

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17670
Boulder, CO 80308-0670
www.rockyflatssc.org

(303) 412-1200
(303) 600-7773 (f)

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 – June 2012

Board meeting summary

2011 Stewardship Council Audit

The auditor did not find any material deficiencies and issued a clean audit. The board voted to accept the audit.

DOE Annual Meeting

The Stewardship Council hosted DOE's annual update for 2011. Updates included:

- groundwater monitoring;
- surface water monitoring;
- ecological monitoring; and,
- surveillance, maintenance and site operations.

Some of the highlights included:

- Terminal ponds A-4 and B-5 were discharged in March 2011 and started flow-through operations in September. C-2 started flow-through operations in November.
- All Points of Compliance (POCs) showed levels below applicable standards.
- At the Points of Evaluation (POEs), GS10 and SW027 presented reportable conditions for uranium, plutonium and americium. Reportable 12-month rolling average values for plutonium at SW027 were initially observed starting April 30, 2010. Plutonium was no longer reportable at SW027 starting on April 30, 2011.
- At the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS), Phase III optimization has concluded. The results showed that the organic media alternative requires a much larger treatment cell, and the active alternative requires much more maintenance and power.
- The annual site inspection concluded there was no significant erosion, although there were some holes and surface debris. A deep hole was found above a stairwell in former B881. It was approximately 5 feet in diameter and 18 feet deep. It was filled with four truckloads of soil.

The entire report can be found at: http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/Documents.aspx

Actinide Migration Briefing

The Actinide Migration Evaluation (AME) projects were commissioned at Rocky Flats in 1995 to address how actinide elements (plutonium, americium and uranium) could potentially move in

the local environment. Initially, AME advisors were recruited to evaluate and provide guidance on environmental conditions (including actinide chemistry, geochemistry, migration, and erosion) at Rocky Flats. The charter was expanded to include recommendations for the path forward for long-term protection of surface-water quality as the primary technical and regulatory measure of remedial action quality. Understanding how actinides move in the environment is central to the cleanup and long-term protection strategies.

Mobility pathways at Rocky Flats were/are

- Wind - Pu, Am and U
- Surface water - Pu, Am and U (however, only U has significant solubility)
- Groundwater - only U (only with high solubility)

These specific conclusions drove remediation decisions. This pathway data was used as a foundation for soil cleanup standards at the site. Because of the lack of mobility in soil, cleanup work in the environment was focused on the top three feet of soil.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's May 2012 Rocky Flats activities included:

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Continued quarterly groundwater sampling.
- Collected and processed automated surface water sample suites.
- Collected the Walnut Creek grab samples.

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.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): DOE reports optimization of the system is ongoing.

Ecology

- Finalized spring 2012 herbicide application locations.
- Cut flowering leafy spurge plants at known locations; will spray areas this fall.
- Seeded Present Landfill (PLF) pond margin.
- Conducted wetland water level surveys.
- Conducted PLF quarterly vegetation survey.
- Flagged boundaries of selected herbicide spray locations.
- Completed Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (federal endangered species) inspections.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

- There were no significant changes to report at either landfill.
- Finished final grade work and demobilization to complete the PLF dam breach project.

Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations Update—DOE’s Office of Legacy Management

On June 6, the House passed the fiscal year 2013 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill (H.R. 5325). The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version of the bill (S. 2465) in late April, but the Senate has not scheduled floor action. (Note: these figures have not changed from the May update.)

Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Fiscal Year 2013 requested	Fiscal Year 2013 House passed	Fiscal Year 2013 Senate committee mark
\$170.87 million	\$169.6 million	\$177.95 million	\$173.95 million	\$177.95 million

Cook v. Rockwell – update

In 1990, the owners of property near Rocky Flats filed a class action against DOE under the Price-Anderson Act alleging trespass and nuisance claims arising from the release of plutonium onto their properties. The district court conducted a lengthy trial, and in 2006 the jury ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, awarding approximately \$926 million, inclusive of compensatory damages and punitive damages. Defendants Dow Chemical Company and Rockwell International Corporation appealed the judgment, and in September 2010, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the judgment and remanded the case to the district court. The court in short ruled that to show trespass, the plaintiffs must prove “actual and physical damage to their properties.” The case was appealed to the Supreme Court.

In late June the Court, without comment, rejected the landowners' challenge.

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

- September 10 (second Monday)
- November 5