

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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

Monthly Status Report – December 2015

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 groundwater sampling.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

- Flows at all three treatment systems remain above average.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): The system continues to experience clogging from bio-fouling in the media in the big box. Procurement for the subcontract to implement the interim reconfiguration project, as described in contact record RFLMA CR 2015-08, is in progress.

Ecology

- Continued adding GeoRidges to Functional Channel 1 area on the western edge of the Central Operable Unit (COU).
- Conducted prairie dog surveys. No prairie dogs were observed in the COU.
- Conducted COU sign inspection. No problems were observed.
- Placed wood-straw bales, spread wood-straw and re-staked matting at locations at the Original Landfill to cover exposed areas where elk have destroyed the matting.

Roads Maintenance

- Completed the annual roads maintenance projects. Roads were graded and additional road base or gravel was added as needed.

Reportable Condition at AOC well 10304

In December, DOE issued two public notices related to a reportable condition for trichloroethene (TCE) in a groundwater plume. One notice was in the form of Contact Record 2015-10 (*Area of Concern Well 10304 Reportable Condition*).

As provided in the contact record:

The *Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement* (RFLMA) defines several categories of groundwater monitoring wells at the Rocky Flats Site. Of these, Area of Concern (AOC) wells have reportable conditions defined. AOC wells are located within a drainage and downgradient of one or more contaminant plumes and are monitored semiannually to determine whether the plume(s) may be impacting surface water quality. The primary objective of AOC well 10304 is to evaluate groundwater quality adjacent to Woman Creek, downgradient of the 903 Pad/Ryan's Pit Plume.

As discussed in the *Quarterly Report of Site Surveillance and Maintenance Activities, Second Quarter Calendar Year 2015* (DOE 2015), a groundwater sample collected on May 7, 2015, from well 10304 contained an elevated concentration of trichloroethene (TCE). The RFLMA water-quality standard, set forth in Attachment 2, Table 1 to the RFLMA, is 2.5 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$); the concentration in this sample was 15 $\mu\text{g/L}$. While TCE (and other volatile organic compounds [VOCs]) has been detected previously in samples from well 10304, it has not been reported in samples from this well at concentrations exceeding the RFLMA standard. A non-RFLMA confirmatory sample was collected on June 17 to assess whether this result might be erroneous; the TCE result in that second sample was 5.4 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

As outlined in RFLMA Attachment 2, Figure 7, a reportable condition for an AOC well exists when two consecutive, routine, semiannual samples contain the same analyte at concentrations exceeding the corresponding RFLMA standard. The fourth-quarter sample collected from well 10304 on October 29, 2015, contained a TCE concentration of 72 $\mu\text{g/L}$. This represents the second consecutive semiannual result above the RFLMA standard, and therefore, a reportable condition exists for AOC well 10304.

Further, as explained in the record, the plan to address this problem includes:

- A grab sample will be collected from Woman Creek downgradient/downstream and in the vicinity of well 10304 to evaluate the potential for VOC-contaminated groundwater to adversely affect surface water quality in this reach of Woman Creek. The location of the sample will be determined based on a field walkdown and will be suitable and convenient for sample collection while still being downgradient of the plume and in the immediate vicinity of the well.
- When the results of the surface water sample are available, there will be further consultation.
- Grab samples will be collected from this Woman Creek surface water location each time AOC well 10304 is sampled, until water quality at the well is no longer reportable

The record can be found at: http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx

Previously, on December 8th, DOE issued the following notice:

INFORMAL NOTIFICATION OF A REPORTABLE CONDITION AS SPECIFIED IN THE ROCKY FLATS SITE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP)

Analytical results for the fourth-quarter 2015 sample collected October 29, 2015 from AOC well 10304, located down-gradient of the 903 Pad/Ryan's Pit Plume, were validated on December 1, 2015. The concentration of TCE in this sample was reported at 72 ug/L. The corresponding RFLMA standard is 2.5 ug/L. As discussed in the second-quarter 2015 report, the concentration of the sample collected during that quarter (15 ug/L) also exceeded the TCE standard. Because this fourth-quarter sample represents the second consecutive routine semiannual sample in which concentrations have exceeded a RFLMA standard, in accordance with RFLMA Attachment 2, Figure 7, a reportable condition exists at this AOC well.

The information above was provided to the CDPHE during a telephone call on December 1, 2015.

Per Figure 7, the agencies were notified within 15 days of receipt of validated data confirming a reportable condition. This email serves as the AMP notification of the reportable condition. A Contact Record will be developed with the required evaluation plan and schedule, and will be posted to the Rocky Flats website.

Following the holidays, DOE will schedule a meeting with AMP participants for early 2016 to discuss this Reportable Condition.

Contact Record 2015-09

Soil Disturbance Review Plan for Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System Interim Configuration

This contact record follows the discussion and decision framework found in Contact Record 2015-08. That record, which concerned the interim design and implementation of the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS), was discussed in the Stewardship Council's September and October updates (see <http://rockyflatscc.org/updates.html>). Contact Record 2015-09 summarizes DOE, CDPHE and EPA's consultation on the SPPTS soil disturbance review plan for the interim configuration project.

The proposed changes in short contemplate using a new design based on lagoon pilot-scale studies. That plan includes construction of a roof over the "Big Box", installation of plumbing and pumps and associated electrical infrastructure, and installation of a new vault that will allow continued uranium treatment testing. The agencies have termed these changes an "upgrade" to the existing system. Because this construction will require excavation subject to institutional controls, this contact record provides a soil disturbance review plan.

DOE will not conduct the approved soil disturbance until at least 10 calendar days after this Contact Record is posted on the Rocky Flats website. Notice of the posting on the DOE website was provided to the community on December 9th.

The record can be found at: http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx

Legacy Management Appropriations

In mid-December, Congress reached agreement on spending for the remainder of fiscal year 2016. DOE's Office of Legacy Management, which manages Rocky Flats among other sites, was funded at the Administration's request of \$167,180,000. The bill was signed into law by the President.

Stewardship Council Update

Next meetings:

February 1, 2016

The remainder of the 2016 meeting schedule will be adopted at the February 1st meeting.