

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Nancy Newell

Monthly Status Report – October 2014

Board meeting summary

2015 Work Plan

The Board approved the 2015 work plan. The plan can be found on the Stewardship Council's website: http://www.rockyflatssc.org/work_plan.html

2015 Budget

The Board adopted the 2015 budget.

Board Motion on USFWS' Prescribed Fire Proposal

USFWS plans to conduct a prescribed fire at the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge in spring 2015 after the snow melts. The burn area is approximately 700 acres. In anticipation of public concern with USFWS' plan, the Stewardship Council adopted the following motion:

The Rocky Flats Stewardship Council opposes USFWS's plan to conduct a prescribed burn at the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Our opposition rests primarily on two factors: (1) A burn will cause widespread community concern that will not be sufficiently alleviated through any public education process; (2) given that concern, there are other management options USFWS can employ, thereby obviating the need to burn at this time.

Importantly, this motion does not speak to risk from fire. The Board anticipates discussing USFWS' plan at its February and April 2015 meetings. As part of this inquiry, the Stewardship Council intends to meet with USFWS, DOE and CDPHE.

Groundwater Briefing

DOE presented its final brief of the series on groundwater. This session focused on the four groundwater treatment systems (Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System, Mound Site Plume Treatment System, the East Trenches Plume Treatment System, and the Present Landfill Treatment System). DOE continues to reconfigure these systems to better treat groundwater and to simplify the process so that less maintenance is needed. DOE's briefing for this meeting and the prior meetings can be found at http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/Sites.aspx?view=5

DOE Quarterly Update

The Stewardship Council hosted DOE's update for the second quarter of 2014. Updates included:

- groundwater monitoring;
- surface water monitoring;
- ecological monitoring; and,
- surveillance, maintenance and site operations.

Some of the highlights included:

- All plutonium and americium results since August 2013 have been below the 0.15 pCi/L standard. Additional sampling continues to be conducted downstream of GS10.
- As of June 30, 2014, uranium was no longer reportable. Reportable 30-day average values for uranium at WALPOC were first observed during December 2013. As of May 18, 2014, the 30-day average for uranium was no longer reportable. The 12-month rolling average remains below the 16.8 µg/L standard.
- Moving forward, DOE anticipates the 12-month rolling average for Uranium will approach the standard. During the quarter the levels were at 6-7 µg/L, but DOE was expecting it to rise to approximately 17 µg/L. The RFLMA parties are evaluating the cause and response actions.
- There is minor cracking on the east perimeter channel adjacent to the Original Landfill.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE reports that in addition to routine monitoring and maintenance activities, site personnel conducted the following activities in September.

Surface water and groundwater monitoring

- To better understand how uranium is mobilized in surface water at the site, site personnel measured water parameters at the geochemistry study locations.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

- Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS): DOE is undertaking a reconfiguration project. During the month, DOE's contractor (1) removed Zero Valent Iron (ZVI, used to treat volatile organic compounds, solvents) from the existing treatment cells and hydro-tested both cells; (2) collected ZVI samples to support developing the waste profile for ZVI disposition; and (3) began excavating an area to install new piping and the enclosure foundation.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): DOE reports bio-fouling in the "big box" component of the system is reducing the flow rate through the media; site staff is working to address the clogging.

Ecology

- Ongoing activities this month: Photopoint monitoring, vegetation mapping in the Central Operable Unit.
- Completed activities this month: Annual wetland mitigation monitoring, forb nursery monitoring, delineated wetlands in the OLF project area.

Landfills

- DOE reports no issues at the Original Landfill or Present Landfill were identified.

Contact Record 2014-09

Soil Disturbance Review Plan (SDRP) Update for Regrading the East Perimeter Channel (EPC) at the Original Landfill (OLF)

This record is in follow up to Contact Record 2013-02, which addressed cracking at the Original Landfill following the September 2013 floods. The plan for addressing that cracking was approved by CDPHE in December 2013, but implementation of that plan was delayed until summer 2014 due to the ground being frozen or otherwise too wet. Further, “Cracking and slumping were noted on the east side of the EPC, outside the landfill boundary, in the first and second quarters of CY 2014 (before the work was scheduled to be performed). Therefore, DOE decided to reevaluate the design approved in December 2013 prior to implementing.”

As provided in the record, the crux of this decision is as follows:

DOE, CDPHE, and EPA met on August 5, 2014, to review the proposed update to the grading plan. The primary updates to the December 2013 grading plan are to cut back the ends of berms 4, 5, and 6 and taper the sides of the channel back to a more gradual slope. Figure 1 shows the location and anticipated aerial extent of the soil disturbance. The construction boundary is similar to the previous (December 2013) design, but soil disturbance is more extensive. There is a smaller area around the berm 4 flow line inside the “limit of waste” that will have new turf reinforcement material installed for erosion control. In October 2013 a slotted drainage pipe bedded in ¾-inch crushed drain rock was installed in the eastern end of diversion berm 4 as part of the initial response to the localized distress (see CR 2013-02), and this will be left in place. Another 4-inch slotted drainage pipe bedded in crushed drain rock will be installed between berm 5 and 6 to drain water from Seep #2/3 into the EPC. The excess soil will be distributed inside the COU as shown in Figure 2. No intrusive work will be performed within the waste footprint boundary.

The contact record can be found at: http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

February 2, 2015

The remainder of the 2015 meeting schedule will be adopted at the February 2, 2015, meeting.