

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17670
Boulder, CO 80308-0670
www.rockyflatssc.org

(303) 412-1200
(303) 600-7773 (f)

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 – December 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 November.

Surface water and groundwater monitoring

- Continued 4th Quarter 2014 groundwater sampling. Monitoring points are at the Original Landfill (OLF) wells, near the Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS), and Present Landfill.
- Collected and shipped microcell and lagoon samples from the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS).
- Processed several composite surface water samples.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

- MSPTS: DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS): DOE reports the system reconfiguration project is ongoing:
 - Poured the concrete footers and foundation walls for the enclosure
 - Backfilled and tested the soil density around the enclosure foundation.
 - Began framing the enclosure
 - Installed the components to reconfigure the solar power system from DC to AC
 - Installed the steel supports inside the underground plastic influent and effluent batch tanks
- SPPTS: DOE is evaluating options for reducing heat loss from the pilot-scale lagoons. Reduced treatment effectiveness has occurred the past two winters in December through February, which DOE attributes to cold temperatures. Concrete blankets were placed over the lagoons and hot-tub covers are also being investigated, as is adding heat to one of the lagoons.

Ecology

- Conducted erosion control surveys.

Landfills

- Work continued on the OLF east perimeter channel reconfiguration project:
 - Installed the seep drain and performed additional channel grading as needed based on topographic survey results.
 - Installed erosion matting at the construction area.

Uranium Reportable Condition in Walnut Creek

On December 3rd, DOE notified the community of what is termed a reportable condition for uranium at the Walnut Creek water monitoring point of compliance (known as WALPOC). At the October 27th Stewardship Council Board meeting, DOE indicated that this exceedance was likely.

According to DOE's notification:

A reportable condition is expected to occur at surface water POC WALPOC at Rocky Flats for the period from November 1, 2013 through October 31, 2014. An evaluation of all available analytical results for uranium from composite samples and flow volume during the period resulted in a calculated 12-month anticipated average concentration for uranium of 17.2 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) on October 31, 2014. This result exceeds the RFLMA Attachment 2, applicable Table 1 standard for total uranium of 16.8 $\mu\text{g/L}$. The evaluation was performed in accordance with RFLMA Attachment 2, Figure 5, "Points of Compliance."

Although the automated composite sample for the period October 23-31, had not been retrieved from the field as of November 19 because the collected sample volume in the carboy is not of sufficient quantity for analysis, evaluation indicates that the standard will be exceeded when the final analytical results are received regardless of the uranium concentration of the final sample. The forecasted WALPOC uranium concentration of 17.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$ is well below the drinking water standard of 30 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which is also the same value the State uses to determine if a water body is in attainment of the uranium standard.

DOE and CDPHE met on November 19th to discuss this result and develop a path forward. The contact record, which captures the path forward, can be found at:

http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx ("Reportable condition for uranium 12-month rolling average at Point of Compliance WALPOC")

As provided in that record,

The RFLMA Parties agreed that no mitigating actions are necessary at this time. The relevant factors evaluated in making this determination include the following:
Although the forecasted 17.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$ result will be above the Site standard of 16.8 $\mu\text{g/L}$, it remains well below the drinking water standard (i.e., the maximum contaminant level) of 30 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

Additionally,

Preliminary results from the ongoing geochemistry study, referenced in Contact Record (CR) 2014-05 (“Reportable condition for evaluation purposes for uranium at Point of Compliance WALPOC,” dated April 8, 2014), indicate that the increases in the 30-day rolling average uranium concentrations at WALPOC were caused by the September 2013 100-plus-year flood event, and will eventually return to below the 16.8 µg/L concentration. This projected decrease in uranium concentrations at WALPOC did occur in May 2014 when the 30-day average and composite samples concentrations dropped below 16.8 µg/L

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

January 26

April 6