

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
Arthur Widdowfield

Monthly Status Report – June 2010

Board meeting summary

2009 Stewardship Council Audit

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

Annual Site Update

The Stewardship Council hosted DOE's 2009 annual update. Some of the highlights included:

- Several Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) proceedings related to surface water standards for stream segments at Rocky Flats occurred in 2009. Pursuant to a rulemaking hearing in January 2009, the WQCC revised the uranium standard from a site-specific standard to the Colorado health-based standard; the WQCC also deleted the gross alpha and gross beta site-specific standards.
- Monitoring of the Original Landfill (OLF) inclinometers (they were installed in 2008) showed deflection, indicating localized movement, and minor localized surface cracking was also observed. The annual report includes a review of the data by a qualified geotechnical engineer. Continued monitoring and routine maintenance are presently considered adequate to address any observed surface cracking resulting from minor slumping due to localized movement.
- Surface water flow volumes continue to show expected reductions resulting from land configuration changes and removal of impervious surfaces.
- All surface water Points of Compliance showed acceptable water quality for the entire year.
- Point of Evaluation (POE) location GS10 showed reportable values for total Uranium (U) for a portion of 2009; as of April 30, 2010, total U concentrations at GS10 were no longer reportable. Evaluations concluded that the reportable values are due to changes in hydrologic conditions, which have caused groundwater with naturally occurring U to make up a larger proportion of streamflow at GS10. All other POEs and all other analytes at GS10 showed acceptable water quality for the entire year.
- The groundwater treatment systems continued to successfully remove contaminant loading to surface water from groundwater plumes.
- Phase II and Phase III upgrades to the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS) were completed and implemented in May 2009. In an effort to further improve water

quality in North Walnut Creek, the upgrades were designed to improve treatment cell access, reduce operational costs, and allow evaluation of alternative treatment methods. The Phase I components installed in late 2008 continued to effectively capture and allow treatment of more of the contaminated groundwater that would otherwise discharge untreated into the creek. Sampling of SPPTS and North Walnut Creek locations was increased to support an evaluation of the effects of Phase II/III improvements to the system, and to support planning for Phase IV upgrades, an improved full-scale nitrate treatment component.

- The East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS) treatment media was replaced, and plumbing upgrades were installed in late 2009 to simplify system operation, improve system performance, and reduce future maintenance needs.
- Groundwater quality and flow were generally consistent with previous years. Statistical trending calculations indicated numerous significant concentration trends.
- All RFLMA-required ecological data collection, analysis, and reporting were completed as scheduled.
- Re-vegetation monitoring data continue to document the establishment of the desirable grassland species. Several locations met success criteria this year.

Dam Breach EA

The Board, DOE, and CDPHE engaged in a roundtable discussion on DOE's plan to breach five ponds, including terminal ponds on the A, B and C series ponds. The Board continued to express concerns about DOE's proposal, as did community members. The Board also expressed concern about DOE's plan to move the water monitoring stations that are currently along the eastern boundary of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

The Board is planning a special meeting to further discuss both issues. That meeting will take place Monday, August 16, 2010, from 8:30 – 10:30 AM.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

May 2010 Rocky Flats activities included:

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Completed discharge of terminal ponds A-4 and B-5; discharged 100 acre-feet (32.4 million gallons) from A-4, and 63.9 acre-feet (20.8 million gallons) from B-5.
- Collected ambient Walnut Creek grab samples.
- Conducted SPPTS sampling.
- Performed 2nd quarter groundwater sampling.
- Collected and processed automated surface water sample suites.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

- The ETPTS and MSPTS (Mound System Plume Treatment System) are functioning normally.
- The SPPTS is undergoing further system optimization to treat nitrate and uranium contamination.

Ecology

- Conducted wetland mitigation water level monitoring.
- Began informal seep mapping to update existing data.
- Installed/repared erosion controls at different locations and began evaluating erosion controls to determine future monitoring requirements.
- Released biocontrol insects for noxious weed treatment of Dalmatian toadflax at two locations. Releases from previous years have apparently spread across the site as staff found previously released insects at Dalmatian toadflax infestations across the COU. Thirteen of 17 locations evaluated had mating pairs of the biocontrol insects present in 2010, which is good news.
- PMJM inspections were completed.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

- Completed the monthly inspection at the OLF and quarterly inspection at the PLF. There were no significant changes to report.
- OLF maintenance included installing straw bales and erosion matting and repairing the end of berm #7. The added controls will help prevent erosion from cutting into the eastern perimeter channel and causing the end of the berm to slide.
- Continued evaluating the effects of ponding and surface runoff flows from surface expression on OLF diversion berms and the buttress surface following recent heavy precipitation. Engineering staff is developing designs to address impacts of heavy precipitation.
- The seasonal road repair project was initiated. Road locations damaged by high precipitation events were re-graded and had ¾-inch rock added to help stabilize the surface.
- Depressions located during the annual inspection in the area of former Buildings 991 and 371 were filled with Rocky Flats alluvium.

Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA)

In 2009, Senator Udall introduced legislation (“The Charlie Wolf Nuclear Workers Compensation Act”) to remedy flaws in the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOIPCA). A companion bill was introduced in the House. As Sen. Udall noted in a recent email to constituents, while the Wolf Act waits on action in Congress, many former Rocky Flats workers “still run into roadblocks such as repeated delays, lost records and complex exposure formulas. It is unconscionable that these sick and dying Cold War heroes have to wait to access their benefits, which is why I wrote a letter last week to ask the Secretaries of Labor and Health and Human Services to implement the provisions of the bill through administrative rulemaking.”

That letter, signed by Senator Bennet and Representatives Polis, Perlmutter, DeGette, Markey and Salazar, requests the two Secretaries adopt rules “to make processing claims more effective, lessen the burden on the people claiming benefits and take into account the difficulties some claimants face in accessing their records and information.” As Sen. Udall notes in his email, he

is “hopeful that we can help to cut down the delays and denials of legitimate claims from these workers until the bill can be enacted and implemented.”

Site Document Update

In early June DOE posted on its website the 2009 annual report. It also posted its Power Point presentation to the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council. An overview of the document and presentation can be found above under “Board Meeting Summary.”

The report and presentation can be found at:

http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/Documents.aspx

Stewardship Council update:

Next meetings:

August 16th (SPECIAL MEETING)

September 13 (2nd Monday)

November 8th (2nd Monday)