

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Arthur Widdowfield

Monthly Status Report – September 2010

Board meeting summary

Review of 2011 Work Plan

The 2011 Plan builds on the Stewardship Council's efforts in 2010. 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 8th meeting.

Review of 2011 Budget

The Board began reviewing the 2011 budget. This proposed budget reflects a net decrease of \$2,550 over the 2010 budget; 2010 was a reduction of \$2,950 over 2009. The budget will be adopted at the November 8th meeting.

DOE Quarterly Briefing

DOE discussed the quarterly report for the second quarter of 2010 (April – June). In addition to the quarterly report results, DOE discussed in detail their plans to breach the terminal ponds and proposed surface water monitoring changes.

Highlights include:

Annual site inspection

The annual site inspection was conducted on March 17, 2010. There was no evidence of significant erosion, violation of institutional controls, or adverse biological conditions.

Present Landfill (PLF) Inspection

Quarterly PLF vegetation monitoring is no longer required since the PLF vegetation cover has met the success criteria. Nevertheless, the PLF vegetation will still be monitored as part of the ongoing general Site vegetation monitoring. The cap was inspected and no problems were reported.

Original Landfill Inspection

Monthly inspections of the OLF cover continue. Small cracks, seeps, and slumps were noted during monthly inspections and follow-up actions were taken.

Groundwater Treatment Systems

Routine maintenance activities continued at the Mound Site Plume Treatment System. Activities included raking the media each week, checking and flushing filters, and inspecting influent and

effluent flow conditions. Routine maintenance activities continued at the East Trenches Plume Treatment System. Activities included checking influent and effluent flow conditions and water levels in the cells.

Routine maintenance activities continued at the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System. Activities included weekly inspections of the solar/battery systems that power the pumps, the operation of the pumps, and influent and effluent flow conditions. A second tracer test was performed on the Phase II cell and determined that preferential flow through the media was not likely. Sampling and analysis of the treatment media in this cell was planned for the second quarter of CY 2010. Optimization efforts in Phase III (such as reducing heat loss from the various cells and vaults, and adjusting carbon dosing rates and influent flow rates) continued.

Erosion Control and Re-vegetation

Maintenance of the erosion control features continued. Erosion wattles and matting loosened and displaced by high winds or rain were repaired. Several areas were inter-seeded with additional native species to increase vegetation cover.

Water Monitoring Highlights

There were no pond discharges during the first quarter of 2010. Additionally, the water monitoring network successfully met the targeted monitoring objectives. All water-quality data at the RFLMA POCs remained well below the applicable standards. All POE analyte concentrations remained below reporting levels.

Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

August 2010 Rocky Flats activities included:

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring

- Conducted routine sampling at the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS).
- Collected special grab samples and sampled three wells at the Present Landfill (PLF).
- Discharged Pond C-2 into Woman Creek (began on July 31; ended on August 12).
- Collected and processed automated surface water sample suites.
- Collected samples at ambient grab sampling locations along Walnut Creek.

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 Plume Treatment System (MSPTS) – DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- SPPTS - Optimization of the system is ongoing. Phase II media replacement completed.

Ecology

- Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM) inspections were conducted.
- Sowed the volunteer-collected needle and thread grass seed in three locations to evaluate whether the species would establish in the revegetation areas.
- Completed diffuse knapweed mapping.

- Began wetland monitoring.

Site Monitoring & Maintenance

- Evaluated and photographed the South Interceptor Ditch for erosion potential.
- Flagged and logged GPS positions for possible locations to put erosion controls on the 903 Lip Area.
- Installed approximately 2,200 feet of erosion control wattles in the Original Landfill functional channel 1 area.
- Landfills – there were no significant changes to report.

Cook Case – Appeals Court Reverses Jury Decision

In early September, a federal appeals court threw out a 2006 jury verdict that had awarded homeowners east of Rocky Flats \$926 million for damages suffered as a result of their proximity to Rocky Flats. The appeals court ruled that the jury instructions incorrectly stated the law. As reported in the Associated Press, “The judges wrote that the presence of plutonium on properties south of Rocky Flats, which closed in 1989 for safety and environmental reasons, at best shows only a risk, not actual damages.”

Site Document Update

Update to Contact Record: 2010-06, *Monitoring Results at Surface Water Point of Evaluation (POE) SW027*

DOE has posted the “Report of steps taken regarding monitoring results at surface water point of evaluation (POE) SW027, August 31, 2010” to the Contact Records page of the Rocky Flats Legacy Management website: http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/ContactRecords.aspx

This report provides the status of the actions taken as outlined in Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement (RFLMA) Contact Record CR 2010-06, which addressed an anticipated plutonium exceedance of the 12-month-rolling-average surface water compliance standard set by RFLMA (0.15 pCi/l for Pu). A summary of CR 2010-06 was provided in the July Stewardship Council monthly update.

As you may recall, SW027 is at the eastern end of the South Interceptor Ditch (SID) before it empties into pond C-2. During spring runoff water began to flow in the SID and flow-paced composite water samples were collected for analysis. Unfortunately, the water flow ceased at SW027 in mid-June before enough water could be obtained for a complete testing of all required analytes. Based on preliminary test results it was anticipated that Pu would slightly exceed the regulatory standard of 0.15 pCi/l with a non-validated value of 0.16 pCi/l. SW027 is a POE and DOE must notify the regulators of any exceedances. The RFLMA parties met and determined what investigative steps were needed to determine the possible source of the elevated Pu value. CR 2010-06 outlined possible future actions.

DOE inspected the drainage areas upstream from SW027 and also received elevated Pu results from another monitoring location near the former 903 Pad. More than likely, the elevated Pu levels were due to runoff from the 903 Pad area, which underwent significant remediation in 2004-2005. (It is important to note that, according to DOE, although SW027 had an elevated Pu

level, there was minimal impact to the water quality of Pond C-2. Pre-discharge samples for C-2 were analyzed and the water met all water quality standards. Pond C-2 was discharged into Woman Creek in late July and early August.)

Based on DOE's investigation the RFLMA parties agreed to the following:

- Install erosion matting and interseed in localized areas where vegetation cover is sparse;
- Install erosion control wattles in certain drainages;
- Reseed in localized areas in the SID where wetland vegetation no longer thrives; and,
- Evaluate placement of erosion matting in localized areas of the SID and install any recommended matting when conditions are appropriate (likely in late winter or early spring).

Note: When the report was released on 8/31/10, there was still not enough water for a complete set of analyses. The RFLMA parties agreed that at the end of September if there was still an inadequate amount of water they would make a decision about whether to analyze what they had or wait until perhaps spring runoff. At a meeting on 10/4/10, the RFLMA parties decided to perform analyses on priority analytes. Pu/Am will be analyzed first. There will be enough water for a back-up analysis if needed. If not needed, then U will be analyzed. Depending on how much water is left, certain metals may or may not be analyzed.

Stewardship Council update:

Next meetings:

November 8th (2nd Monday)

February 7, 2011