

# ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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Karen Imbierowicz

## Monthly Status Report – September 2008

### Board meeting summary:

There was no meeting this month.

### Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary:

September activities at the site included:

- DOE began the first phase of the dam breach project. Activities included installation of erosion controls and contractor training.
- DOE abandoned 21 unneeded groundwater monitoring wells. Approximately 78 groundwater wells remain.
- DOE completed revegetating 3.1 acres adjacent to the 991 hillside that slumped in recent years. The 991 hillside was stabilized and revegetated late last 2007year/early 2008.
- On September 30, DOE posted to its website revisions it made to the Rocky Flats Site Operations Guide. 26 changes were made.
- DOE worked with Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (COWQCC) staff on the proposed Notice for Rulemaking regarding DOE's petition. DOE seeks to eliminate the site-specific uranium and gross alpha beta surface water standards for Walnut Creek segments 4 and 5.
- DOE completed extension of the Original Landfill (OLF) Seep 7 drain, as well as the regrading the berms. Alluvium was added to the tops of the berms where the heights were below the minimum requirement. The berm troughs, where minor ponding was occurring, were also regraded to allow water to flow continuously during precipitation events.
- The Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS) Phase I construction project (installation of the sump collection system) began. Construction is estimated to be completed in early October.

### Rocky Flats Workers:

The General Accountability Office is reviewing Representatives Udall and Perlmutter and Senator Salazar's request that it evaluate implementation of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Program Compensation Act (EEOIPCA). No decisions on the requested review, including whether a review will be undertaken and the timing of the review, have been made.

## Congressional update:

In late September Congress passed and the President signed legislation funding the federal government through March 6, 2009. Funding levels track 2008 funding. Because the term of this legislation (called a Continuing Resolution) extends into the middle of 2009, in late February shortly after the new President submits his 2010 budget to Congress, Congress will have to again grapple with appropriations for the remainder of 2009 as well as budget allocations for 2010.

One of the contentious issues Congress and the new Administration will need to address is funding for DOE cleanup programs. Key members of Congress from both parties and both chambers are working to fund DOE cleanup programs at levels higher than what the Bush Administration had been seeking. To date, funding for DOE's Office of Legacy Management has been stable and no cuts have been proposed or are anticipated. However, given the likely shortfall in what DOE needs to meet its regulatory compliance obligations for the cleanup program, it will be important to track how Congress makes up for the anticipated funding shortfalls.

## Site document update:

DOE issued two contact records during September: one for repairs to the Original landfill (OLF) and a second for construction of a collection sump at the Solar Ponds Treatment System (SSTS).

Original landfill: Inspections conducted during 2007 determined that repairs to the OLF were warranted. These conditions involved localized slumping and settling of the OLF cover, intermittent seeps on the cover, and a continuous seep at the eastern toe of the buttress (identified as Seep #8). In addition, ponding in lengths of the diversion berm channels from precipitation and snowmelt runoff occurred, and a topographic survey showed that portions of the diversion berms did not meet the minimum 2-foot height as specified in the monitoring plan. (Inspection details are included in the 2007 quarterly and annual reports of the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement.)

Following extensive analysis and discussion, the parties reached the following agreement:

1. The final design of the Seep #7 drain extension will be submitted to CDPHE for approval. Construction will take place after CDPHE approval.
2. The minimum berm height specification drawings based on the June 2008 topographical survey will be submitted to CDPHE for approval. Maintenance and repairs to the berm channels and berm heights may be commenced prior to CDPHE's approval of the drawings, and DOE will complete the work based on the CDPHE-approved minimum berm height.
3. The final design of the west perimeter channel will be submitted to CDPHE for approval. Construction work will commence after CDPHE's approval.
4. The OLF inspection and monitoring criteria discussed in the contact record will be incorporated in a modification to the OLF M&M Plan; RFLMA, Attachment 2, Table 3, will also be modified accordingly. The modifications will be submitted to CDPHE for approval.

Solar Ponds Treatment System: The Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS) includes a groundwater intercept trench from which groundwater is pumped into cells for treatment. Because of problems with the system, contaminated groundwater currently mixes with the (treated) SPPTS effluent at the Solar Ponds Plume Discharge Gallery (DG). DOE plans to install a sump to collect the water from the side and downgradient of the system and to transfer that collected water up to the existing SPPTS treatment cell for treatment. The goal is to reduce the nitrate concentrations at the DG and thus reduce nitrate loading to the creek.

### Stewardship Council update:

During October and November the Stewardship Council will be reviewing and adopting its 2009 budget and work plan. The draft budget and work plan will be reviewed at the October meeting and approved at the November meeting. The October board meeting briefing materials will soon be available at [www.rockyflatssc.org/agendas.html](http://www.rockyflatssc.org/agendas.html)

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

November 3, 2008

February 2, 2009