

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17670
Boulder, CO 80308-0670

(303) 412-1200
(303) 412-1211 (f)

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 – May 2006

Board meeting summary:

The first part of the meeting focused on business items:

1. Fiscal year 2006 Work Plan: The Board approved the plan. A copy can be found at http://www.rockyflatssc.org/work_plan.html
2. Fiscal year 2006 Budget: The Board reviewed the draft budget. Budget hearings are scheduled for the June 5, 2006, meeting.
3. Stewardship Council staffing: The Board asked David Abelson (Executive Director) and Rik Getty (Technical Advisor) to stay on through December 31, 2006. Their current contract expires July 31, 2006. The Board will discuss a new contract covering the period August 1, through December 31, 2006, at the June 5, 2006, meeting.

The Board also supported Broomfield and Westminster's position that the two governments continue to host the Quarterly Data Exchange meetings. There had been an ongoing suggestion that DOE would cease supporting and participating in the meetings in lieu of DOE's scheduled quarterly public meetings. The Board agreed to support the two cities' request (as the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments had done) and DOE agreed to continue with the Quarterly Data Exchange meetings.

The Board next discussed key regulatory closure issues, issues that the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments had been tracking: the development of the RI/FS (Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study) and Proposed Plan. In a typical CERCLA cleanup process the RI/FS and Proposed Plan are completed before any cleanup begins. In such cases, the party charged with cleaning up the site would investigate the extent of contamination and develop options for remediating the site (the RI/FS process) and would then propose a cleanup alternative (the Proposed Plan). A decision document would then be issued and the party would then start cleaning up the site.

CERCLA, however, allows for accelerated cleanups, which is the process followed at Rocky Flats. In such cases all cleanup actions (e.g., removing soils, taking down buildings, removing pond sediments) are called "interim actions." While these decisions are based on extensive analyses, DOE must still develop a RI/FS, issue a Proposed Plan, and sign a decision document. The purpose of this phase of the cleanup (called regulatory closure) is to evaluate whether the

cleanup objectives have been met and to provide a formal mechanism for the public to comment on the cleanup objectives, including whether such objectives have been met. The RI/FS is nearly complete and the Proposed Plan will be out for public comment in the coming weeks.

The final discussion topic was proposed signage for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Signage at Rocky Flats will be layered: (1) demarcating the exterior refuge boundary, (2) upon entering the site, which will include signs and kiosks, (3) along trails, and (4) at the boundary of the DOE-retained lands. At this meeting, the Board reviewed the proposed language for signs upon entering Rocky Flats. During the meeting and in emails to staff following the meeting many Board members raised some concerns about the specific language USFWS has proposed. The Board will continue to discuss the issues at the June 5, 2006, meeting.

Legacy Management site inspection summary:

As explained in the February 2006 update, DOE's Office of Legacy Management's (LM) reports are organized into the following activities:

- General project management;
- Environmental (includes groundwater monitoring, surface water monitoring, ecology, and the three passive groundwater treatment systems – Mound site plume, Solar Evaporation Ponds plume and East Trenches plume);
- Site monitoring (landfill inspections, site maintenance, and site security);
- Public Affairs
- Records Management (includes CERCLA Administrative Records, Freedom of Information Act requests, searches for information relating to former worker health issues, and other general requests).

LM has informed us that instead of weekly update reports they have changed to a monthly report. As of the date of this monthly status report LM has not sent out their new monthly report for May.

Congressional update:

None at this time.

Other issues:

Lorraine Anderson (Chairman) and David Abelson (Executive Director) met with Rep. McKinley to discuss this Rocky Flats signage bill. For a second year in a row the bill did not survive the legislative process, although unlike 2005 this year it was approved by the General Assembly. He asked why the Stewardship Council objected to signage; Lorraine replied that, as was the case with the Rocky Flats Coalition, the Stewardship Council supports signage, and in fact was looking at layering signage, not just signs when entering the refuge. They explained that the Stewardship Council was discussing the question of signage with USFWS and with DOE and objected to the legislature intervening and unilaterally determining what signage was best, especially without first engaging in a substantive public dialogue.

Agency update:

None at this time.

Site document update:

None at this time.

Stewardship Council update:

The Stewardship Council will be touring Rocky Flats on Monday June 12, 2006. For those Board members who cannot attend this tour, future tours will be scheduled.

The board meeting schedule for the rest of the year has been modified as follows:

September 11

October 2

November 6

All meetings start at 8:30 A.M.