

# 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  
Arthur Widdowfield

## Monthly Status Report – December 2010

### Board meeting summary

There was no meeting in December.

### Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's November 2010 Rocky Flats activities included:

#### *Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring*

- Conducted routine sampling at the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS)
- Completed quarterly groundwater sampling
- Completed routine maintenance at surface water locations
- Performed periodic Walnut Creek ambient sampling
- Collected and processed automated surface water sample suites

#### *Groundwater Treatment Systems*

Routine inspections of the treatment systems were conducted as follows:

- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS) – DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Mound Plume Treatment System (MSPTS) – DOE reports the system is functioning normally. In-situ sampling of the MSPTS treatment media was conducted for preliminary waste characterization to support spent media disposition planning.
- SPPTS – Optimization of the system is ongoing. DOE collected additional samples of the spent SPPTS phase II cell ZVI media to support disposition at the Clive, Utah facility.

#### *Ecology*

- Routine Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) habitat vegetation inspections were conducted.
- Completed photo monitoring at permanent photopoints.

#### *Site Monitoring & Maintenance*

- Landfills – DOE reports there were no significant changes to report.

## DOE Dam Breach Public Meetings

In November, DOE announced it would hold monthly public meetings to discuss the dam breach environmental assessments (EA), concerns communities and others have with the EA, and its plans to develop an adaptive management plan (AMP). An AMP, in short, is an iterative process the agency will use to integrate into its decision-making process data it gathers from additional testing and monitoring.

As DOE explained in its cover letter to the community announcing these meetings, “although DOE has concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from proceeding with the proposed actions, DOE has identified a number of modifications to the proposed mitigation plans to address comments provided to DOE.” DOE further stated

adaptive management is used to address unanticipated changes in environmental conditions or subsequent information that might affect the original environmental protections as analyzed in the EA and are of concern to the public. The NEPA adaptive management model adds two steps to a traditional EA. First, ongoing environmental monitoring is required following implementation of any proposed action that includes mitigation under the EA. The second step requires that the action’s implementation or mitigation is adapted as appropriate based on ongoing environmental monitoring data. Under this approach, actions are adjusted to foster desired outcomes and reduce undesired ones.

In a letter dated November 30, 2010, Broomfield, Westminster, Northglenn, Thornton, the Woman Creek Reservoir Authority, and the Jefferson County Public Health Department stated that

while we are anxious to begin technical discussions on an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) for the April 2010 Draft EA, we do not believe that DOE's approach adequately addresses our written requests to establish a technical work group since it excludes discussion of the proposed changes to RFLMA. Approving either action separately and independently of the other undermines the integrity of open communications and the public involvement process. Both actions are interrelated and must be evaluated in a comprehensive manner.

## Site Document Update

None at this time.

## Rocky Flat Cold War Museum

In its November 2010 update, the Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum discussed their number one goal – finding a building to house the museum. The board has examined three buildings and has proposed a lease purchase on one. Problems, though, have arisen and prospects for the preferred building are uncertain.

The “Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001” provides guidance on siting of the museum. Specifically, the Act provides:

## SEC. 3181. ROCKY FLATS MUSEUM.

(a) MUSEUM- To commemorate the contribution that Rocky Flats and its worker force provided to winning the Cold War and the impact that such contribution has had on the nearby communities and the State of Colorado, the Secretary may establish a Rocky Flats Museum.

(b) LOCATION- The Rocky Flats Museum shall be located in the city of Arvada, Colorado, unless, after consultation under subsection (c), the Secretary determines otherwise.

(c) CONSULTATION- The Secretary shall consult with the city of Arvada, other local communities, and the Colorado State Historical Society on--

(1) the development of the museum;

(2) the siting of the museum; and

(3) any other issues relating to the development and construction of the museum.

(d) REPORT- Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the city of Arvada, shall submit to Congress a report on the costs associated with the construction of the museum and any other issues relating to the development and construction of the museum.

For many years the hope/goal was to locate the museum along the west access road to the Rocky Flats refuge in one of two buildings DOE previously used for a variety of functions. Those buildings sit on private land adjacent to the federal property. For a host of reasons, that site is proving unworkable, leaving the museum to examine alternate locations.

### New Website/Book on Rocky Flats

A former site employee, Farrel Hobbs, has created a new website:

<http://www.rockyflatsfacts.com/> On the website he has published a book titled, *An Insider's View of Rocky Flats: Urban Myths Debunked*. As he states "I believe what will be of interest to the most readers is that I was managing an environmental organization when the FBI and EPA raided the site with allegations of environmental crimes." Stewardship Council staff has reviewed the book and found it to be an interesting read.

### Energy Community Alliance 2011 Annual Conference

Energy Community Alliance's 2011 Annual Conference is scheduled for February 17, 2011, in Washington, D.C. A copy of the conference brochure can be found at:

<http://www.energyca.org/PDF/ConferenceBrochure2011.pdf>

### Stewardship Council update:

Next meetings:

February 7

April 4 (?)