

# ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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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 – January 2011

### Board meeting summary

There was no meeting in January.

### Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's December 2010 Rocky Flats activities included:

#### *Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring*

- Completed routine maintenance at surface water stations.
- Collected Walnut Creek samples.
- Collected and processed 10 automated surface water sample suites.
- Collected routine samples from the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS) to evaluate performance.
- Collected quarterly grab samples at the Present Landfill (PLF).

#### *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. Staff continued to evaluate the MSPTS effluent air stripping component path forward. (see “Site Document Update” below for more information about the MSPTS.)
- SPPTS – DOE reports optimization of the system is ongoing. DOE completed maintenance on the solar equipment.

#### *Ecology*

- Installed erosion controls in the 903 Pad Lip Area. These included Filtrexx FilterSoxx wattles and erosion matting. These efforts were part of DOE's response to the surface water exceedance for Pu that occurred in this drainage. DOE is hopeful that these erosion control measures will help to stabilize soils in the area and result in better water quality.
- The areas in the South Interceptor Ditch that were to be matted were instead seeded with a wetland/upland seed mix prior to placing the erosion matting.

### *Site Monitoring & Maintenance*

- Landfills – The quarterly inspection of the PLF and monthly inspection of the Original Landfill were completed. There were no significant changes to report at either landfill.
- Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse inspections were completed.

### DOE Adaptive Management Plan Meetings

As discussed in the December 2010 update, in response to community and public concerns about DOE's plans to breach the terminal ponds on Walnut and Woman creeks, DOE has initiated an adaptive management planning process. The plan, called an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP), is designed to provide additional detail regarding how DOE will meet the goals specified in the forthcoming dam breach environmental assessment.

The parties, which include but are not limited to DOE, CDPHE, EPA, and communities, have focused on a broad range of issues. Those issues range from timing to completion of the AMP, to DOE's decision to exclude from the process changes to the regulatory monitoring points along Indiana Street, to the institutional control limiting the circumstances under which DOE can excavate to depths greater than 3', to monitoring protocols.

The parties remain hopeful that they will be able to resolve the many outstanding issues and to agree to an AMP for Rocky Flats. To do so, a great deal of dialogue remains necessary.

### Site Document Update

*Contact Record 2011-01: Replace Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS) media and maintain/repair discharge gallery.* [http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky\\_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx](http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx)

In mid-January, DOE posted this new contact record. The record concerns routine maintenance at the Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS). As discussed in the record, the action is "to remove the MSPTS spent treatment media (zero valent iron [ZVI] filings) and replace it with new ZVI media." That work is scheduled for January-February 2011. The last MSPTS media replacement was performed in 2006. (see Contact Record 2010-07, [http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky\\_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx](http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx) ).

As discussed in contact record 2010-07 (see the November Stewardship Council update) and as provided in this contact record, "additional measures to reduce effluent concentrations of residual volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been considered." The optimization measure, DOE notes, "will reduce the residual low levels of VOCs via air stripping."

Further, "the work will include excavation to approximately 4 to 5 feet below the ground surface to perform maintenance and make repairs as necessary on existing effluent discharge gallery components including the terminal section of discharge gallery pipe situated adjacent to FC-4 and the surrounding gravel drain." This excavation work "will exceed the 3-foot depth limit specified by Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement (RFLMA) institutional control (IC) 2 (RFLMA, Attachment 2, Table 4, Control 2); thus, the procedures require preapproval."

## Federal Appropriations

In December, Congress approved an omnibus bill to fund federal agencies through March 4, 2011. Congress is now in early discussions over extending that bill through the end of the current federal fiscal year (September 30, 2011).

At this time, in extending the fiscal year 2011 funding through the aforementioned omnibus bill (called a “continuing resolution”), DOE will likely not experience large cuts. However, DOE will likely be a target of large cuts in the fiscal year 2012 appropriations. Whether those cuts will affect funding for DOE’s Office of Legacy Management, the department charged with managing Rocky Flats, remains unknown. What is more certain is that the Department of the Interior will likely experience cuts and funding limitations. Accordingly, the chance that the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge will be funded in the next few fiscal years is increasingly remote.

## Doug Young

Doug Young, who worked for Senator Mark Udall since Udall was first elected to the US House in 1998, is now working for Governor Hickenlooper, advising him on environmental policies. Doug’s work portfolio will include Rocky Flats. Doug has worked on Rocky Flats issues since the early 1990s, when he served as former governor Roy Romer’s environmental policy advisor.

This change from Udall to Hickenlooper is important as it will be the first time since Rocky Flats closed that Colorado’s governor has an advisor knowledgeable about and focused on Rocky Flats. Despite Doug’s departure, the Udall office retains great expertise on site issues, including challenges facing former site workers.

## Stewardship Council update:

Next meetings:

April 4

June 6

September 12

November 14