

# ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders  
Karen Imbierowicz

## Monthly Status Report – August 2009

### Board meeting summary:

There was no meeting this month.

### Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

July site activities included:

- The *Quarterly Report of Site Surveillance and Maintenance Activities, First Quarter Calendar Year 2009* was posted to the LM website on July 6. The RFLMA deadline was July 15.
- Second quarter 2009 groundwater sampling was completed, which consisted of 60 RFLMA-required locations and 6 non-RFLMA-required locations. Third quarter 2009 water levels were measured and data from the Troll dataloggers were collected (112 wells total).
- Work on redesigning the East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS) continued, including configuring the system for flexibility and eventual citrate dosing. Samples of the ETPTS media were collected and sent for analysis to support the waste profile for disposition.
- Investigation of an apparent leak from the recently completed SPPTS Phase II and III upgrades is underway. Leakage occurred the evening of July 4 and was recognized when staff returned to work on July 6. On July 7, a sinkhole formed near one portion of the ZVI cell. Excavation of components and temporary rerouting of water being treated to restore flow for the Phase III pilot scale study was accomplished while borehole drilling for geotechnical evaluation was conducted.
- With the help of an ecologist from Grand Junction, staff surveyed 880 revegetation locations on Site. This work was conducted in accordance with the *Rocky Flats Colorado, Site Revegetation Plan*; the results are presented in the annual Site reports.
- A die off of prairie dogs in three small colonies at Rocky Flats occurred, likely due to bubonic plague. Similar die offs have occurred in recent years in colonies east of the Site and are fairly common along Colorado's Front Range. According to DOE, prairie dog colonies are not desired at Rocky Flats, so the die off obviates the need for an action plan.
- A narrow, continuous, approximately 100-foot-long crack along a portion of diversion Berm 1, located along the west side of the OLF cover, was discovered during inspection on July 22. As provided by the OLF M&M Plan maintenance actions, the crack was filled by adding small amounts of soil and raking it to fill. These actions are also recommended by the project

geotechnical engineer. This portion of the cover has shown localized, discontinuous cracking and inclinometer displacement after the heavy spring precipitation that is consistent with findings of the 2008 geotechnical investigation, which was triggered by more severe localized cracking and slumping in 2006-2007. After the geotechnical investigation, construction and repairs to improve stability were completed in early 2009. Staff will continue to observe and evaluate the current conditions and determine whether the stabilization work tends to reduce the localized slumping and cracking compared to 2006-2007 observations.

- After the spring precipitation, seep 7 was observed to be flowing on the OLF surface. Potholing to observe flows within the OLF Seep 7 drain extension constructed in 2008 to provide additional subsurface water collection revealed that copious amounts of water were flowing in the subsurface drain, as intended. However, the drain extension geotextile wrapping may not be allowing sufficient water to enter the drain at the eastern edges. On July 23, staff excavated and made adjustments to a portion of the OLF Seep 7 drain extension. Specifically, the eastern edge of the drain geotextile was opened and replaced with more permeable material so that more water flowing from north/east entered the drain extension. This eliminated the surface expression along the adjusted portion, but additional portions along the eastern edge may need to be excavated and adjusted to capture all the flow.

### Energy Employee Compensation:

On July, 31, 2008, then-Senator Salazar, then-Representative Udall, and Representative Perlmutter asked the Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate compensation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). In their letter, they raised serious concerns about implementation of the EEOICPA, including retaliation and “other improper treatment” for workers and their families who supported the legislation and sought compensation under it. In a letter dated August 25, 2008, the Stewardship Council voiced support for this review.

(see [http://www.rockyflatscc.org/RFSC\\_board\\_policies/RF%20workers%20GAO%20Cong%20thanks%2008.pdf](http://www.rockyflatscc.org/RFSC_board_policies/RF%20workers%20GAO%20Cong%20thanks%2008.pdf))

The review is ongoing and GAO anticipates releasing information in December.

### Agency update:

None at this time.

### Congressional update:

As Congress returns to Washington, D.C. following the August recess, House and Senate Appropriations staff have been meeting to reconcile differences between the two chambers’ versions of the Energy and Water appropriations bill. That bill includes funding for DOE’s management of Rocky Flats. While there is talk at getting the bill signed into law by the end of the federal fiscal year (9/31/09) more likely than not a continuing resolution will be needed.

The Interior Appropriations committee staff has also been meeting to wrangle out the differences in that bill. USFWS funding for the Rocky Flats Refuge flows through that bill, but minimal funding is provided for the Rocky Flats Refuge, thereby further delaying opening of the Refuge.

### Site document update:

On August 19, 2009, DOE released contract record 2009-03 ([www.lm.doe.gov/documents/sites/co/rocky\\_flats/rflma/CR200903.pdf](http://www.lm.doe.gov/documents/sites/co/rocky_flats/rflma/CR200903.pdf)). The record addresses soil disturbance involving the construction of roadside drainage ditches that will not return excavation to preexisting grade. According to the contract record, “Maintenance, repair and upgrades to certain portions of gravel roads within the Central Operable Unit are planned for mid- to late August, 2009. Upgrades will include installing/repairing shallow drainage ditches along some portions for better precipitation run on and run off controls. These ditches are the same basic design as ditches approved under Contact record 2007-04 for the Phase III road repair/maintenance work conducted in August 2007.” One project involves the existing drainage ditch along the road bordering the east side of the Original Landfill east diversion channel. The second is constructing a new drainage ditch along the south side of road to the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System. The ditches will be lined with permanent erosion matting and the disturbed area will be reseeded.

RFLMA provides soil disturbance must be in accordance with the CDPHE-approved Erosion Control Plan (ECP) and that the soil surface must be restored to the preexisting grade after any soil-disturbance activity has occurred. (See RFLMA Attachment 2, Table 4, Institutional Control (IC) Number 3.) The contact record provides “work will be done in accordance with the ECP, but of necessity, soil will not be restored to the preexisting grade where the ditches are to be constructed.”

Finally, the contact record provides:

1. None of the areas where ditches are planned to be constructed have remaining subsurface structures in the vicinity of the planned ditches.
2. There is no known soil or ground water contamination in the vicinity of the planned ditches.

### Stewardship Council update:

Next meetings: September 14; November 2