

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
Karen Imbierowicz

Monthly Status Report – November 2009

Board meeting summary:

Approval of 2010 Budget

The Board approved the 2010 budget. The budget includes a \$2950 decrease from the 2009 budget. Expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant.

Approval of 2010 Work Plan

The Board approved the 2010 Work Plan. The Plan builds on the Stewardship Council's efforts in 2009. The Board will continue to focus on DOE management issues, worker issues, outreach, communications, and some USFWS issues. The plan can be found at:

http://www.rockyflatssc.org/work_plan.html

Briefing from the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum (RFCWM)

Shirley Garcia, RFCWM President and Stewardship Council member, discussed the RFCWM's mission to document the historical, social, environmental and scientific legacy of Rocky Flats. She also discussed key aspects of the RFCWM, including:

- The RFCWM was established as 501(c)(3) in 2001.
- Volunteers preserved key site artifacts for eventual display in an exhibit or museum.
- They have received funding from DOE, State Historic Fund, and CH2M Hill (the primary cleanup contractor).
- They are planning an exhibit at the Arvada Center in 2011. The themes under development are: 1) What was Rocky Flats, 2) the science and technology at Rocky Flats, 3) the cleanup of Rocky Flats (1995-2006) and evolution into a national wildlife refuge, 4) resistance to Rocky Flats, and 5) the development of the Museum/Visitors Center.
- Partners/supporters include DOE LM, Rocky Flats Homesteaders, USFWS, Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges, Boulder Public Library Maria Rogers Oral History Program, Rocky Flats Stewardship Council, and Energy Communities Alliance.

Shirley concluded with ways people can get involved: sign up for their newsletter, *Weapons to Wildlife*; volunteer for a committee; contribute artifacts; make presentations to school and community groups; and consider becoming a board member. For more information go to:

<http://www.rockyflatscoldwarmuseum.org/>.

Legacy Management (LM) Quarterly Update

The Stewardship Council hosted the quarterly update for the second quarter of 2009. The quarterly report (172 pages) can be found on DOE's website at:

http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/Documents.aspx

Updates included:

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

Highlights of the second quarter included:

- The water monitoring network successfully met the targeted monitoring objectives as required by RFLMA and in conformance with the Rocky Flats Site Operations Guide. The network consists of 11 automated gauging stations, 10 surface water grab-sampling locations, 8 treatment system locations, 99 wells, and 8 precipitation gages. During the quarter, 76 flow-paced composite samples, 10 surface water grab samples, 12 treatment system samples, and 52 groundwater samples were collected.
- All water-quality data at the RFLMA Points of Compliance along Indiana Street remained well below the applicable standards.
- Pre-discharge-samples were collected at all three terminal ponds (Pond A-4 & B-5 on Walnut Creek, and C-2 on Woman Creek). Sampling results indicated that the water was suitable for discharge, and the three ponds were subsequently discharged.
- As of April 2009, reportable 12-month rolling average total Uranium (U) concentrations were no longer observed in surface water at RFLMA Point of Evaluation (POE) monitoring station GS10, which is located in South Walnut Creek upstream of Pond B-1. This improvement in U water quality at GS10 was caused by higher-than-normal surface runoff quantities reaching the creek. This increased runoff effectively decreased the relative proportion of groundwater (a source of naturally occurring U) in the sampled streamflow at GS10.
- The Site continues to evaluate, in coordination with CDPHE and under RFLMA, the measured U concentrations at GS10. Recent GS10 data continue to support the conclusion that the reportable U activities are likely a result of changing hydrologic conditions (particularly the increasing groundwater component with naturally occurring U in surface water flows at GS10, relative to conditions that prevailed prior to Site closure), and that no specific remedial action is needed at this time. The data do not suggest a previously unknown localized source of contamination that warrants targeted action.
- All other POE analyte concentrations remained below reporting levels as of the end of second quarter CY 2009. Erosion and runoff controls, as well as extensive revegetation efforts, have proven effective in reducing both sediment transport and constituent concentrations. As of the end of second quarter CY 2009, all of the POEs continued to show Pu-239,240 and Am-241 activities well below the RFLMA standards. With the removal of impervious areas resulting in decreased runoff, the stabilization of soils within the drainages, and the progression of revegetation, acceptable water quality is expected to continue.

- Maintenance of the Site erosion control features required continued effort throughout second quarter of 2009, especially following high-wind or precipitation events. Repairs were made to erosion wattles and matting loosened and displaced by high winds or rain. Erosion controls were installed and maintained for the various projects that were ongoing during the first quarter. Several areas were interseeded with additional native species to increase vegetation cover.
- Phase II and III upgrades to the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS) were completed in this quarter. The site is now commencing a series of tests to determine optimum treatment conditions to remove both nitrate and uranium contamination from the groundwater in this area. (See the 2nd and 3rd bullets below re: ongoing problems with the system.)

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

October site activities included:

- The East Trenches Plume Treatment System media change-out and piping configuration changes continued. The old media was removed, part of the new media was placed in the wells, and a new vault was installed.
- The Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS) Phase II uranium treatment cell currently is not meeting uranium treatment goals. After initial startup, preliminary cell data showed adequate uranium removal, but subsequently uranium in the effluent increased. Citrate dosing was discontinued; however, treatment has not returned to desired levels. A tracer test to identify any short-circuiting flow for the Phase II cell was performed.
- The SPPTS Phase III pilot-scale studies identified that Cell A (inert media with carbon source) nitrate removal was not as good as expected. An additional flow loop to test a variety of recirculation regimes in the cell was installed to improve the flow rate, which will promote better bacteria growth and is expected to improve treatment.
- Fall herbicide spraying began in the designated application areas and will be completed as weather permits.
- Original Landfill wattle replacement and snow fence installation was completed.
- Annual Dam safety inspections were completed with no safety issues noted.
- Continued 4th Quarter CY RFLMA ground water sampling campaign.

Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA):

In November, The Alliance of Nuclear Worker Advocacy Groups (ANWAG), a Craig-based organization representing workers made sick as a result of their work at a DOE facility, petitioned the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Department of Labor (DOL) to change existing rules in the administration of the EEOICPA. Specifically, the group asked that NIOSH end the practice of using surrogate/co-worker data to reconstruct dose where a site does not have adequate records. In cases where the site does not have adequate records, ANWAG argued the workers must be included as part of the special cohort class, which would automatically qualify a worker to receive compensation should the worker suffer from one of the listed cancers.

ANWAG also petitioned DOL to shift the burden of proof from the workers to DOL. They reasoned that DOL rules require workers to prove a connection using data beyond their control. This change tracks the “Charlie Wolf Act” that the Colorado delegation introduced.

For more information about ANWAG and their petition, go to:
<http://www.rockyflats.us/T.Barrie.htm>

Site document update:

On November 23, 2009, the site notified the Stewardship Council and communities downstream of Rocky Flats that they would soon release water from Pond A-4. This pond is the terminal pond on the North Walnut Creek drainage. According to the notice, pre-discharge samples were collected on November 23rd. The discharge is expected to begin the week of December 14th.

According to DOE, the pond will be discharged through the outlet to North Walnut Creek through Point of Compliance GS11. The discharge is expected to continue for approximately ten days, with a total discharge volume of eight to nine million gallons. Pre-discharge analytical data are expected on or around December 7th, and the data and final discharge schedule will accompany a subsequent notice.

ECA Annual Conference on February 11-12, 2010, Washington, DC

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) will host its annual conference on February 11-12, 2010, at the L’Enfant Plaza Hotel on Washington, D.C. For more information about the conference go to:
<http://www.energyca.org/PDF/HotelFlyer09.pdf>

Stewardship Council update:

The Stewardship Council has started the process of soliciting applications for the four community seats on the Board of Directors. Those seats are currently held by the League of Women Voters, the Rocky Flats Homesteaders, the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum, and Karen Imbierowicz. Applications are due January 5, 2010. Interviews will take place at the February 1, 2010, meeting and appointments will be made at that time.

Next meeting: February 1, 2010