

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 Westminster -- Town of Superior
League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Arthur Widdowfield

Monthly Status Report – February 2011

Board meeting summary

Election of Stewardship Council Officers for 2011

The Board elected the following board officers for 2011:

Chairman – Bob Briggs (Westminster)
Vice Chairman – Lisa Morzel (Boulder)
Secretary/Treasurer – Sheri Paiz (Northglenn)

Terms run until the February 2012 meeting.

2011 Meeting Schedule

The Board adopted the following meeting schedule for 2011: February 7, April 4, June 6, September 12 (second Monday of the month), November 14 (second Monday of the month)

Washington, D.C. Talking Points

The Board approved talking points members and their staff can use during meetings in Washington, D.C. with Congress and DOE. Copies are available by email (dabelson@rockyflatssc.org).

DOE Quarterly Briefing

DOE discussed the quarterly report for the third quarter of 2010 (July - September). The report can be found at: http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/Documents.aspx

Surface Water Monitoring

Beginning in July, DOE discharged Pond C-2 for first time in years. Transfers from A-3 to A-4 also were made as part of flow-through operations. At the end of the quarter, pond levels were approximately 15% of capacity, and A-3 has been empty since the end of November. DOE will likely discharge A-4 and B-5 before spring runoff begins. Performance monitoring at both the Original and Present Landfills (OLF & PLF) showed that surface water quality results were all below standards for the quarter.

A plutonium exceedance occurred at SW027. Details can be found in contact record 2010-06. Since plutonium and americium primarily only move when attached to suspended solids and sediment, actions to address the exceedance involved looking for areas with exposed top soil in the drainage. Remedies included adding wattles and revegetation, in order to make the low level

residual contamination more immobile. Water quality at all other POEs was below applicable standards during the quarter.

Groundwater monitoring

All 10 RCRA wells were sampled. Additional (non-RFLMA) monitoring included several locations associated with the Mound (MSPTS) and East Trenches (ETPTS). As reported in previous quarterly meetings, the samples support consultation and evaluation of system performance. System effluent contained some constituents above RFLMA Table 1 levels.

There were also numerous sampling locations associated with the Solar Ponds (SPPTS). Optimization of Phases II and III included transitioning to dosing Cell A with a pre-blended mixture of carbon and phosphorus. They evaluated the effects of recirculation in Cell A and increased flow to Cell B [from approximately 0.005 to 0.25 gallons per minute (gpm)]. They also stopped regularly sampling Cell B because it was no longer a Phase IV candidate.

Site Operations

Monthly inspections at the OLF were completed on July 19, August 31, and September 23. Seep 1 was dry throughout the third quarter. The Seep 2 and 3 area was saturated in third quarter. It showed some surface expression but no surface flow, and supported small stands of wetland vegetation. The Seep 4 and 5 area was saturated in the second quarter. It showed surface expression, but drained via the Berm 3 drain as designed. Wetland vegetation is thriving along Seep 4 and 5. The Seep 6 area was dry most of the third quarter and supported a small stand of wetland vegetation. Seep 7 surface expression stopped in the third quarter. Seep 8 flowed at approximately 2 to 5 gpm throughout the quarter.

OLF settlement monuments were surveyed on September 23 and data were within the expected range per the OLF Monitoring and Maintenance Plan. OLF inclinometers were measured July 28, August 30, September 9, and September 30. Inclinometers 5, 6, and 7 were measured September 9. September 30 measurements were invalidated due to instrument orientation error. Subsequent readings taken in the fourth quarter showed very little deflection.

OLF Soil Sampling project

This work was a preliminary evaluation of residual contamination levels in relation to CDPHE's August 2008 policy, End of Post-Closure Care. This project is covered by CR 2010-01. Pre-closure residual soil contamination data are now between 15 and 19 years old. This project provided data for comparison to risk-based levels. It does not necessarily mean that post-closure controls for the OLF will end, although some monitoring and maintenance requirements possibly may be reduced. The area also remains subject to land-use restrictions under the Environmental Covenant. CDPHE approved the OLF Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) on June 9, 2010.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's January 2010 Rocky Flats activities included:

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Finished collecting water level measurements from groundwater monitoring wells (100 total).
- Collected and processed automated surface water sample suites.

- Collected routine non-RFLMA Solar Ponds Plums Treatment System (SPPTS) samples.
- Collected quarterly grab samples at the Present Landfill (PLF).
- Collected quarterly surface water grab samples at the Original Landfill (OLF).
- Collected ambient grab samples at Walnut Creek.
- Conducted well maintenance and installed bladder pumps in groundwater monitoring wells.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

Routine inspections of the treatment systems were conducted as follows:

- SOARS staff from Grand Junction conducted telemetry maintenance. Extensive telemetry work was conducted at the Mound Plume Treatment System (MSPTS).
- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS) – DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- MSPTS – DOE reports the system is functioning normally. DOE finalized the assembly and warehouse testing of the spray nozzle air stripper apparatus. The initial system tests (first component with effluent manhole lid closed; second component with manhole lid open for greater air exchange) were completed and samples were submitted to the lab. Photo Ionization Detector (PID) readings, which measures airborne VOC, suggested some stripping was occurring, but the samples collected through the test will be the true measure of its effectiveness. Although full VOC removal not anticipated with this apparatus, the results will inform design of a more appropriate version.
- SPPTS – DOE reports optimization of the system is ongoing.

Ecology

- Installed erosion controls on the 903 Lip Area. These included Filtrexx FilterSoxx wattles and erosion matting.
- The areas in the South Interceptor Ditch that were going to be matted were seeded with a wetland/upland seed mix prior to placement of the mat.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

- There were no significant changes to report at either landfill. The December OLF inspection report was submitted.
- Measured inclinometers at the OLF, and began downloading piezometer data.
- Performed Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) inspection and added the newly installed erosion controls at the SW027 area to the PMJM inspection list.

Site Document Update

None at this time.

RMPJC Nuclear Guardianship

The Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center (RMPJC), in partnership with Naropa University’s Environmental Studies Program, has initiated a six-month series of presentations and workshops focused on what they are calling “Nuclear Guardianship.” According to LeRoy Moore with RMPJC, “Nuclear Guardianship combines art, science and remembrance to address

with insight and creativity the seemingly intractable human-caused problem of nuclear contamination.”

All events, unless otherwise noted, are at 7:30 pm at Naropa University’s Nalanda Building, 6287 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder.

- March 17: Marco Kaltofen, “Plutonium in respirable dust”
- March 31: Shawn Smallwood, PhD, “Burrowing Animals & Plutonium at Rocky Flats”
- April 1: Steve Wing, PhD., “Radiation Health Effects: The Case of Plutonium”
- April 14: Jon Lipsky & Colo. Rep. Wes McKinley, “The 1989 FBI Raid and Its Fallout”
- April 21: Marguerite Kahrl & Kathleen Sullivan, “Making the Invisible Visible” (*at the Univ. of Colorado Visual Arts Complex, Room 1B20*)
- May 7: Jack Collom, “Creative Writing Session for Children and Adults”
- May 12: Robert Del Tredici, “Born Again: Denial and Eternally Recurring Surprise in Nuclear Waste Management”
- May 12: “Poison Fire,” a short play about Nuclear Guardianship by Denver artist Barbara Donachy (follows Del Tredici presentation).
- May 26: Marc Bekoff, PhD, “What about the Wildlife? Animal Emotions and Why They Matter: Reflections on Redecorating Nature and Expanding Our Compassion Footprint”
- June 2: Anne Waldman, “Plutonian Ode' and Other Polemics” (*at the Univ. of Colorado Art Museum*)
- June 10: Joanna Macy, PhD, lecture on nuclear guardianship (*place to be determined*)
- June 11: from 9 am - 5 pm and June 12 from 9 am – 1 pm Joanna Macy. workshop on implementing nuclear guardianship (*place to be determined*)

For more detail on the Rocky Flats Nuclear Guardianship project, including bios of presenters, please visit www.rockyflatsnuclearguardianship.org.

Stewardship Council update:

Next meetings:

April 4

June 6

September 12

November 14