

# 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  
Nancy Newell

## Monthly Status Report – November 2014

### Board meeting summary

*There was no meeting this month*

### Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE reports that in addition to routine monitoring and maintenance activities, site personnel conducted the following activities in October.

#### *Surface water and groundwater monitoring*

- Completed measuring 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2014 well water levels and started the quarterly groundwater sampling. Sampled wells in vicinity of former buildings 371, 771, 881 and 991.
- Collected surface water composite samples.
- Re-installed the flume at GS33 for additional flow monitoring.

#### *Uranium Geochemistry Project*

- Measured monthly parameters from the geochemistry locations.

#### *Groundwater Treatment Systems*

- Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS): DOE reports the reconfiguration project is ongoing:
  - Removed the existing below-grade concrete vault
  - Prepped the foundation for the enclosure
  - Began installing structural supports for the below-grade tanks
  - Placed new electrical components in the solar power conex to prepare for electrical system reconfiguration to support the new air stripper
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally. A commercial plumber was subcontracted to video-inspect some of the big box plumbing. Some of the piping was jetted to remove clogs due to bio-fouling. The solar subcontractor installed new battery boxes and batteries for the solar system. The existing batteries had reached the end of their useful life.

### *Ecology*

- Conducted erosion control surveys.
- Continued vegetation mapping in Central Operable Unit (DOE-retained lands).
- Conducted tour of forb nursery and general re-vegetation areas for volunteer seed collectors.

### *Landfills*

- The Original Landfill East Perimeter Channel re-grading project was initiated. Much of the east perimeter channel area was graded and the excess soil was placed at various locations across the site to aid re-vegetation. Site personnel also installed the gravel seep drain and erosion control wattles.

## Worker Compensation Program

In early December, Congress approved a measure sponsored by Reps. Perlmutter, Polis and Whitfield (KY, the Paducah plant) to create an independent advisory board to ensure fairness in implementing the EEOICPA, the DOE worker compensation law. The Senate bill was sponsored by Sen. Udall.

The following is the press release Reps. Perlmutter and Polis issued.

### **Reps. Perlmutter, Polis Successfully Include Important Amendment for Rocky Flats Workers in National Defense Authorization Act**

WASHINGTON D.C. – U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO-07) and U.S. Rep. Jared Polis (CO-02) applaud the inclusion of an important amendment in the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (NDAA). The bi-partisan amendment, also co-authored with Rep. Ed Whitfield (KY-01) and spearheaded in the Senate by Senator Mark Udall, will create an independent advisory board to increase transparency and ensure Cold War Patriots' benefits applications are reviewed accurately and expeditiously.

During the Cold War, approximately 600,000 workers were employed at more than 380 U.S. atomic weapons program facilities throughout the country. Many of these Cold War Patriots were unknowingly exposed to radioactive and toxic substances at work. As a direct result of their work for the U.S. government, some atomic weapons program workers have developed cancers and other diseases. Unfortunately, due to bureaucratic hurdles and delays, many Cold War Patriots still have not received the benefits they deserve to care for the illnesses they contracted as a result of their work. This includes the workers of Rocky Flats, a former nuclear trigger production facility located in Jefferson County, part of Rep. Perlmutter's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

“Not only do we owe our Cold War Patriots a great debt of gratitude for their service to our country, we have a duty to ensure these nuclear weapons workers are given the benefits they deserve to care for their work-related illnesses,” **said Rep. Perlmutter**. “This advisory board is an important step in adding transparency and accountability to decisions made affecting workers' compensation and access to benefits.”

“Too many men and women who dedicated years of their life serving their country during the Cold War have faced inexcusable delays in getting medical treatment and benefits,” **said Rep. Polis**. “I am thrilled that the amendment I offered with Reps. Perlmutter and Whitfield to eliminate this

uncertainty and improve transparency for our Cold War patriots was included in the final NDAA text. I will continue to fight tirelessly to ensure that this amendment becomes law so we can eliminate the red tape and bureaucracy that has frustrated these employees, and me, for too long.”

In 2000, Congress acted to provide health care and benefits to these workers by passing the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). Unfortunately, implementation of EEOICPA was plagued by delays. The amendment would create an independent advisory board under Part E of the program providing compensation and medical benefits for workers exposed to toxic substances. The advisory board would review the Site Exposure Matrix and other methods currently used by Department of Labor claims examiners to determine causation of medical ailments. The advisory board was recently recommended by the Government Accountability Office and the Institute of Medicine.

## Woman Creek Reservoir Rehabilitation

Earlier this summer, in preparation for fixing part of the Woman Creek Reservoir, the Woman Creek Reservoir Authority (WCRA), which manages the reservoir, hired a team to take soil samples from soils in the bottom of the cells to test for radionuclides and other contaminants. Its final report contained the important conclusion:

Due to the nature of the site, analysis of soil samples from 36 locations on the site was done in March to assess potential health impacts for workers. The results showed levels of radionuclides were consistently lower than those seen in the original human health risk assessment conducted before the reservoir’s construction with levels all well below conservative human health screening values.

The data supporting this conclusion shows that in Woman Creek extremely low levels of plutonium, americium and uranium have flowed off-site and into the reservoir since its opening in 1996, including contaminants that might have been dislodged during the September 2013 flood.

The data is important because it indicates quantities of these products that flowed off-site, as opposed to concentrations as measured in water. Site water monitoring data is measured in concentrations in water. That is the basis for showing that water quality standards are being met. What we have not had until this report is a good sense of how much contamination is actually moving off-site.

Now, with this data from the WCRA, we have important data points—and what this data validates is that extremely low quantities of contaminants have flown off-site since the dam was completed in 1996.

## Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

January 26

April 6