

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 – July 2018

Board Meeting Summary

There was no meeting this month.

Legacy Management Monthly Site Activities Summary

DOE reports the following for May.

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. Bird netting was installed over the nitrate treatment lagoon to keep birds out.

Maintenance and Inspections

- On May 7, CDPHE staff observed groundwater sampling at the Original Landfill RCRA wells.
- Staff completed routine erosion control surveys and wetland water surveys.
- Rocky Flats received over two inches of precipitation on May 2 and 3. Weather-related inspections were performed as required for landfills and buried infrastructure areas. Additionally, multiple rows of Georidges were added along the OLF East Perimeter Channel as an additional erosion control measure.

Projects

- Original Landfill (OLF): As part of the geotechnical investigation, the siphon system in Test Pit #10 (TP-10) was tested during the first week of May. The system is designed to capture groundwater encountered and divert it away from the slump area. The test indicated that additional flow is needed to lower the groundwater level. A second siphon line was installed on May 10, downstream of the sump pump.

Miscellaneous:

- Herbicides were applied to control various weeds at several small infestations in the COU.

Changing Denver – Podcast series on Rocky Flats

Over the past year, Paul Karolyi, a Denver resident, has been researching Rocky Flats with the intent of producing a podcast series focused on the history, cleanup and closure, and long-term health impacts of Rocky Flats on neighbors and visitors to the Refuge. The podcasts can be found at:

<http://changingdenver.com/?season=4-rocky-flats>

Paul's July 2, 2018, podcast is particularly interesting. Unsure about how to navigate differing scenarios from CDPHE and community members – and without having a stake in the fight and refusing to end at a place of uncertainty – he meets with Dr. Thomas Johnson, a Professor and Health Physics Section Head at the CSU Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences. Dr. Johnson is an expert on the impacts of low-level ionizing radiation.

Without getting into the details of the conversation with Dr. Johnson, Karolyi ends this episode discussing his support for opening Rocky Flats to visitors, stating he would be comfortable visiting for a hike or a bike ride. "Is Rocky Flats safe," he asks. "My answer is yes."

Carl Spreng – Retires from CDPHE

Carl Spreng, the long-term CDPHE lead on Rocky Flats, retired effective July 31, 2018. Carl spent 25 years working on Rocky Flats issues. He has been a tremendous resource, telling us what he knows and the science behind it, free from agendas or a political bent. Throughout his years of working for both Democratic and Republican governors, Carl has provided a steady hand—and throughout the years has exhibited the level of professionalism that is foundational to public service.

Routinely agency staff are challenged and ridiculed when they do not provide the answer people want to hear, and too often agency staff at all levels of government become the focus of public ire. Such jobs are demanding and at times demeaning, especially for a position that has an intense public focus such as Rocky Flats. And yet, throughout his tenure, Carl remained unflappable in the face of that scrutiny and attacks against his character. His contributions will be missed.

Upcoming 2018 Meetings: September 17, October 29