

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 – March 2014

Board meeting summary

There was no meeting this month

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE reports that its site activities for February focused on routine maintenance and surveillance activities.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MTPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally. The air stripper and associated locations were sampled, then the multiple air stripper nozzles were replaced with a single nozzle. Additional air stripper samples will be used to compare the results of the multi-nozzle medusa and the single larger nozzle.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally.

Environmental

- Collected 1st Quarter 2014 groundwater samples from the Original Landfill and Present Landfill.
- Collected surface water grab samples; samples were sent to Lawrence Berkley National Lab to support the uranium high resolution isotopic evaluation to determine the percentage of natural vs. man-made uranium in the surface water samples.

Ecology

- Conducted erosion control surveys.
- Began a vegetation mapping project in the Central Operable Unit that will be used to update the site vegetation map.

Adaptive Management Plan

In February, DOE posted on its website the “2013 Surface Water Configuration Adaptive Management Plan Annual Report (AMP Report).” The AMP

provides for a monitoring and data evaluation program to assist in deciding whether to implement the final steps of the proposed action (which include breaching the terminal dams during the planned timeframe of 2018–2020), or to delay the completion of the proposed action to gather additional information for evaluation. The terminal dams will be operated in a flow-through condition during the period leading up to the completion of the proposed action, which will provide data similar to what can be expected post-breach. In addition to the AMP monitoring program, the AMP identifies certain performance indicators that DOE will consider in deciding whether to adjust the timeframe for completing the proposed action.

The AMP Report includes the data in support of that decision. Highlights include:

- Terminal ponds A-4 and B-5 (both on Walnut Creek) and C-2 (Woman Creek) began discharging in the flow-through mode during the spring runoff of 2013 (C-2 commenced 2/3/13, while A-4 and B-5 commenced 4/19/13). Prior to these dates the water levels in the ponds had not reached the elevated outlet works, thus retaining less than 10% of the ponds' overall capacity.
- C-2 ceased discharging the second week of May 2013, while A-4 and B-5 ceased during the second week of June 2013.
- During the September 2103 floods, water levels rose. A-4 and B-5 discharged a combined total of 78.7 million gallons; C-2 discharged a total of 17.9 million gallons.
- Prior to the 2013 spring runoff, in the relatively dry spell, the plutonium (Pu) and americium (Am) levels were well below the RFLMA regulatory standards at the points of compliance downstream of the terminal ponds. Uranium (U) levels during the dry spell were creeping up towards the regulatory level.
- During the spring runoff, U dropped significantly and Pu/Am remained well below standards. After the runoff ended, U levels started to rise again in the Walnut Creek drainage at WALPOC (the point of compliance on Walnut Creek) and other upstream locations in that drainage; Pu/Am remained low.
- With the huge water influx from the September floods, U levels dropped dramatically, but concentrations quickly rebounded, possibly due to geochemical changes, drainage scouring, and groundwater recharge resulting in increased seepage of naturally occurring uranium.
- DOE reports that overall, the effect of operating the terminal pond dams in a flow-through configuration has produced similar results compared to batch- test-and-release pond operations used previously.

http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats_AMP.pdf

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

June 2, September 8, November 3