

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 Westminster -- Town of Superior
League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders -- Ken Foelske

Monthly Status Report –July 2006

Board meeting summary:

The Board of Directors did not meet during July. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is September 11, 2006, followed by meetings on October 2nd and November 6th.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

The June LM monthly report includes the following activities:

- continued groundwater and surface water sampling from various locations across the site;
- continued re-vegetation work, noxious weed control, and assessments of the April 2006 burn area;
- inspections and continued maintenance of the groundwater treatment systems (discussed below);
- continued maintenance of erosion control measures;
- inspections of the Original Landfill to look for evidence of any new seeps; and,
- security patrols during times when LM field crews are not present.

LM Quarterly Update Meeting

There was no LM quarterly update meeting scheduled for July. The next LM quarterly update meeting is scheduled for September.

Congressional update:

On July 10, 2006, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on the cleanup of Rocky Flats. The report, which was conducted at the request of Senator Allard in November 2004, is in follow up to the GAO's 2001 report. The GAO reached the following conclusions:

- The total cost of the cleanup project was approximately \$10 billion -- \$7.7 billion for cleanup, \$1.3 billion for long-term stewardship and pension liabilities, and nearly \$1 billion for other costs.
- DOE and Kaiser Hill overcame significant challenges (e.g., decontaminating and demolishing hundreds of structures and packaging and shipping vast quantities of radioactive and hazardous wastes).
- The accelerated cleanup process allowed DOE and Kaiser-Hill to clean up the site more quickly and collaboratively than had they followed a traditional remediation process.

- Site specific characteristics (e.g. climate, geography, the robust construction of the buildings, and the nature of the contaminants) limited the extent of contamination.
- Kaiser-Hill had a large financial incentive to complete the work economically, quickly, and safely.
- DOE has not systematically tracked or applied lessons learned from Rocky Flats

Other issues:

On July 13th DOE formally notified EPA and CPDHE that the twelve month rolling average for uranium at GS10, a water monitoring point east of the former Industrial Area, was 10.18 pCi/l (picocuries per liter of water); the RFCA action level for total uranium is 10 pCi/l. This value is not unusual due to naturally-occurring uranium found in many places along the Front Range, but does bear watching. DOE and the regulators believe the majority of the uranium is naturally-occurring and will continue to monitor the situation.

On July 12th DOE notified EPA and CPDHE that they would be conducting non-routine maintenance activities on the three groundwater treatment systems. A summary of each follows:

Mound Treatment System: The treatment media will be replaced. In addition, an instrumentation vault will be installed and the plumbing upgraded as was done at the East Trenches groundwater treatment system in March-April 2006.

East Trenches Treatment System: Additional backfill will be placed around the outside of the instrumentation vault to address areas of settling. This action should be completed by early August.

Solar Ponds Treatment System: Following media replacement at the Mound system, the fill covering the Solar Ponds system treatment cells will be excavated and system diagnostics will be performed. Diagnostics will focus on the western cell, which contains the organic media intended to treat for nitrate, and will include examination of the media, the water distribution system, and treatment cell integrity. Samples of the existing organic media will also be collected for analysis and possible treatment studies. Additional treatment studies are being designed to incorporate alternative treatment media, such as a pea-gravel substrate and ethanol carbon source. These studies are expected to begin in August.

Agency update:

Broomfield staff, Westminster staff, Stewardship Council staff, and Woman Creek Reservoir Authority staff met with CDPHE and EPA personnel on July 12th for an update session with the regulators. Topics of conversation included (1) the regulators position on the Proposed Plan and RI/FS, (2) status of the post-closure agreement, (3) remaining path forward to regulatory closure, (4) possibility of DOE petitioning the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission to allow for higher levels of uranium and nitrate in the site's surface waters, which could impact surface water sampling and groundwater treatment, and (5) decreased numbers of CDPHE and EPA personnel associated with the site.

Site document update:

On July 13th, the site released the Proposed Plan for 60 day public comment; they also released the regulator-approved final RI/FS report. Stewardship Council staff has reviewed both documents and will be meeting with interested Board members prior to the September 11th Stewardship Council meeting. The Board will discuss these documents at the September 11th meeting and will likely issue a recommendation to DOE.

Stewardship Council update:

The Stewardship Council website is nearly complete: www.rockyflatssc.org. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email David Abelson: dabelson@rockyflatssc.org