds

Regardless of when the budget is submitted, there are a host of issues the President and Congress will need to negotiate that will likely foster budgetary uncertainty for months, if not longer.

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

February 4, 2013

April 1, 2013