

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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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 – November 2012

Board meeting summary

DOE Quarterly Briefing

The Stewardship Council hosted DOE's quarterly report for the second quarter of 2012 (April-June). Updates included:

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

Some of the highlights included:

- Since 2011, all terminal ponds are being operated in a flow-through mode, so there were no terminal pond discharges during the quarter. Pond levels were very low. As of June, the terminal ponds were holding approximately 6.4 percent of capacity. October levels were similarly low.
- At the Original Landfill (OLF), surface water quality results were all below standards for the quarter. At the Present Landfill (PLF), the selenium concentration was preliminarily reported as above the standard in the sample collected in April. This result triggered monthly sampling; however, subsequent data validation determined that selenium was not detected.
- Reportable 12-month rolling average values for uranium at GS10 continued to be observed through the quarter. Additional sampling is being conducted both upstream and downstream of GS10.
- Reportable 12-month rolling average values for americium at GS10 continued to be observed through the quarter. Reportable 12-month rolling average values for plutonium at GS10 were observed starting on May 31, 2012. Notification was made on July 24, 2012. Additional sampling is being conducted both upstream and downstream of GS10; no downstream results have been detected.

Briefing on Role of Regulators

Carl Spreng (CDPHE) discussed the roles of CDPHE and EPA at Rocky Flats, and the regulatory structuring governing cleanup and post closure management. He noted that during cleanup, both EPA and CDPHE were active in the day-to-day operations of site cleanup activities. Following remediation activities, DOE, EPA and CDPHE signed the Rocky Flats Legacy Management

Agreement (RFLMA). The RFLMA, in short, establishes a monitoring and maintenance framework, reporting schedule, and a system for Contact Records and notifications. A Memorandum of Understanding between the CDPHE and EPA defines regulatory roles for post-cleanup period. CDPHE is lead for most regulatory actions, and works in consultation with EPA. Joint approval is required for decisions or revisions that affect RFLMA. RFLMA also defines a consultative process for decisions.

Approval of 2013 Work Plan

The Board approved the 2013 work plan. The plan largely follows the Stewardship Council's efforts in 2012. The Board will continue to focus on DOE management issues, worker issues, outreach, and communications. The plan can be found at:

http://www.rockyflatssc.org/work_plan.html

Approval of 2013 Budget

The Board approved the 2013 budget. This budget is the same as 2012.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's October 2012 Rocky Flats activities included:

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Continued well redevelopment work.
- Began 4th quarter groundwater sampling.
- Collected the Walnut Creek ambient surface water samples.
- Collected the quarterly Present Landfill (PLF) and Original Landfill (OLF) grab samples.
- Collected and processed automated surface water samples suites.

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.

Ecology

- Seeded roadside locations where snow removal activities last winter disturbed the vegetation.
- Conducted prairie dog observations at locations where previously the plague wiped out the populations.
 - The town north of Pond A-4 on the refuge had 18 individuals.
 - The town northeast of Pond C-2 had none.
 - The town south of Pond C-2 on the refuge had no prairie dogs.
 - None were observed east of the Central Operable Unit (DOE-retained lands) fence in the vicinity of Pond C-2.

- Completed the fall herbicide applications.
- Conducted OLF and PLF vegetation surveys for the 4th quarter.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

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

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

February 4, 2013

April 1, 2013