

# 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 2007

### Board meeting summary:

The Board did not meet in June. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2007.

### Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

DOE distributed their May site update on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of the report include:

- DOE continued to monitor surface water. Management activities included daily telemetry checks for sampling, pond status, and proper equipment operation; daily field work planning and oversight; and sample planning. Twenty-seven continuous flow-paced composites and seven grab samples were submitted for analysis.
- From April 25 – May 4 DOE discharged 7.47 million gallons of water from pond A-3 to A-4.
- Trees and shrubs were planted at several wetland mitigation areas, and spring weed control activities continued.
- The frog vocalization surveys were completed.
- Additional slumping at the Original Landfill was observed. A new crack through Berm #1 was repaired using 38 tons of Rocky Flats alluvium. DOE met with CDPHE and EPA to discuss the slumping and to begin to determine the requirements for the final repairs.
- In anticipation of the transfer of DOE lands to the Department of the Interior for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, DOE-EM required additional boundary survey, easement, and legal description work.
- The treatability study apparatus for the Solar Ponds Plume Treatability Study (SPPTS) was installed and is operating.

### Rocky Flats Special Exposure Cohort Petition:

On June 11-12, 2007, the Advisory Board on Worker and Radiation Health met in Lakewood to continue discussing the Rocky Flats special exposure cohort petition. This meeting follows the Advisory Board's May meeting in which the Board voted to recommend to the Secretary of Labor special exposure cohort (SEC) status to a small class of workers at Rocky Flats – those who were "monitored or should have been monitored" for neutrons from 1952 to 1958. Three outstanding issues the Advisory Board left to be addressed at the June meeting were (1) 1959 to 1970 neutron exposures, (2) Building 81 (later called 881) workers from 1950 to 1960, and (3) those who may have been exposed to thorium.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Advisory Board voted 8-1 (with one abstention) to extend special cohort status to those exposed to neutron radiation from 1959 to 1966. The Board also voted 6-4 to oppose extending cohort status to all other workers except, as noted above, those who were monitored or should have been monitored for neutrons from 1952 to 1958.

Should the Secretary of Labor accept this recommendation, the workers have stated they will appeal the decision.

### Congressional update:

On June 6, 2007, the House Energy and Water Appropriations Committee marked-up the fiscal year 2008 bill that includes funding for the Department of Energy. The mark is \$25.2 billion, \$1.1 billion above fiscal year 2007 and \$480 million above the President's request. The Committee provided DOE's Office of Legacy Management (which manages Rocky Flats) with \$194 M but included funding within DOE's Office of Environmental Management rather than continuing to fund LM as a separate office. The Committee report includes the following language: "The Committee believes that consolidating these activities in one organization will improve the communications and operations of both organizations. The Committee expects that the Office of Legacy Management will still operate as a separate office within the Environmental Management program." LM was carved out of EM in 2003.

According to *Weapons Complex Monitor*, a House staffer said "the move to reintegrate the two offices was not based on concerns over the performance of the Office of Legacy Management, but was instead intended to improve efficiency of operations." The staffer stated that it did not make sense to separate post-closure operations from closure operations. The staffer further noted the move is also intended to help signal a long-term future for the cleanup program. *Weapons Complex Monitor* quotes the staffer as stating "A lot of things are on the fence too, in terms of are they really complete or not? Some sites may have portions complete, but not the entire thing, or they may have to go back in some places and open some things up."

DOE opposes the move and is working with House and Senate staff to better understand Congress' reasoning. It is unclear whether the Senate will agree with this approach. The Administration issued a statement saying it would veto the bill because of the overall increases in funding. The House has tabled the bill until later this summer as it works to address funding for Army Corps of Engineers flood-control projects.

### Rocky Flats site contract:

Legacy Management's support services contract which is held by Broomfield-based S.M. Stoller was just renewed. The contract, worth approximately \$200 million, is set to run for three years with one two-year option period. Work to be performed under the contract includes technical support, business support, records management, property management (including Rocky Flats) and information technology support. Stoller's team includes Source Once, Battelle Memorial Institute, SAIC, EG&G, Booz Allen Hamilton, Triumph Technologies, ProLogic, JG Management and Commodore.

### Agency update:

DOE now anticipates that no later than July 11, 2007, it will transfer administrative jurisdiction of 3933 acres of the former Rocky Flats buffer zone to the Department of the Interior (DOI). With this action, the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge will be in place. Under the USFWS' site conservation plan, the Refuge will be closed until such time that it is opened.

The conservation plan identifies the following goals for the Refuge: (quoting from USFWS documents)

#### Wildlife and Habitat Management

Provide a riparian community representative of historic flora and fauna in a high valley of the southern Rocky Mountains to provide habitat for migratory birds, mammals, and river-dependent species.

#### Public Use, Education and Interpretation

Provide visitors and students high quality recreational, educational and interpretive opportunities and foster an understanding and appreciation of the Refuge's xeric tallgrass prairie, upland shrub and wetland habitats; native wildlife; the history of the site; and the NWRS.

#### Safety

Conduct operations and manage public access in accordance with the final Rocky Flats' cleanup decision documents to ensure the safety of the Refuge visitors, staff and neighbors.

#### Effective and Open Communication

Conduct communication outreach efforts to raise public awareness about the Refuge programs, management decisions and the mission of the Service and the NWRS among visitors, students and nearby residents.

#### Working with Others

Foster beneficial partnerships with individuals, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and others to promote resource conservation, compatible wildlife-related research, public use, site history and infrastructure.

#### Refuge Operations

Based on available funds, provide facilities and staff to fulfill the Refuge vision and purpose.

The July Stewardship Council update will focus on the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

### Site document update:

None at this time.

## Stewardship Council update:

On Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, Stewardship Council members and staff toured Rocky Flats with DOE and CDPHE staff. The Stewardship Council last toured the site in June 2006.

Highlights included:

- Original Landfill: Participants walked on the landfill, examining areas of subsidence to the cap surface that occurred during the heavy winter snows. DOE explained the initial steps it has taken to control water moving across the cap. Additional repairs might be made this summer after further consultations with EPA and CDPHE.
- Site Vegetation: There is a notable increase in site vegetation since June 2006, although a few areas such as the Original Landfill still need more vegetation established.
- Site Roads: Some roads have been closed and re-vegetated while others have had improvements made to make them more passable in inclement weather.
- DOE-Refuge Fence: The fence demarcating the boundary between the DOE lands and refuge lands has been installed along with DOE “No Trespassing” signs. (See picture below of fence signs) Note: these signs are in addition to the entrance signs USFWS will display and any interpretative signage USFWS might develop.



(Reads: “Rocky Flats Site, U.S. Department of Energy, No Trespassing”)

- Ponds: Participants viewed the A-, B-, and C-series ponds and the Present Landfill pond. The terminal ponds – A-4 (55% full) and B-5 (41% full) – will soon be discharged pending water quality results, marking the second time this year these two ponds will be discharged.
- Building 991 Hillside Slump: In constructing Building 991 the Atomic Energy Commission removed a significant amount of soil and deposited it on a slope upstream of the B-series ponds. A French drain was installed to capture groundwater, but during closure activities the drain was plugged. As a result, groundwater has built up which has caused the hillside where soil was deposited to slump. DOE plans on letting the slope stabilize and re-contouring the area, which will likely include terracing the land to help promote new wetlands. This work will probably occur this summer.

- Wildlife: Wildlife was abundant. Fauna identified included elk, deer, coyote, hawk (swainson's?), turkey vulture, kill deer, great blue heron, snowy egret, red-winged blackbird, meadowlark, mallard duck, and double-crested cormorant.
- Solar Ponds Treatment System and Discharge Gallery: Participants stopped at the Solar Ponds treatment system and discharge gallery to discuss the treatment system's operational and maintenance problems. DOE has corrected the initial maintenance problems but there are still two related issues they are investigating. First, the system as designed is very expensive to maintain. DOE has been working with researchers at CSU to develop a new treatment system that would be smaller and easier to maintain. If tests prove successful a new treatment system will be constructed to replace the existing system.

In a parallel effort DOE is attempting to determine where nitrate contamination is commingling with the treated effluent from the treatment system before it enters North Walnut Creek at the discharge gallery. DOE has recently gathered groundwater samples from holes dug in the soils downgradient from the treatment system to better understand the source of nitrate contamination. One option DOE is considering is moving the treatment system downstream closer to the discharge gallery. This option was previously hampered by concerns about the Preble's meadow jumping mouse. A decision on the new treatment system is likely to be made by the end of September.