

# ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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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 – July 2009

### Board meeting summary:

There was no meeting this month.

### Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

June site activities included:

- On June 11<sup>th</sup>, DOE staff conducted a tour of Rocky Flats for the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council.
- The discharge of terminal Ponds C-2 and A-4 was completed.
- DOE completed installation of the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS) Phase II and III upgrades and began optimization and monitoring phase. Results from the first two rounds of SPPTS sampling indicate concentrations are decreasing, with Uranium (U) concentrations showing non-detect (<2 ug/L) in Phase II effluent, and nitrate reduced in Phase III by 25% and in system effluent by 75%. DOE anticipates that future data will show improvements as the denitrifying bacteria continue to multiply and will eventually achieve a stable community.
- The aerial photography of the Site was completed on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The photographs will be used in the GIS for monitoring and project planning, and to document changes that have occurred on the ground surface since closure in October 2005.
- On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the site ecologists, along with EPA staff, toured the site to examine revegetation efforts, including the two landfills. Both DOE and EPA were pleased with revegetation, noting the benefits from the wet spring.
- The spring herbicide applications were completed on June 19<sup>th</sup>, and evaluation during July confirmed no additional application is needed for the spring weed control activities. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Jefferson County weed and pest management specialist toured the Central Operable Unit (COU). The Jefferson County specialist thought the COU looked great and complimented DOE on its weed control efforts, noting how good the revegetation areas look.
- The movement monument surveys and inclinometer readings for Dam B-5 showed more movement than expected. As a result, an independent dam engineer inspected the dam and found that the movement was not a dam stability but resulted from increased moisture in dam soils. DOE and the engineer concluded that quarterly monitoring as currently performed is adequate for continued monitoring of this dam.

## Energy Employee Compensation:

There was no Congressional action on “The Charlie Wolf Nuclear Workers Compensation Act” during July. However, during July, Rep. Filner (D-CA) and Rep. Space (D-OH) co-sponsored the bill, bringing the total co-sponsors in the House to seven.

## Agency update:

Legacy Management’s (LM) April – June update, which is circulated nationally, ([http://www.lm.doe.gov/documents/updates/qtr2\\_2009.pdf](http://www.lm.doe.gov/documents/updates/qtr2_2009.pdf)) contains a few interesting articles. LM reports on the upgrades to the Rocky Flats solar ponds treatment system. One of the photographs accompanying the article is of the Stewardship Council’s June 2009 tour of the treatment system.

LM also reports on progress to build its records management and operations facility in Morgantown, West Virginia. The 59,000 square-foot facility will house non-classified records that are now maintained at several federal records centers throughout the country. The records will be accessible to researchers, former contractor employees, and other authorized persons both at the facility and via what DOE states will be a “state-of-the-art electronic record-keeping system.”

Finally, LM also reports on additional remediation activities at the Pinellas facility in Florida (now called the Young-Rainey STAR Center). That facility, a former small development and manufacturing plant, was remediated in the mid-1990s and was transferred to the local county to operate as a business center. According to DOE, “two sites at the facility were used for disposal of drums containing waste resins and solvents that resulted in contamination of the groundwater in the sandy, shallow surficial aquifer. The major contaminants, based on toxicity and concentrations, are trichloroethene, dichloroethene, vinyl chloride, and benzene. The drums and the contaminated soil were removed during the initial cleanup phase and several groundwater treatment actions were conducted in the following years. However, post-remediation groundwater monitoring indicated that elevated contamination concentration remained in the subsurface at a few locations.” DOE had thought they had removed all of the source material during cleanup activities, but according to Jack Craig, Pinellas Site Manager for LM, “because of the elevated contaminant concentrations and high levels of original compounds we were seeing in lab results, it was apparent there was still residual source material.”

## Congressional update:

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, the Senate passed the fiscal year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. This bill includes funding for DOE’s Office of Legacy Management (LM), the program office that manages Rocky Flats. The Senate bill included \$189,802,000 for LM, the amount the Administration requested.

As reported in the June update, the House also provided full funding for LM.

## Site document update:

In July DOE posted on its website a contact record for work Xcel Energy will do to replace a valve to one of its pipelines that runs through the DOE-retained lands. As the contact record explains, Xcel operates a natural gas line located within a utility easement in the DOE lands

(known in DOE parlance as the Central Operable Unit (COU)). Most of this natural gas line is beneath the ground surface and a valve station is located near the eastern boundary of the COU.

The project requires Xcel to excavate to a depth greater than 3', an action which is prohibited by the institutional controls (ICs) incorporated into the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement (RFLMA) (Attachment 2, Table 4, Control 2). The purpose of the IC is to prevent unacceptable exposure to residual subsurface contamination and prevent damage to any subsurface engineered components of the remedy that may be present. The IC also serves to ensure that residual risks to the site user are at or below  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ .

As part of the consultation process, CPDHE requested that the contact record address three issues:

1. *Remaining subsurface structures in the area.* Response: "There are no remaining subsurface structures in the work area, other than the aforementioned natural gas line."
2. *Information about any former IHSSs/PACs or other known soil or groundwater contamination in the vicinity.* Response: "The excavation area is not in any former IHSSs/PACs. This excavation area is within the Windblown Area Exposure Unit (WBEU), which was evaluated in the *RCRA Facility Investigation-Remedial Investigation/Corrective Measures Study-Feasibility Study Report for the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site*, Appendix A, Comprehensive Risk Assessment, Volume 9 (CRA). Arsenic and plutonium-239/240 were identified as residual surface soil contaminants of concern for the WBEU. The East Trenches Plume exists in groundwater in this vicinity, but excavation will not extend to a depth that would intercept groundwater. The exposure scenarios evaluated in the CRA included excavation for maintenance purposes and incidental contact with groundwater, and based on the CRA, there would be no significant risk from excavation in this area."
3. *Resurvey any new surface established in subsurface soil, unless sufficient existing data is available to characterize the surface (or state that the excavated soil will be replaced and the original contours restored).* Response: "All excavated soils are expected to be returned to the excavation as previously discussed, and original contours will be restored."

The contact record can be found at:

[www.lm.doe.gov/documents/sites/co/rocky\\_flats/rflma/RFLMACR200902.pdf](http://www.lm.doe.gov/documents/sites/co/rocky_flats/rflma/RFLMACR200902.pdf)

### Stewardship Council update:

Next meetings: September 14; November 2