

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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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 – September 2013

Board meeting summary

Initial Review of 2014 Work Plan

The Board conducted the initial review of the 2014 work plan. No changes were offered. The plan will be adopted at the October 28th meeting.

Initial Review of the 2014 Budget

The Board reviewed the draft 2014 budget. No changes were offered. The budget will be adopted at the October 28th meeting.

DOE Quarterly Update

The Stewardship Council hosted DOE's update for the first quarter of 2013. Updates included:

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

Some of the highlights included:

- Reportable 12-month rolling average values for americium and uranium at GS10 were observed during the quarter. Plutonium was not reportable during the quarter.
- RCRA wells at both landfills were tested during the quarter and the results were consistent with previous quarters.
- The Mound Site and East Trenches groundwater treatment air stripper systems are proving effective and require little maintenance.
 - At the Mound Site, the air stripper more than doubled the effectiveness of the prototype unit and operates full time.
 - At the East Trenches, the air stripper reduced total VOCs by an order of magnitude.
- DOE conducted the annual site inspection. The inspection includes, in part, a walk-down of the site.
 - No significant erosion was detected; however, personnel did find some minor depressions and surface debris/trash.
 - A minor depression at the East Trenches was filled with about 40 cubic yards of Rocky Flats alluvium soil.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE reports on the following site activities for August. In addition to routine maintenance and surveillance activities, site personal conducted the following activities:

Groundwater Treatment Systems

Optimization efforts on the treatment systems continued, predominantly components of the East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS) and Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS).

- ETPTS: DOE reports the system is functioning normally. DOE also collected air stripper samples.
- Mound Site Plume Treatment System: DOE reports the system is functioning normally, and that site personnel collected air stripper samples for ongoing evaluation.
- SPPTS: DOE reports the system is functioning normally. DOE also reports it collected lagoon samples and microcell samples.

Ecology

- Completed Preble's meadow jumping mouse (PMJM) mitigation monitoring, PMJM riparian photopoint monitoring, and diffuse knapweed mapping for 2013.
- Began wetland mitigation monitoring for 2013.
- Completed the fall herbicide application.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

- There were no significant changes to report at either landfill.

September Flooding

DOE and CDPHE reports the following regarding the flooding.

- All of the roads leading to Rocky Flats, including Indiana Street, were closed, but DOE got permission to use them and enter the site.
- CDPHE says "the site fared better than some may have thought. The functional channels worked well and there was only minor damage to the surface water monitoring network."
- Throughout the flooding, DOE took water quality samples. Because of the volume of water, DOE frequently had personnel taking and replacing water containers.
- Two surface water monitoring stations were knocked off-line for part of the flood. Those stations are
 - WOMPOC, the water quality point of compliance along Woman Creek. It sits at DOE-refuge boundary. DOE took a number of samples, but there is a gap of a few days where there are no samples.
 - GS-01, which is on Woman Creek at Indiana Street. That too was knocked off-line for a few days, but DOE did collect numerous samples.
- Terminal pond A-4 on Walnut Creek rose almost to the spillway before lowering. Even though the terminal ponds A-4, B-5 and C-2 operate in a flow-through configuration, inflow rates exceeded the outflow rates, thereby causing the pond levels rise.
- GS10 was in place and handled the higher water flows. GS10 is also on Walnut Creek, and there was considerably less water flowing in Walnut Creek than in Woman Creek.

- There was some damage to the northeast portion of the Original Landfill. DOE made emergency repairs, and engaged its geotechnical engineer to further assess the damage and decide on additional steps, if any, that might be warranted. According to CDPHE, these repairs are similar to repairs that DOE made to the west side of the landfill several years ago. The second smaller photo, which CDPHE provided us, is of the Original Landfill.
- The groundwater monitoring system was unaffected.

GS10 Flume Replacement Project

The GS10 flume replacement project started in early August and was completed in September prior to the flooding. The project consisted as follows.

Corrugated metal pipes (CMP) and head gates that were used to manage water by bypassing former ponds A-1, A-2 and A-3 were removed from the concrete diversion structure, and the remaining pipes were grouted closed. A notch was cut in the concrete diversion structure, the new flume was installed at the downstream side of notch, the CMP carrying creek flow through the concrete diversion structure to former pond A-1 was removed, and the area graded to match the level of the new flume. A coffer dam was installed in the creek during construction and creek water was pumped to the new flume to maintain continuous automated sampling. The old flume was removed and the creek upstream of the new flume filled and graded. Results of the RADCON field survey wipes on the removed CMP, old flume, and concrete cut from the diversion wall verified that the items are acceptable for free-release (non-radioactive waste).

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

October 28 (fourth Monday of the month)

February 3, 2014