

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17670
Boulder, CO 80308-0670
www.rockyflatssc.org

(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
Karen Imbierowicz

Monthly Status Report – May 2008

Board meeting summary:

2007 Stewardship Council Audit

The auditor did not find any material deficiencies and issued a clean audit. The Board voted to accept the audit.

Board Policy on Rocky Flats-related DOE Documents

The Board adopted a policy on preserving the Rocky Flats-related documents that were once housed at Front Range Community College Library. In a letter to Mike Owen, Director, DOE Office of Legacy Management, the Board expressed its “deep concern” about DOE’s plans to destroy those documents. While some of these documents will be preserved as part of the Department’s official record of the cleanup, many of the documents are not part of that record. Further, as the Board stated in its letter, “Some documents in the collection we are seeking to preserve are the only copies in the DOE system, so in destroying these documents DOE would be deleting from the public record information that was once readily available to the public.” The Board concluded “Maintaining these documents in Colorado is of great importance. Providing access to electronic copies on the web and maintaining hard copies at a storage facility in West Virginia is valuable but does not obviate the need to maintain hard copies in Colorado.” A copy of the letter can soon be found at http://www.rockyflatssc.org/board_policies.html

Rocky Flats Briefing Materials

The Board approved Rocky Flats briefing papers. While the papers are geared towards newly elected officials, the information is also useful for those interested in learning about the history of the site, cleanup activities, long-term management requirements, the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, and off-site contamination. The materials will soon be posted on the Stewardship Council’s website, www.rockyflatssc.org.

NRD Fund

The Board continued discussing use of the NRD Fund. The NRD Trustees are developing an RFP that will spell out the terms of the grant(s). The Stewardship Council will continue to provide a central forum for local government and community dialogue on use of the NRD Fund but will not submit a grant; the Stewardship Council will leave the grant requests to its members to submit, but will seek to support a set of yet-undefined proposals.

Legacy Management (LM) Annual Update

The Stewardship Council hosted the LM 2007 annual update. Updates included:

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

Some of the highlights include:

- The second CERCLA (Superfund) 5-year review was completed by DOE in July and submitted to EPA for review. DOE concluded the site continues to remain protective of human health and the environment. After reviewing the draft, EPA approved the review in September.
- In July nearly 4,000 acres of the site's "buffer zone" were officially transferred to the Department of the Interior for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
- In March DOE completed fencing and signage separating the DOE-retained land from the future refuge lands.
- Remediation work on the large slump area near the former location of Building 991 was completed in November. The area was re-graded and re-vegetated
- Throughout the year the slumping of the soil cap (two foot cover) at the Original Landfill was problematic. Repairs to several sections were made using several hundred tons of soil. In addition, a three phase geotechnical evaluation of the slumping commenced in 2007, which has carried over into 2008. The evaluation will determine what is causing the slumping and whether additional remediation will be necessary.
- DOE collected and analyzed water samples at several locations to better understand the presence of uranium in surface water. Current and past results indicate the uranium is almost all naturally-occurring. The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission has scheduled a hearing on changes to the site's uranium standard in January 2009.
- Terminal ponds A-4 and B-5 were discharged in both April and July. All water quality samples measured by DOE and CDPHE met appropriate standards.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

May activities at the site included:

- DOE is evaluating using existing buried transfer lines instead of installing new ones in sensitive Preble's mouse habitat as part of the investigation of potential Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System modifications. If existing lines can be used then there would not be a need to disturb the sensitive habitat area via trenching to lay new lines.
- DOE continues to collect additional water samples in its study on the percentage of natural versus anthropogenic uranium impacting surface water quality.
- Spraying operations began at various locations identified for weed control.
- All routine inspections including landfills, treatment systems, vegetation surveys, erosion control and general site inspections were completed. There were no significant concerns to report.
- Installation of erosion controls (wattles) was completed at the 991 hillside and erosion matting was installed in the Solar Ponds potholing area after work was completed.
- The remaining bare-root plant stock (coyote willow, peach-leaf willow, chokecherry, and American Plum) received from the Colorado State Forest Service was planted. A total of

300 coyote willows, 100 peach-leaf willows, 50 chokecherries, and 50 American plums were planted at various wetland areas on Site.

- The quarterly sign inspections were completed, all postings were in good condition and no repairs were necessary.
- The air monitoring cartridges for May were delivered to the lab and air monitoring filters from April were returned to be archived. All air monitors are functioning normally.
- 55 of the 102 groundwater monitoring well locations were sampled. In addition 18 surface water samples were collected. Lower than normal flow rates due to dry weather have resulted in lower than normal target sample counts.

Congressional update:

On May 29th Senator Salazar and Representative Perlmutter hosted their second meeting to discuss Beyond the Fences, a land use planning strategy for lands surrounding Rocky Flats. One of the key questions the Senator, Representative and Stewardship Council members discussed involved the role of the Stewardship Council in this collaborative effort. While Stewardship Council members support intergovernmental open space planning efforts, the Board is split as to whether this effort should be part of the Stewardship Council's mission or should be done independent of the Stewardship Council.

Rocky Flats-Related Documents

On May 12, 2008, the CU Archives wrote DOE's Director of the Office of Legacy Management, Mike Owen, reaffirming its interest in receiving the Rocky Flats-related documents that DOE previously housed at the Front Range Community College Library. In its letter, Bruce Montgomery, the Archivist, explained CU's process for securing and redacting personal information before making the documents public. As explained in the letter, the Archives are experienced in handling federal documents that contain personal information. Montgomery also assured DOE that it would bear the costs of managing the collection.

On May 13th a Denver Post editorial challenged DOE's decision to destroy these documents, noting that with the continued controversy over the 1991 Rocky Flats Grand Jury documents, it is vitally important that the community be assured it has access to these documents, not the documents DOE opts to provide to the public. The editors concluded, "The nuclear trigger factory may be gone, but its legacy will linger for a long time — and it's important that citizens know as much as possible about its history."

On May 16th Senator Salazar and Representative Salazar wrote DOE Secretary, Samuel Bodman, expressing concern about DOE's planned destruction of the documents and expressing continued support for sending the documents to the CU Archives. The letter concluded, the "documents and records should be archived at the University of Colorado at Boulder and made permanently available to the people of Colorado for generations to come."

Agency update:

None at this time.

Site document update:

In late May DOE posted a contact record which addresses modifications to the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS). According to the record, “Part of this modification will include installing a groundwater collection sump near the former Interceptor Trench Pump House (ITPH) to collect contaminated groundwater that currently mixes with the treatment system effluent and issues at the Solar Ponds Plume Discharge Gallery, and routing this collected water up to the SPPTS for treatment. This water will be pumped to the SPPTS via buried lines. The area between the ITPH and the SPPTS is sensitive habitat (Preble’s meadow jumping mouse). Installing these lines will require excavating a trench from the sump up to the SPPTS and burying the lines in the trench, thereby disturbing the habitat.”

The record can be found at:

http://www.lm.doe.gov/documents/sites/co/rocky_flats/rflma/RFLMACR200803Final.pdf

Stewardship Council update:

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

August 4, 2008

October 6, 2008

November 3, 2008