

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 Thornton -- City of Westminster -- Town of Superior
League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Arthur Widdowfield

Monthly Status Report – December 2012

Board meeting summary

There was no board meeting this month.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's November 2012 Rocky Flats activities included:

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.
- Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): DOE reports optimization of the system is ongoing.

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Collected the Walnut Creek ambient surface water samples.
- Completed fourth quarter groundwater sampling at the three groundwater plume treatment systems and the two landfills.
- Collected and processed automated surface water samples suites.
- Sampled location MOUND R2-E (discharge gallery from MSPTS) and well 15699 (groundwater well south and west of surface water monitoring station GS-10) for Pu, Am and U analyses to support the actinide geochemistry evaluation the site is conducting. These two locations were chosen to see if they were contributing any Pu, Am, or U to the surface water exceedances near GS-10. A brief discussion of the Mound Site can be found at http://www.rockyflatssc.org/residual_contamination_info.html (Click on the Mound Site for historical information).

Ecology

- Cleaned out existing bluebird nest boxes.
- Installed four bluebird and four chickadee nest boxes.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

- There were no significant changes to report at either landfill.
- Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (federal endangered species) inspections were completed.

Changes at DOE

DOE Secretary Stephen Chu has indicated that he will not stay on for a second term. According to the *Washington Post*, people being vetted to succeed Secretary Chu include Colorado's former Governor, Bill Ritter, former-Senator Byron Dorgan, Dan Reicher (currently the director of the Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy and Finance at Stanford University, and a former senior DOE official), and Susan Tierney (former DOE official). Additionally, in mid-December, Tom D'Agostino, the NNSA Administrator and Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, announced he will retire from federal service effective January 18, 2013. As Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Administrator D'Agostino is charged with supervising management of DOE's legacy management and environmental management programs. Neile Miller will serve in an acting role until a new administrator is nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

It is far too early to know what any of these changes will mean for DOE's Office of Legacy Management, the program office that manages Rocky Flats.

Contact Record, CR 2012-03

In mid-December DOE, posted on its website Contact Record 2012-03, "Minor Modification of *Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement* (RFLMA) Attachment 1, "Site Map," and of RFLMA Attachment 2, "Legacy Management Requirements"." As provided in the record, DOE, CDPHE, and EPA modified RFLMA Attachments 1 and 2 as follows:

- Completion of breaching the Present Landfill Pond and Pond A-3 dams, resulting in a change to several map figures to show the new surface water configuration as wetlands
- Completion of the installation of the new flumes for surface water monitoring locations WOMPOC and WALPOC and notification to CDPHE and EPA to complete the requirements for these locations to become new Points of Compliance (POCs)
- Completion of the third 5-year review, which necessitates clarifying the scheduling for subsequent reviews
- Deletion of specific vegetation inspections at the landfills as recommended in the third 5-year review
- Recent changes to Regulation #31, "Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water" (5 CCR 1002-31) (Reg. #31) which require updates to RFLMA Attachment 2, Table 1, "Surface Water Standards".

Further, as provided in the record, "Pursuant to RFLMA paragraph 66, DOE and CDPHE do not consider these items to constitute a significant change from existing requirements of RFLMA, and this contact record provides public notice of the proposed minor modifications."

The specific changes can be found in the record at:

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

Court Clears Way for Transfer of 300' Right-of-Way

In a decision dated December 21, 2012, a federal district court in Denver rejected claims by the City of Golden, Town of Superior, Rocky Mountain Wild, and WildEarth Guardians that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) violated a number of federal laws in its decision to approve the transfer of a 300' right-of-way along Indiana Street for development of the Jeffco Parkway. The plaintiffs appealed the decision, but an emergency injunction that was initially granted was later lifted, thereby paving the way for the USFWS to convey the aforementioned right-of-way. The transfer is also a crucial step in the multi-government agreement to acquire section 16 in the southwest corner of Rocky Flats, and to make that 640 acres part of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

February 4, 2013

April 1, 2013