

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
Karen Imbierowicz

Monthly Status Report – October 2008

Board meeting summary:

Approval of Letter Supporting GAO Investigation of Worker Health Act

In a letter dated August 25, 2008, the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council reiterated its support for workers seeking compensation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOIPCA). At the meeting the Board ratified its approval of the letter.

The letter expresses support for Senator Salazar and Representatives Udall and Perlmutter's request that the General Accountability Office (GAO) investigate implementation of the EEOIPCA. As the letter concludes, "The Colorado Congressional delegation's leadership on behalf of former workers has been critical and we remain committed supporting your efforts. Many of those harmed are our constituents and we support their efforts to receive just compensation under the EEOIPCA."

Review of 2009 Work Plan

The 2009 Plan builds on the Stewardship Council's efforts in 2008. The Board will continue to focus on DOE management issues, worker issues, outreach, communications, and some USFWS issues. The Plan will be approved at the November 3rd meeting.

Review of 2009 Budget

The Board began reviewing the 2009 budget. The proposed budget includes a \$19,205 decrease from the 2008 budget. Expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant. The budget will be adopted at the November 3rd meeting.

Triennial Review of Stewardship Council IGA

The Stewardship Council Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was approved in February 2006. Per the terms of the agreement, every three years the member governments must approve resolutions expressing their desire to continue the organization for an additional three years. At the meeting the Board began discussing the review, focusing on any changes to the scope or mission that may be warranted. Each government stated its desire to remain part of the organization; none offered changes to the organization's scope or mission.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

October 2008 site activities included:

- The Air Monitoring Program for Rocky Flats was discontinued. Air monitors S-136 and S-138 along Indiana Street were disconnected from the power poles by an electrical subcontractor and site staff removed the air monitors.
- The Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS) Phase I construction project was completed. Field adjustments of the newly installed Interceptor Trench System Sump pump were made at the new influent sampling location (SPIN) for the SPPTS. The project area was re-vegetated and erosion controls were installed.
- DOE commenced the dam notching program. Dam notching will be carried out in 3 phases spread over about 10 years. The first dams to be notched are ponds A-1 and A-2 (the most upstream ponds on North Walnut Creek).
 - At A-1 vegetation removal, coffer dam construction, excavation, and infrastructure removals commenced. Project radiological control surveys of the grout-filled outlet pipe showed a small area inside the pipe contained slightly elevated readings above free-release criteria. The material was disposed as as low level radioactive waste. A coating was applied over the sediment-like material on the grout and samples were sent to a certified lab for analysis for radioactive waste characterization. The surveys of the metal debris from A-1 were completed and met free-release criteria for disposition as nonradioactive solid waste.
 - The outlet pipe for the A-2 dam was removed. Radiological surveys on the removed piping showed the debris met free-release criteria and will be disposed of as nonradioactive solid waste. Vegetation removal and coffer dam construction at Dam A-2 was completed.
- Low-hanging branches and brush were removed from around the base of Russian Olive trees (a state-listed noxious weed) in preparation for complete removal of the trees either by cutting/stump spraying or stump "painting" later this fall.
- Sustane, a natural fertilizer, was spread at several locations in the DOE-retained lands to enhance re-vegetation efforts where vegetation has been sparse.
- The Present and Original Landfills continue to be monitored and inspected. There were no significant changes to report.
- Field staff started fourth quarter groundwater sampling and performed routine maintenance at surface water monitoring locations. They collected one automated grab sample, and completed quarterly sampling at the Present Landfill.
- Staff conducted routine inspection and maintenance of the groundwater treatment systems.

Rocky Flats Workers:

See Board meeting summary.

Congressional update:

None at this time. The November update will include a short analysis of the Presidential and Congressional elections.

Site document update:

No new documents were posted during October.

Stewardship Council update:

Lorraine Anderson (Chairman) and David Abelson (Executive Director) participated in an Energy Communities Alliance peer exchange meeting. The meeting focused on building coalitions to support and influence site decision-making. Lorraine and David discussed both the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments and the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council models. Participants included elected officials from communities surrounding DOE facilities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Hanford, Washington; Yucca Mountain, Nevada; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Idaho Falls, Idaho.

While the meeting touched on a broad range of topics, three ideas emerge:

1. Stewardship Council members should not take for granted the fact that they were able to develop this forum. Other communities still struggle to develop an effective organization.
2. The Stewardship Council is the only community organization in the DOE complex focused on the post-closure management of a DOE site. So, when communicating with DOE and with Congress it is important to bear in mind that this effort is unique to the DOE world.
3. As the Stewardship Council evolves, it will be vital that the members remain focused on both the issues and on communicating the role and value of the organization

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2009. The full 2009 schedule will be approved at the February meeting.