

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
Kim Griffiths

Monthly Status Report – April 2018

Board Meeting Summary

Briefing: CDPHE Follow Up from February 2018 RFSC Meeting

CDPHE's four conclusions are:

1. Does the assessment of risk from plutonium exposure at Rocky Flats include dust inhalation?
Answer: Yes.
2. Is inhalation risk significantly different than the risk from skin contact? Answer: Yes.
3. Does the risk from inhalation (alone) of plutonium differ from the overall risk presented at the last RFSC meeting? Answer: Yes.
4. Are the doses from alpha radiation different from other types of radiation? Can you compare mrem levels when the radiation sources are different? Answer: Yes.

Briefing: CDPHE Buffer Zone Sampling

Primary conclusions:

1. Average residual plutonium contamination in surface soil
Refuge = 1.1 pCi/g
COU = 2.3 pCi/g
CDPHE explained that the risk to an individual is less than 1 in 1 million.
2. Sampling across the lands that comprise the Refuge is generally near background levels. EPA testing validated this conclusion. Levels in the former Industrial Area are higher, especially at levels below 6'.
3. Independent analysis included:
 - a. EPA confirmation sampling
 - b. ORISE Independent Verification Survey
 - c. Government Accountability Office reports (1996 – 2006)
 - d. Aerial survey (Bechtel Nevada)
 - e. US Fish & Wildlife Service sampling (2006)
 - f. ATSDR Public Health Assessment for Rocky Flats (2005)
 - g. CDPHE split samples analyzed at State Lab
 - h. Numerous soils studies performed on Rocky Flats and in the surrounding area by universities, government agencies, and citizens groups
4. The Refuge Lands were delisted from the CERCLA Superfund list. They were deemed "Unlimited Use/Unlimited Exposure (UU/EE)." As CDPHE explained, "UU/UE generally means the level of cleanup at which all exposure pathways present an acceptable level of risk for all land uses. The risk is so low even homes could be built on the Refuge. Therefore, no further remediation or restrictions were required."

CDPHE's presentation is found at:

http://www.rockyflatssc.org/public_comment/Myths%20and%20Misunderstandings%20CDPHE%20presentation%20at%20RFSC%20with%20notes%20%282018-2-5%29%20.pdf

Briefing: Pat Mellen

Pat is an attorney and a resident of Superior. She requested time to address concerns she had with CDPHE's presentation at the February 5, 2018, Stewardship Council meeting. She titled her presentation "Rocky Flats: Concerns and Challenges." Her stated goal was not to change anyone's point of view but to present another viewpoint.

She first provided her understanding of the context to CDPHE's "Big Truths": (1) Rocky Flats once was highly contaminated, (2) environmental crimes committed during Plant Operations, (3) some on and off-site residual contamination remains, and (4) will persist a long time. Among other things, she believes that the final cleanup levels for soils deeper than 6' below grade is unacceptable and could lead to off-site exposures at a future date. She also questioned CDPHE's statements concerning the impacts of inhaling a particle of plutonium, and raised the possibility, based on what she called "anecdotal evidence", that waste drums are buried on the Rocky Flats refuge.

The meeting minutes will contain a thorough overview of Pat's briefing. They will be posted following the June 4th Board meeting.

Legacy Management Monthly Site Activities Summary

DOE reports the following for February.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS): DOE reports the system is working as designed, effectively treating groundwater from both the Mound Site and East Trenches groundwater plumes.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): DOE reports the system is working as designed. Uranium treatability testing at the lab and in the field is complete and the testing equipment was removed. The alternatives analysis is proceeding on schedule.

Maintenance and Inspections

- North Walnut Creek slump: A crack ranging in width from ¼-inch to 3 inches re-opened along the old scarp line and could no longer be filled with hand tools. The crack area was graded to fill the crack and reduce precipitation infiltration, which can accelerate slumping and cracking.
- Original Landfill (OLF): DOE added a new drain line at OLF berm 7 to reduce ponding. The agency also added soil to a low spot behind berm 6 so surface water would drain to the East Perimeter Channel instead of infiltrating into the soil.

Projects

- Original Landfill: As part of the 2018 geotechnical investigation, the site ecologist conducted a raptor nesting survey along Woman Creek upstream and downstream of the OLF. No raptor nests were found in the trees along the creek.

Stewardship Council Update

Remaining 2018 Board of Directors Meetings: June 4, September 17, October 29