

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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Jefferson County -- Boulder County -- City and County of Broomfield -- City of Arvada -- City of Boulder
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League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Nancy Newell

Monthly Status Report – May 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 April.

Surface water and groundwater monitoring

- Measured 2nd quarter 2015 groundwater levels.
- Began 2nd quarter 2015 groundwater sampling: wells in area of former buildings 881 and 991, and near Oil Burn Pit #2.
- Collected and processed a large number of surface water composite samples due to large amount of runoff from melting snow.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

- Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally. Results from March samples confirm the system continues to meet targets. Sampling will be reduced to follow the RFLMA frequency.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): DOE reports the microcell and lagoon treatment system is running normally. DOE contractors adjusted flows to keep up with higher than normal groundwater. The big box continues to experience clogging problems. DOE contractors are exploring both near-term options to deal with the flow issues in the big box, and also the longer-term reconfiguration so that the selected solution for the near term is compatible with and leads to the longer-term reconfiguration.

Ecology

- Excess soil from the OLF east perimeter channel reconfiguration last winter was placed in areas of the former industrial area to aid in revegetation. In April, DOE contractors spread compost and mycorrhizal inoculant, disked areas, seeded and harrowed.
- Staff completed revegetation activities for the ETPTS reconfiguration.

- Began erosion control release monitoring at several locations that appeared to have established enough vegetation. Erosion control monitoring is no longer needed at the Present Landfill (PLF), A-3 dam breach, and WALPOC.
- Conducted prairie dog surveys; none were found within the COU. A burrowing owl is living at the prairie dog town north of the A-4 pond.
- Began 2015 wetland water level surveys since wetland plants are already beginning to grow this year.

Miscellaneous

- Conducted inspections of the former building areas. The hole at former building 881 has reopened and is approximately two feet deep. The subsidence at the southwest corner of the former B771 area has grown in diameter. Both were scheduled to be filled in the first week of May.
- Quarterly sign inspections were completed on April 29.

Landfills

- PLF and Original Landfill (OLF) weather-related inspections were conducted after the heavy precipitation on April 17 and 18.
- Technical leads walked down the OLF with geotechnical engineer on April 23 to evaluate new movement. The geotechnical engineer will provide options and recommendations.
- The new cracks on the OLF were field-verified and surveyed using GPS.
- Small and medium cracks were filled with shovels and small site-owned equipment. Some of the larger cracks and slumps will be addressed with larger equipment when the soil is dry enough.

More on the OLF below.

Contact Record 2015-02

Soil Disturbance Review Plan (SDRP) for Storage Shed Photovoltaic Upgrades

Around 2001, DOE constructed a shed near the eastern edge of the former Rocky Flats industrial area. The agency is now seeking to upgrade the photovoltaic system supporting the shed. The new PV panels will rest on supports that will be approximately three feet deep. Because the supports might exceed three feet in depth, DOE is required to comply with the soil disturbance provisions of the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement.

According to the contact record,

CDPHE has review information regarding the proposed soil disturbance and excavation and, after consulting with EPA, has approved the proposed activity and the proposed grading plan. CDPHE has determined that the proposed activity will not compromise or impair the function of the remedy or result in an unacceptable release or exposure to residual subsurface contamination.

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

Contact Record 2015-03

Original Landfill (OLF) Immediate Response to Recent Precipitation

The rains of late April into mid-May resulted in excessive groundwater on the east side of the Original Landfill (OLF). As a result, portions of the OLF along the area of the East Perimeter Channel (EPC) have begun to subside. According to the contact record,

This movement is evident over daily to weekly periods and is appearing as surficial cracks, settling (depressions), or rotational slumping. Repairs that have been completed on these features have needed to be repeated multiple times because the ground surface continues to move. These repairs have not been able to keep up with the recent movements. Since the movement is being caused by excessive groundwater, it is necessary to improve control of this moisture. Action is urgently needed to drain and divert as much surface water and groundwater as possible away from the eastern edge of the OLF cover and the EPC. The preexisting subsurface drain in this area appears to have been compromised, based on the presence here of seeps and pools on the surface. Therefore, this action may include drilling or digging holes greater than 3 feet deep to locate and intersect the groundwater and this drain, repairing and potentially reconfiguring this drain, and then diverting the water away from the OLF cover and EPC.

This problem is a continuation of the problems resulting from the September 2013 floods. As explained in the record,

Localized instability of the EPC first occurred as the result of the rain event from September 9 through September 16, 2013, and was identified as a reportable condition in Contact Record 2013-02, dated September 18, 2013. The efforts to repair, reconfigure, and stabilize the EPC that are listed in Contact Record 2013-03 and modified in Contact Record 2014-09 were completed in January 2015. Since that time the Site has received over 11 inches of precipitation and movement of the ground surface in this area has resumed. Although the effort to correct the EPC is an ongoing, reportable condition, its current status requires immediate action. CDPHE was notified on May 13, 2015, of the potential need to RFLMA Contact Record 2015-03 excavate holes greater than 3 feet deep in order to investigate the subsurface drain and dewater the area. CDPHE and DOE walk down the OLF on May 14, 2015, and agreed this action is an immediate need to dewater and stabilize the EPC and the eastern portion of the OLF cover.

The Stewardship Council will continue to track this issue.

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Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

June 1, September 14, October 26