

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
Nancy Newell

Monthly Status Report – August 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 July.

Surface water and groundwater monitoring

- Measured 3rd quarter 2015 groundwater levels.
- Collected and processed several surface water composite samples.
- Abandoned Sentinel well 88104 (located down-gradient of former building 881) on July 8. The well was kinked and other nearby wells monitor the same area. Contact record RFLMA CR 2014-07, *Abandonment of Sentinel Well 88104 at the Rocky Flats Site, Colorado*, documents the consultation with the regulators that resulted in the decision to abandon this well. The record can be found at: http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx
- Completed the annual dam mowing and monitoring.
- Began redeveloping the RFLMA monitoring well system. This periodic maintenance operation improves performance and reliability by removing excess silt and clay from the well filter packs.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

- According to DOE, except as noted, all treatment systems were operating as expected.
- Flows at all treatment systems remain well above average.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): The big box media continues to experience flow issues from bio fouling. An interim project is being developed for early fiscal year 2016 to address the issues.

Ecology

- Conducted quarterly Central Operable Unit (COU) fence sign inspection. No problems observed. Also began replacing worn stickers on signs.
- Conducted migratory bird nest survey along route for well 88104 abandonment project. No nests observed.

- Flagged areas on 903 hillside for reseeding, wood straw, GeoRidge, and 3-stack wattle installation scheduled for August. Contact record RFLMA CR 2015-05, *Reportable condition for plutonium 12-month rolling average at Point of Evaluation (POE) SW027*, documents the consultation with regulators that resulted in identifying the enhanced revegetation and erosion controls that will be added in response to elevated plutonium concentrations at Point of Evaluation SW027. (This issue was discussed in the July and August updates.)
- Began diffuse knapweed weed mapping in revegetation areas within the COU.

Miscellaneous

- Inspected the former building areas and the 903 hillside following significant precipitation on July 8. Three new small cracks/holes were found in the northeast corner of the former B-881 area.

Landfills

- Continued to observe the cracks and subsidence at the OLF. Planning is in progress for an August project to perform interim repairs to restore the water management capability of the cover. See contact record RFLMA CR 2015-06, *Original Landfill (OLF) Implementation of Interim Action to Reestablish Surface Water Management on Portions of the OLF, with Soil Disturbance Review Plan*. (This record was discussed in the July update.)
- Mapped seeps at the OLF and former ash pits.

Contact Record 2015-07

Vinyl chloride results from the Present Landfill Treatment System (PLFTS) effluent triggered the consultative process

As provided in the record, the Present Landfill closure project included a passive seep interception and treatment system. The purpose of the system is to treat volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are found in both the landfill seep water and Groundwater Intercept System (GWIS) water (two pipes).

According to the record,

The routine quarterly effluent sample collected on 3/11/2015 (Table 1) showed a vinyl chloride concentration exceeding the practical quantitation limit (PQL) of 0.2 microgram per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) standard from the RFLMA Attachment 2, Table 1, "Surface Water Standards." (As a point of reference the 0.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$ is based on the water supply standard and neither Walnut Creek nor Big Dry Creek have drinking water supply intakes.) Subsequent sampling at the increased frequency showed three consecutive vinyl chloride concentrations also exceeding the RFLMA PQL, which RFLMA Contact Record 2015-07 triggered sampling at location NNG01 and consultation. The Site PQL of 0.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$ is well below the drinking water standard (i.e., the maximum contaminant level of 2.0 $\mu\text{g/L}$).

Further, as provided in the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement (RFLMA), exceedance of the standard at this monitoring location triggers monthly sampling; ongoing problems require sampling at a downstream location (NNG01).

The purpose of this contact record is to record whether a change in the remedy is needed. Because levels dropped in July, the parties determined that no changes to the sampling protocols are needed.

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

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge

The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge is officially open. USFWS notes that until it can develop basic amenities, it will control access through activities such as guided tours (birds of Rocky Flats, wildflower walk, photography, etc.) USFWS offered a few tours this summer, with two more slated for this fall. They are advertised through the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR website – www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/ (look for “Wild News Nature Programs”). (Direct link: <http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Wild%20News%20Web.pdf>)

USFWS has indicated it will not conduct a prescribed fire in 2016. The agency will instead evaluate using spot spraying and/or mowing.

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

September 14, October 26