

# 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 -- Ken Foelske

## Monthly Status Report – March2007

### Board meeting summary:

There was no meeting in March. The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2007.

### Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

DOE-Legacy Management (LM) delayed distribution of its February report until late March. For that reason in addition to reporting on February activities, LM also included key March activities. A summary of the report follows.

#### *February:*

- DOE-LM, DOE-EM and USFWS met to discuss transfer of the future refuge lands to the USFWS. Transfer is now anticipated to occur in mid-April.
- DOE is in the process of designing a new Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System that will be placed closer to the area known as the discharge gallery. The final design is dependent on the results of the upcoming media treatability studies to be performed by Colorado State University.
- LM completed the Site Operations Guide (SOG) and posted it on the LM website. The SOG codifies how, when and where work will be performed at Rocky Flats.
- Fieldwork included:
  - continued maintenance of the erosion control systems
  - maintenance on groundwater treatment systems
  - replacement of erosion control systems damaged by sunlight, winds, and precipitation
  - re-seeding in numerous areas of the site
  - collection of a small number of water samples
  - landfill re-vegetation inspections

#### *Key March activities:*

- LM completed installing signs and fencing separating the refuge from DOE-retained lands.
- LM's annual monitoring and maintenance report is in draft form and will be released to the public no later than April 30, 2007. LM will brief on the annual report at the May 7<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Council meeting.

## Congressional update

Senator Salazar and Representatives Udall and Perlmutter reintroduced “The Rocky Flats Special Exposure Cohort Act” (S. 729; H.R. 904). The bills would designate former Rocky Flats workers as a special exposure cohort class under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Program Compensation Act of 2000 (EEOIPCA). The EEOIPCA was intended to compensate former weapons workers for health impacts resulting from exposures to beryllium and radioactive constituents. The program has been fraught with problems, from DOE being unable to successfully manage a key component of the program to data reliability. Special exposure cohort status seeks to rectify such problems by simplifying the process and altering the causal link necessary to achieve compensation under the action. If the workers are designated a special exposure cohort class – either through their petition or through legislation – they would automatically receive compensation under the EEOIPCA. In February the Stewardship Council issued a letter supporting the workers in their bid to gain special exposure cohort status through the EEOIPCA petition process. That letter will soon be posted on the Stewardship Council’s website: [http://www.rockyflatsssc.org/board\\_policies.html](http://www.rockyflatsssc.org/board_policies.html). The board will take up S. 729/H.R. 904 at its May 7, 2007, meeting.

## Agency update:

DOE, EPA and CDPHE are in the early stages of the CERCLA Five-Year review. In accordance with federal regulations, the review evaluates whether the cleanup continues to meet all applicable regulations. DOE develops the draft report for the EPA to approve. The last review was conducted in 2002 during cleanup activities. The Stewardship Council will be briefed on the review at both the May and August board meetings.

The February Stewardship Council update included a discussion of slumping on the Original Landfill. The preliminary evaluation conducted by a DOE contractor concluded that the slumping was confined to the upper portion of the cap and does not indicate that the structural integrity of the cap has been compromised. CDPHE staff reports the state has been informally briefed on DOE’s initial findings. CDPHE has visited the landfill in the days following DOE’s initial notification and later with a state landfill engineer during repairs. CDPHE has verbally agreed that it is prudent for DOE to make initial repairs, then watch and wait for drier conditions before determining other actions that may be warranted.

## Site document update:

In early March EPA and CPDHE signed the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement. With DOE’s signature in late February, the RFLMA is now regulates site activities, replacing the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement.

## Stewardship Council update:

None at this time.