

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 2000-2

to the U.S. Department of Energy

Comments on the Actinide Migration Evaluation Fiscal Year 2000 Activities

Approved February 3, 2000

RFCAB, through its AME TRG, has prepared the following comments and recommendations for consideration by DOE, Kaiser-Hill, and the AME Group. RFCAB requests that DOE consider and respond to the comments in a timely manner.

Background:

The Actinide Migration Studies Technical Review Group (TRG) was formed in 1998 as a semi-autonomous sub-committee of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board to provide independent public oversight to the Actinide Migration Evaluation (AME) being performed at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. The TRG has completed a review of the AME FY00 scope of activities. The TRG would like to recommend that the site consider performing the following activities this year, in addition to the activities described in the Fiscal Year 2000 Activities document:

Comments and Recommendations:

- Should a prescribed burn occur at the site, DOE, K-H, and the AME group should consider sampling and analyzing the vegetation, soils, air, and runoff from the proposed prescribed burn plots to be burned this spring. Sampling should be site-specific and should include samples that are representative of conditions before, during, and after the prescribed burn. At the last AME public meeting, the AME group discussed a number of possible outcomes to the application of fire regarding the soil stability. The discussions included speculation that fire could strengthen the soil bonds and reduce the resuspension and runoff of Pu contaminants. The discussion also speculated that a fire might destroy organic bonds in the soils and enhance Pu contamination in runoff and resuspended soils. The TRG feels that knowledge of these processes as a result of fire would be very beneficial to the understanding of Pu migration.
- The site should also consider using information from the above sampling as inputs in the watershed erosion and sediment transport modeling as well as the air transport and deposition modeling. The knowledge gained from the above sampling would greatly reduce the uncertainties

in the use of assumptions for these modeling efforts under fire scenarios.

- The site should consider expanding on the work being performed by Jeff Myers on soil Kriging. The site should consider applying Multiple Indicator Kriging techniques to determine the probabilities for the occurrence of hot spots at the site. Although the results may not be advantageous to the AME studies directly, the results will be crucial for environmental remediation in the buffer zone and the delisting of RFETS from the National Priorities List (the ultimate goal of RFETS cleanup efforts). This effort could possibly be funded under programs other than AME.
- Finally, the TRG would like the site to prepare a matrix identifying which activities rely on information from the AME. The matrix should provide the TRG insight into the prioritization of AME studies and will help the TRG to ensure that the AME group retains its focus on the application of the evaluation's results. The matrix should include current and planned AME out-year activities.

The TRG requests that DOE, Kaiser-Hill, and the AME group consider these recommendations. A timely response is requested.

Dr. Gerald DePoorter, Co-Chair

Dr. LeRoy Moore, Co-Chair

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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