

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
Arthur Widdowfield

Monthly Status Report – March 2012

Board meeting summary

There was no board meeting this month.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's February 2012 Rocky Flats activities included:

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Sampled three seep locations on the hillside just south of the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS).
- Collected and processed automated surface water sample suites and associated grab samples.
- Conducted groundwater sampling at the three groundwater monitoring wells upgradient of the Present Landfill.

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.
- SPPTS: DOE reports optimization of the system is ongoing. They completed the Zero Valent Iron (ZVI) microcell test, treatment media used to treat uranium contamination in groundwater. The plan is to rework the ZVI and see if that affects treatment. Then a more tightly controlled test will be initiated.

Ecology

- Volunteers collected grass seed on the Functional Channel 1 south-facing hillside and forb seed (non-woody plants) in the forb nurseries.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

- There were no significant changes to report at either landfill
- Continued Dam A-3 breaching project.
- Conducted routine Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (endangered species) inspections.

- Began investigation of a slump that has been forming on the Solar Ponds hillside near the SPPTS over the past 5-plus years

Energy Employees Compensation update

In a March 1st *Federal Register* notice, the Department of Health and Human Services announced it would review the petition submitted on behalf of former Rocky Flats workers. The petition seeks special cohort status under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Program Compensation Act of 2000 (EEOIPCA) for workers who worked at the site between January 2, 1972, and December 31, 1989, who meet specified criteria.

The EEOIPCA was designed to compensate all former defense workers who have suffered as a result of exposure to radioactive and hazardous materials while working at Rocky Flats and other defense facilities. The program has been fraught with a number of problems, including inadequate records, lack of access to records, and dose reconstruction models. To remedy the many problems, workers are trying to secure special cohort status under the law. For Rocky Flats workers, that means if one worked at Rocky Flats for at least 250 days and got one of 22 cancers, then one would receive compensation under the special cohort provisions of the EEOIPCA and implementing regulations. Special cohort status in essence changes the causal nexus requirement.

In 2008, special cohort status was granted for a group of workers who were monitored or should have been monitored for neutron exposure while working at least 250 work days from April 1, 1952 through December 31, 1966. These workers simply could not prove a causal connection between cancers and exposures at Rocky Flats because of problems with data.

Senator Udall, Representative Polis and other members of the Colorado congressional delegation have introduced legislation to secure permanent status for all Rocky Flats workers, but due to high costs associated with such a robust compensation program, that bill will not become law. Accordingly, workers are trying through this petition to secure status and compensation. The Rocky Flats Stewardship Council has long supported both legislative and administrative remedies. Our policies can be found at: http://rockyflatssc.org/board_policies.html

A copy of the notice can be found here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/03/01/2012-4961/decision-to-evaluate-a-petition-to-designate-a-class-of-employees-from-the-rocky-flats-plant-in>

Site Document update

None at this time.

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

June 4

September 10