

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 – December 2009

Board meeting summary:

There was no meeting this month.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

November site activities included:

- Following an 18” snow storm, DOE conducted special inspections of the Original (OLF) and Present landfills. No problems were observed.
- OLF inclinometer readings were collected between diversion Berms 1 and 3 to obtain data after the snowfall and precipitation melt. All inclinometer readings were completed.
- The snow fence and wattle installation project along the northern edge of the OLF was completed.
- Sections of the fence located on the south side of the West Access Road adjacent to the State Land Board lands were repaired to help keep cattle from crossing onto Rocky Flats.
- Upgrades to the roads leading to the Solar Ponds Treatment System (SPPTS) were completed. Additional ¾-inch rock was added to both areas to help stabilize them during wet periods following precipitation events. Additional drainage mechanisms will be evaluated if necessary.
- All routine Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) habitat area inspections were completed.
- Instrument sheds at GS01 and GS05 were removed as part of the approval for the work in PMJM habitat. No PMJM were found.
- A dead hawk was found by groundwater well samplers just west of OLF monitoring well 80005 at the southern end of the west diversion channel. The carcass was collected and the location marked for investigation of cause of death. USFWS and CDPHE were notified, and USFWS will conduct an investigation. Notably, shotgun shell casings were found on the northeast side of the OLF, but it is not yet known if the hawk might have been shot.
- Groundwater, surface water, and treatment system activities included:
 - Completed groundwater sampling for the 4th quarter, with a total of 58 locations sampled.
 - Continued sampling at the SPPTS to monitor Phase III upgrades.
 - Completed routine maintenance and collected samples as needed at surface water locations.

- Removed old instrument sheds at GS01 and GS05 (previously installed new sampling/instrument enclosures).
- Transferred water from Pond A-3 to Pond A-4 following the recent heavy snowfall.
- Collected pre-discharge samples from Pond A-4.
- Completed routine treatment system inspections and maintenance, including:
 - Mound Plume Treatment System (MSPTS) – gravel was raked, and an inspection of the influent and effluent was performed. The system was flushed from the piping inside the vault.
 - East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS) -- completed media replacement/plumbing upgrade project. Water treatment via parallel up-flow configuration, which is expected to be the routine configuration, began on November 9. Telemetry and plumbing were completed on November 10. Optimization of the system and routine maintenance are ongoing.

Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA):

In a move that could foreshadow changes to the EEOICPA program at Rocky Flats, Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, expanded the group of workers receiving compensation under the EEOICPA at the Hanford Site in Washington. Like the Rocky Flats workers, the Department of Labor (DOL) previously limited the class of workers receiving benefits under the special cohort status. In expanding the special cohort class, Secretary Sebelius noted there were gaps in monitoring data indicating which workers might have been exposed, thus calling into question DOL's prior decision to limit class status to a small group of workers. According to *Weapons Complex Monitor*, although radiological work was only done in certain areas at Hanford, DOE could not identify which workers went into certain areas at least periodically. Similar problems undermine data analysis at Rocky Flats.

Site document update:

None at this time.

Pond Discharge on Walnut Creek:

Starting on December 12th and going through December 21st, DOE discharged terminal Pond A-4 on Walnut Creek. Pre-discharge sampling indicated that water complied with all applicable surface water standards. 8.1 million gallons were discharged into North Walnut Creek, reducing the pond capacity from 35.6% to 10.4%.

During the discharge, four automated composite samples were collected at each of the downstream Points of Compliance (GS11 [A-4 Outlet] and GS03 [Walnut Cr. at Indiana St.]). The samples are being analyzed for Pu, Am, uranium, and nitrate+nitrite as N. Results are pending.

State Legislation: Another Rocky Flats Bill by Rep. McKinley?

Stewardship Council staff has been informed by various colleagues that State Rep. Wes McKinley (D-Walsh) has been meeting with representatives of the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center with the goal of introducing a Rocky Flats bill. Rep. McKinley introduced similar

bills in 2005, 2006, and 2009. The Stewardship Council objected to all three bills, noting efforts are underway to inform refuge visitors of the site's history as a weapons facility, ongoing management needs, and risks associated with extremely small amounts of residual contamination. None of the prior bills were passed out of the House; the 2006 and 2009 bills died in committee.

Stewardship Council update:

The Stewardship Council is soliciting applications for the four community seats on the Board of Directors. Those seats are currently held by the League of Women Voters, the Rocky Flats Homesteaders, the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum, and Karen Imbierowicz. Applications are due January 5, 2010. Interviews will take place at the February 1, 2010, meeting and appointments will be made at that time.

Next meeting: February 1, 2010