

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 – June 2013

Board meeting summary

2012 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 2012. Updates included:

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

Some of the highlights included:

- During 2012, there were reportable conditions at GS10 for plutonium, americium and uranium. DOE continues to consult with the regulators, and are investigating the source(s).
- At the Original Landfill, all sampling results met water quality standards.
- At the Present Landfill, sampling frequency was increased for arsenic and selenium.
- The groundwater monitoring network is divided into areas associated with plumes. 89 wells were sampled one-to-four times per year, producing over 6,000 analytical records. Only one of these wells was dry.
- In 2012, no results above RFMLA levels were found at Area of Concern (AOC) wells, which was consistent with previous results.
- Work at the three groundwater treatment systems continued.
- Over the past two years, very little deflection at the Original Landfill has been observed.
- The environmental covenant remains in the Administrative Record and on file with Jefferson County.
- Project support for ecological issues was provided for project assistance, wetland mitigation, Preble's Mouse Mitigation Monitoring, wildlife monitoring and weed monitoring/control.

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

DOE briefing on adaptive management plan and replacement of GS10 monitoring station

In 2010, DOE released a draft environmental assessment for breaching the three terminal pond dams along Walnut Creek (ponds A-4 and B-5) and Woman Creek (pond C-2). In response to concerns raised by communities downstream of Rocky Flats, DOE developed an adaptive management plan (AMP), with a focus on water quality monitoring. DOE recently completed its biannual review of the AMP, and as part of that review, decided to cease water quality monitoring along Indiana Street on October 1, 2015.

DOE is also proposing to replace monitoring station GS10. The existing flume was built by the USGS in the mid-1990s, and although it still functions, it is aging and was originally slated for replacement in 2002. At that time, budget issues and some slumping conditions delayed the project. As DOE explained,

- DOE will replace the GS10 flume and move the flume to the downstream side of the diversion structure, which will, among other things, make flume operation and maintenance easier.
- Although the GS10 metal flume currently is operational, additional structure aging and movement of the south hillside could compromise the quality of data collected in the future.

DOE also explained how it intends to address concerns about soil disturbance work given the exceedances at GS10.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's May 2013 Rocky Flats activities included:

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Continued quarterly groundwater sampling along Woman Creek.
- Collected and processed automated surface water sample suites.
- Collected special nitrate samples along Walnut Creek.
- Collected the full suite of Walnut Creek ambient grab water samples.
- Collected the full, double round (nine locations, pre-dawn and later) samples for the uranium geochemistry evaluation.
- Collected East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS) air stripper optimization samples.
- Collected three samples from the former Building 995 seeps in support of the investigation of elevated levels of actinides in surface water near water monitoring station GS10.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

Routine inspections of the treatment systems were conducted.

- ETPTS: DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Mound Site Plume Treatment System: DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System: DOE reports the system is functioning normally.

Ecology

- Cut and installed willow stakes at Present Landfill, former pond A-3, WALPOC, and WOMPOC wetland mitigation locations.
- Conducted wetland water level surveys.
- Conducted prairie dog surveys at locations in eastern Central Operable Unit and Buffer Zone. Prairie dogs are only seen on the refuge north of the A-4 pond.
- Popped scotch thistle rosettes, mullein and white-top plants at several locations to discourage growth.
- Conducted nest box surveys. There is a bluebird nesting in one of the boxes this year.
- Conducted routine Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (federal endangered species) inspections.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

- DOE notes there were no significant changes to report at either landfill.

Polis, Perlmutter and Whitfield worker health amendment passes House

On June 14, as part of its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (HR 1960), the House approved an amendment authored by Reps. Polis, Perlmutter and Whitfield to help provide relief to Cold War workers under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA). The measure expresses a Sense of Congress that the President should establish an advisory board on toxic substances and worker health to advise the Labor Department's review of claims under the EEOICPA. The three issued a statement praising the House's adoption of the amendment (quoting from the release):

"We owe our Cold War veterans a great debt of gratitude for their service to our country, and we have a duty to ensure that Rocky Flats workers are given the medical benefits they deserve to care for their work-related illnesses," said Rep. Polis. "It is unacceptable that individuals in my district who worked at the Rocky Flats Plant and as a result have contracted multiple cancers and illnesses are dying before their applications are even processed. Creating an advisory board would be an important first step to fix a severely broken application review system."

"This is about justice," said Rep. Perlmutter. "These workers risked their lives to protect this nation and helped end the Cold War, and they are entitled to receive the proper health care and benefits for this unselfish sacrifice to our country. These workers earned the right to a fast and fair process to improve the processing of claims for these eligible workers."

"The Cold War-era nuclear arms race was a trying time our country, and especially for those who worked in the construction of atomic weapons," stated Whitfield. "That is especially true at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, which is why I have been pushing for this initiative for the last several years. We must ensure that these brave men and women receive health benefits for any workplace-related illness that may have resulted from their service to our country."

The bill language is as follows:

SEC. 1027. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY BOARD ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND WORKER HEALTH.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should establish an Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health, as described in the report of the Comptroller General of the United States titled “Energy Employees Compensation: Additional Independent Oversight and Transparency Would Improve Program’s Credibility”, numbered GAO–10–302, to—

- (1) advise the President concerning the review and approval of the Department of Labor site exposure matrix;
- (2) conduct periodic peer reviews of, and approve, medical guidance for part E claims examiners with respect to the weighing of a claimant’s medical evidence;
- (3) obtain periodic expert review of evidentiary requirements for part B claims related to lung disease regardless of approval;
- (4) provide oversight over industrial hygienists, Department of Labor staff physicians, and Department of Labor’s consulting physicians and their reports to ensure quality, objectivity, and consistency; and
- (5) coordinate exchanges of data and findings with the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health to the extent necessary (under section 3624 the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 ([42 U.S.C. 7384o](#))).

Data in support of GS10 flume replacement project added to DOE website

In response to questions from the Stewardship Council Board of Directors, DOE has added to its website additional data about soil/sediment sampling in the vicinity of GS10. As DOE explains on its website,

The GS10 flume replacement project is described in Contact Record 2013-01, which was approved May 2, 2013 and is posted to the Rocky Flats public website. The Contact Record explains why the flume replacement project is not likely to impede the ongoing surface water and seep monitoring for evaluation of the reportable conditions at GS10. Some RFSC Board members expressed interest in soil/sediment sampling in the GS10 area, which is currently not planned because soil/sediment sampling results obtained during cleanup and closure and the water monitoring results from the ongoing evaluation of this reportable condition do not indicate particular soil/sediment sampling locations that would help inform the evaluation at this time.

This data can be found at: <http://www.lm.doe.gov/default.aspx?id=9835>

LM support services contract extended

DOE’s Office of Management, with concurrence from the Office of Legacy Management (LM), extended Stoller’s contract into fiscal year 2014. The contract had been awarded to a group led by Portage Environmental, but that award is being contested to the GAO. According to DOE, “the extension resulted from corrective action on DOE’s recent contract award. It is anticipated

that transition to the new LM support services contract will commence sometime during FY 2014. Performance of LM's work scope will not be affected by this contract transition delay." This contract includes management of Rocky Flats.

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

September 9 (second Monday of the month)

October 28 (fourth Monday of the month)