

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 – October 2013

Board meeting summary

2014 Work Plan

The Board approved the 2014 work plan. The plan can be found on the Stewardship Council's website: http://www.rockyflatssc.org/work_plan.html

2014 Budget

The Board adopted the 2014 budget.

Stewardship Council Community Member Appointments

The Stewardship Council governments appointed the following for the four community member seats on the Board of Directors for 2014-2015. Terms start at the February 2014 meeting.

League of Women Voters
Rocky Flats Cold War Museum
Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Nancy Newell

DOE Quarterly Update

The Stewardship Council hosted DOE's update for the second quarter of 2013. DOE also briefed on the September floods. Updates included:

- groundwater monitoring;
- surface water monitoring;
- ecological monitoring; and,
- surveillance, maintenance and site operations.

Some of the highlights included:

- Reportable twelve month rolling averages for plutonium, americium and uranium were recorded at GS10. Downstream of GS10, water quality meets all applicable standards.
- At the Original Landfill, all sampling met water quality standards.
- Elevated levels of selenium were found at the Present Landfill, prompting increased sampling. Subsequent samples did not detect elevated levels, so sampling returned to quarterly.
- Higher levels of vinyl chloride were detected at the Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS).

- Air stripper tests and optimization continue at MSPTS and the East Trenches Plume Treatment System.
- At the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System, the microcell lagoon treatment evaluations are showing positive results.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE reports on the following site activities for September. In addition to routine maintenance and surveillance activities, site personnel conducted the following activities:

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Conducted quarterly groundwater sampling for 3rd quarter 2013 (six Present Landfill wells and four Original Landfill wells).
- Collected and processed automated surface water sample suites along with duplicates. DOE worked with CDPHE to collect four split surface water sample suites for CDPHE lab analysis.
- Damage to surface water stations from the flooding was evaluated and, where necessary, repaired.
 - Local erosion was also minimal, which DOE reports will not affect the performance of any of the monitoring station flumes.
 - There was varying damage to monitoring equipment at locations WOMPOC, GS01, GS05, GS59, and SW093 caused by the floodwaters and debris. Damage was generally limited to sampling and flow measurement instruments being stripped from the flumes. Repairs were made in the first few days after floodwaters subsided.
 - Locations WALPOC, GS03, GS10, GS13, GS51, and SW027 all performed as expected, and were essentially undamaged.

Seeps

- Seeps in the area of former Building 995 were inspected and sampled three times in September in support of the ongoing investigation into elevated actinide levels in surface water at GS10.
- Locations along Functional Channel 4, also identified for GS10 evaluation support, were sampled twice.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

- East Trenches Plume Treatment System: DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Mound Site Plume Treatment System: DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): SPPTS shut down during the high precipitation event due to vault flooding. Both dosing pumps feeding the nitrate pilot scale test and one flow meter needed to be replaced, as they were damaged by water. The system is operating normally following the repairs.

Ecology

- Conducted routine Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse erosion control surveys.
- Evaluated dams for vegetation spraying on riprap.
- Began evaluations of the forb nursery areas.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

A special inspection of the Original Landfill (OLF), triggered by greater than 1 inch of precipitation in 24 hours, was conducted on September 12. No issues were noted at that time. The Present Landfill (PLF) was not accessible due to high water flows.

Additional inspections of the landfills were conducted on September 16 when the rain subsided and the site was accessible. The OLF soil cover developed some cracking with vertical displacement and indications of rotational slide in a localized area just west of the East Perimeter Channel in the northeast section of the OLF. The northernmost crack had vertical displacement of up to approximately two feet. On Thursday, September 19, cracks in the OLF cover that could increase water infiltration were filled in accordance with the OLF Monitoring & Maintenance Plan. Following an evaluation by the geotechnical engineer on September 24, a temporary drain line was installed to move water quickly out of the subsidence area until more permanent repairs can be designed and constructed. Design of the repairs is in progress.

The PLF cover and treatment system were not damaged by the high precipitation and flooding.

Site Roads

Site roads were damaged in several areas by the high-intensity rainfall and flooding. Potholes in the main roads were filled and more permanent repairs will be performed in the future.

Dams

Wright Water Engineers inspected the A-4, B-5, and C-2 dams on September 16. No issues were noted. Additional inspections were performed for all site dams and breached dams later in the week in accordance with a state program for emergency dam inspections after the recent flooding. Reports on the inspections were submitted to the state.

Worker Compensation

In mid-October, former workers secured a key victory in their fight to receive just compensation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Program Compensation Act (EEOIPCA) of 2000. The decision by a federal advisory board in short provides compensation for all those who worked at Rocky Flats from its start through 1983, who subsequently became sick with one of 22 specified cancers. It is possible that special status could be granted to workers past 1983, but that decision will not come for some time.

Rocky Flats Contact Record, 2013-02

This contact record concerns the September flooding, and, specifically, cracking on the northeastern portion of the Original Landfill. DOE estimates that from September 9-16, more than eight inches of rain fell on Rocky Flats. In accordance with the RFLMA, the regulatory document governing post-closure management activities, because more than 1" of rain fell within 24 hours, inspection of the two landfills is required. (DOE and the regulators undertook additional analyses and actions resulting from the flood, but those are beyond the scope of this contact record.)

The contact record explains the nature of the cracks, and response actions. The contact record can be found at: http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

February 3, 2014

April 7, 2014