

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 -- Ken Foelske

Monthly Status Report – August 2006

Board meeting summary:

The Board of Directors did not meet during August. The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2006, followed by meetings on October 2nd and November 6th.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

Legacy Management's (LM) July monthly report included the standard monthly surveillance and maintenance activities – water quality monitoring, inspections, maintenance of erosion control measures, and noxious weed control. In addition the following new activities were performed:

- aerial survey and topographic mapping to help with future site surveillance and maintenance needs
- improvements to the site's road infrastructure

Legacy Management Quarterly Update Meeting

There was no LM quarterly update meeting scheduled for August. At DOE's request, the next LM quarterly update will likely be presented at the October 2nd Stewardship Council meeting. Immediately following the October 2nd meeting LM will host a more detailed technical discussion for those interested.

Congressional update:

The Senate reconvenes on Tuesday, September 5th; the House reconvenes on Wednesday September 6th. With mid-term elections fast approaching and the new federal fiscal year starting on October 1st, Congress is unlikely to make substantial progress on the fiscal year 2007 appropriations bill. Congressional Quarterly reports lawmakers will need to pass an omnibus, stopgap funding bill that will likely fund the federal government until at least November 13th.

The fiscal 2007 Energy and Water appropriations bill, which includes funding for DOE, is not expected to reach the Senate floor in September, which increases the likelihood that the bill will be included in the omnibus appropriations bill. Divisions between the House and Senate over funding for DOE have focused on nuclear energy production and disposal of high-level waste at Yucca Mountain.

Other issues:

On August 21st Stewardship Council staff, at the invite of Broomfield and Northglenn staffs, toured Rocky Flats with DOE, EPA, and CDPHE. During the toured staff

- Examined the proposed DOE-USFWS boundary
- Examined seeps at the Original Landfill
- Observed the soil subsidence near the former location of Building 991
- Viewed the process improvements made to the Mound groundwater plume treatment system
- Viewed the treatment system at the Present landfill which treats both landfill leachate and bypass groundwater before emptying into the Present Landfill Pond
- Viewed the maintenance being performed on the Solar Ponds groundwater plume treatment system

The most informative as well as the most problematic area was the extensive maintenance work being performed at the Solar Ponds groundwater treatment system. (A detailed Stewardship Council staff memo on the Solar Ponds system is included in the September 11Pth Board meeting packet.) In short, DOE has two problems to solve: 1) how to get the treatment media in the treatment cells functioning properly, and 2) what to do about the continued high levels of nitrate and uranium present at the discharge gallery of the system. DOE will brief the Stewardship Council on the Solar Ponds treatment system status at the September 11th meeting.

Agency update:

Stewardship Council staff has informally been told by CDPHE that the RFCA parties plan on making the post-closure cleanup agreement, now termed the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement (RFLMA), a formal public comment document. The length of the comment period has not yet been announced.

Prior to releasing the RFLMA, the RFCA parties need to review the public comment responses on the Proposed Plan (comments are due September 13th) and incorporate public responses into the CAD/ROD, as necessary. The CAD/ROD is likely to be approved by the RFCA parties in mid-to-late October, and the RFLMA will be released soon thereafter.

Site document update:

The Proposed Plan is out for public comment until September 13th. As discussed elsewhere in this report the Stewardship Council will issue a recommendation on the Plan at the September 11th meeting.

Stewardship Council update:

The Stewardship Council is slated to approve a policy on the Proposed Plan at the September 11th meeting. The policy, as it is being developed at a staff level, focuses on the following topic areas:

- groundwater treatment systems
- access controls, including types of controls
- institutional controls

- monitoring programs (Integrated Monitoring Plan, landfill inspections and seepage monitoring, and pond management)
- remedy surveillance and maintenance
- determination about which lands will be transferred to USFWS and which will be retained by DOE