

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
Arthur Widdowfield

Monthly Status Report – December 2011

Board meeting summary

There was no meeting this month.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's November 2011 Rocky Flats activities included:

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Sampled two wells east of the Present Landfill (PLF) dam.
- Started the PLF pond discharge.
- Conducted routine maintenance at surface water locations.
- Conducted routine sampling of the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS).
- Completed 4th quarter groundwater sampling.
- Collected Walnut Creek ambient grab samples.
- Collected and processed automated surface water sample suites.
- Re-sampled three fourth quarter locations (well 15699, East Trenches Influent, and East Trenches Effluent) due to high volatile organic compound concentrations detected in original quarterly samples.
- Started Pond C-2 discharge.
- Collected samples from the seep areas north of the Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS), as well as other surface water samples along the B-series drainage, in support of the investigation into reportable levels of americium at surface water monitoring location GS-10. (See "Site Document Update" below for more information)

Groundwater Treatment Systems

Routine inspections of the treatment systems were conducted as follows:

- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS) – DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- MSPTS – DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- SPPTS – DOE reports optimization of the system is ongoing.

Ecology

- Conducted a PLF vegetation survey.

- Walked down GS10 and Functional Channel-4 drainage areas to look for erosion problems in support of the investigation of reportable Am values at GS-10; set up photo points of same area along drainage. (See “Site Document Update” below for more information)
- Conducted routine Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) erosion control inspections.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

- There were no significant changes to report at either landfill.

Site Document update

Contact Record 2011-07, Soil Disturbance Review Plan—Pond A-3 and Present Landfill (PLF) Pond Dam Breach Project

Earlier this summer, DOE issued an environmental assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, paving the way for breaching dams A-3 and A-4 in North Walnut Creek, B-5 in South Walnut Creek, C-2 in Woman Creek, and the Present Landfill (PLF) pond. DOE has begun taking steps to breach A-3 and the PLF pond. Because DOE will need to excavate deeper than 3’ below grade, and grading will not return the area to its existing elevation, the work is subject to the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement’s institutional control (IC) provisions.

According to the contact record, “CDPHE has reviewed information regarding the proposed soil disturbance and excavation and after consultation with EPA, has approved the proposed activity. CDPHE has determined that the proposed activity will not result in an unacceptable release or exposure to residual subsurface contamination and will not damage any component of the remedy. CDPHE has also determined that the proposed project meets the rationale and objectives of ICs 2 and 3.”

The record, which can be found at http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx, includes a soil disturbance review plan.

Contact Record 2001-08, Reportable Condition for Americium-241 (Am) at Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement (RFLMA) Point of Evaluation (POE) GS10

As reported in the November update (see http://rockyflatssc.org/RFSC_updates/RFSC%2011-11%20monthly%20update.pdf), in South Walnut Creek at the water monitoring point GS-10, there was what is called a “reportable condition” for americium (AM). Because GS-10 is a point of evaluation (POE) and not a regulatory-enforced point of compliance (POC), the exceedance is called a reportable condition. Whenever a surface water standard is exceeded at a POE, a series of actions are initiated. (While the contact record is titled americium, it also involves plutonium.)

As outlined in the contact record, following is a synopsis of the data for plutonium-239/240 (Pu) and Am:

- Composite sample 7/21/11–8/24/11 (initial analysis; results validated 11/2/11): Pu = 0.938 pCi/L, Am = 2.97 pCi/L
- Composite sample 7/21/11–8/24/11 (laboratory reanalysis completed 11/15/11; results validated 11/22/11): Pu = 4.07 pCi/L, Am = 4.01 pCi/L

- Composite sample 8/24/11–9/29/11 (results validated 11/30/11): Pu = 0.020 pCi/L, Am = 0.044 pCi/L
- Composite sample 9/29/11–10/25/11 (results validated 11/22/11): Pu = 0.658 pCi/L, Am = 0.877 pCi/L

Steps DOE is taking/will take can be found in the contact record and in the Stewardship Council's November report. The contact record can be found at:

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

Stewardship Council update

Following the November meeting, member governments began approving amendments to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The changes in short are:

1. Adding Thornton as a party to the IGA.
2. Making both Golden and Northglenn permanent members. This change means both governments will have a vote each year, not on alternating years as they currently have. Thornton would also join as a permanent member.
3. Changing the voting numbers from nine to approve any motion to 11. This change was necessitated by increases in the number of voting parties from 12 to 14.

By increasing the number of votes necessary to approve a given motion, the number of parties needed for a quorum also increased from nine to 11.

Next meetings:

February 6, 2012

April 2, 2012 (?) (2012 meeting dates will be determined at February 6th meeting)