

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 -- Ken Foelske

Monthly Status Report –June 2006

Board meeting summary:

HB 1389

Lorraine Anderson and David Abelson summarized their May 2nd meeting with State Rep. Wes McKinley in which they discussed his Rocky Flats bill, HB 1389. HB 1389 would, in short, codify in law signs that would be posted at entrances to the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge warning visitors of the risks associated with visiting the refuge. They noted the debate over signage boils down to difference between ‘warning’ (Rep. McKinley’s approach) and ‘informing’ (Stewardship Council’s approach). They invited Rep. McKinley to meet with the Stewardship Council and stated they expect Rep. McKinley will reintroduce this bill next session (assuming he gets reelected this fall.) Despite the Stewardship Council’s concerns with Rep. McKinley’s language, Lorraine and David trust future legislation would seek to convey the same message.

Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Hearings

The Board approved the fiscal year 2006 budget.

DOE Presentation on RI/FS and draft Proposed Plan

The Board discussed with DOE two key closure documents: the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and draft Proposed Plan (PP). These documents have undergone extensive regulator review and will soon be released to public for their review. The Board focused on the following issues:

- The need for technical meetings to discuss the documents – DOE agreed to host such meetings;
- The need for the PP to include future monitoring – DOE responded that information is discussed in depth;
- The question of whether DOE will and should conduct air monitoring – DOE responded all but three stations have been removed;
- The method DOE will use to demarcate the lands it will retain – DOE responded they will use a fence and signs.

For more information about the public comment process and any substantive issues, please contact Rik Getty at (303) 412-1200 x2 or rgetty@rockyflatssc.org

Discussions with USFWS on refuge signage

The Board met with USFWS to review that agency's proposed signage for entrances to the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The Stewardship Council posits that as a sister agency to DOE, USFWS' signs must help tell the story of Rocky Flats as a weapons facility and must help provide information regarding ongoing management needs (both wildlife management and contaminant management). Additional signage (kiosks and interpretative signs) will be developed at a future date. To help facilitate the discussion, the Board used Boulder County's proposed changes to the draft USFWS language. The Board focused on the following issues:

- Removing editorial language in the draft USFWS language;
- Determining how risk should be conveyed to visitors;
- Adding language noting the site is safe for resident wildlife; and
- Modifying the language addressing access restrictions to DOE-retained lands.

The Stewardship Council's proposed modifications and cover letter on the draft plan are posted on the web: www.rockyflatssc.org/board_policies.html

Stewardship Council staffing

The Board agreed to continue contracting with Crescent Strategies, LLC (David Abelson and Rik Getty) through December 2006.

Future Stewardship Council Meetings

September 11, 2006

October 2, 2006

November 6, 2006

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

In May, LM decided to change the frequency of their reports from weekly to monthly. The May monthly report, which was distributed on June 20th, includes the following activities:

- continued groundwater and surface water sampling from various locations across the site;
- continued re-vegetation efforts in certain areas, noxious weed control, and assessments of the fire area;
- inspections and continued maintenance of the groundwater treatment systems;
- continued maintenance of erosion control measures;
- inspections of the Original Landfill to look for evidence of any new seeps; and,
- commencement of new site security contract by Wackenhut during times when LM field crews are not present (weeknights and weekends).

LM Quarterly Update Meeting

On June 20th LM held its quarterly update meeting for the period January – March, 2006. The conversation focused on monitoring data (groundwater monitoring, surface water monitoring, ecological monitoring, and air quality monitoring) and on site maintenance activities. Meeting attendees included LM, EPA, and CPDHE personnel, representatives from the Stewardship Council Board and staff, and Broomfield and Westminster staff.

LM technical staff presented updates on the aforementioned categories and handed out copies of the quarterly report (136 pages, over half of which are data tables), which had been previously

posted on the LM website. Several topics of interest arose during discussions with LM, which Stewardship Council staff will continue to track:

- conditions causing performance problems for the groundwater treatment systems (LM is working on fixing the groundwater treatment performance problems);
- assessments of seeps at the Original Landfill (LM is working with Kaiser-Hill on the one seep that has been discovered and will continue to monitor for any additional seeps); and,
- potential for future elevated levels of Pu and Am in surface water at GS-10, a monitoring station near the former Industrial Area (As a result of remediation activities, LM believes elevated levels of Pu and Am will no longer be recorded at GS-10).

Finally, LM provided an analysis of the April 2nd grass fire. A summary of the fire analysis, especially as it relates to air quality, will be provided to the Stewardship Council in a separate memo.

Congressional update:

Congressional appropriations: On May 24, 2006, the House approved the fiscal year 2007 Energy and Water Appropriations. Included in this bill is \$167.8 Million for DOE's Office of Legacy Management (LM) to manage site closeout activities, including site monitoring, pension and health care costs. This amount matches the Administration's budget request. On June 27, 2006, the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee approved its version of the bill. The Senate Committee, like the House, provided \$167.8 Million for LM. That bill now moves to the full Senate.

Other issues:

On June 22, 2006, the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) held its last meeting. The CAB was a DOE-chartered organization created for the sole purpose of advising DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) on cleanup, closure, and future use issues. With Rocky Flats now closed, EM has completed its mission and with it ends the CAB's mission.

Agency update:

Discussions regarding acquisition of privately held mineral rights underlying Rocky Flats are ongoing. The Trust for Public Land, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is negotiating on behalf of the federal government with potential sellers. While Stewardship Council staff is not immersed in the negotiations, staff has been assured that negotiations are proving fruitful and deals could be reached by the end of the calendar year.

Site document update:

As of the drafting of this update, DOE and the regulatory agencies anticipate the RI/FS and draft Proposed Plan will be released in the coming days. The Proposed Plan will be available for a 60 public comment period. The Stewardship Council will discuss the Proposed Plan at the September 11, 2006, Board meeting.

Stewardship Council update:

On June 12th, representatives from nine of the 13 Stewardship Council members, as well as Stewardship Council staff, toured Rocky Flats. The tour included visiting both future refuge

lands and lands DOE intends to retain as part of their ongoing management responsibilities. Highlights included viewing and discussing the following:

- the Present and Original landfills, the 903 Pad and Lip Area, groundwater treatment systems, and former building locations where contaminated foundations remain (Buildings 771 and 371);
- groundwater and surface water monitoring locations;
- the A-, B-, and C-series retention ponds;
- areas burned during the April 2nd grass fire; and
- the potential boundary areas demarcating the refuge from DOE-retained land.