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## Rocky Flats Site, Colorado, Legacy Management Public Involvement Plan

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# Abbreviations

CAD	Corrective Action Decision
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
GEMS	Geospatial Environmental Mapping System
LM	Office of Legacy Management
RFCA	Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement
RFLMA	Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement
RFSC	Rocky Flats Stewardship Council (Local Stakeholder Organization)
ROD	Record of Decision

## 1.0 Introduction

The Rocky Flats Site (Rocky Flats) is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM). The LM mission is to effectively and efficiently manage the environmental and human legacy issues related to the U.S. Government's Cold War nuclear weapons program for current and future generations.

This Legacy Management Public Involvement Plan follows DOE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance on public participation and outlines the methods of public involvement and communication used to inform the public of site conditions and activities. Additional communications or notifications to stakeholders not specified in this plan may be addressed in other documents. This plan will be updated as appropriate to address public involvement activities.

## 2.0 Site Description and Background

The Rocky Flats Plant was established in 1951 to produce plutonium and uranium components used in nuclear weapons. From 1953 until 1992, the mission of the Rocky Flats Plant was the production of nuclear weapons components.

Nuclear weapons production continued at Rocky Flats until 1989. Rocky Flats officially became a closure site in 1992 following the collapse of the former Soviet Union. The final mission of the Rocky Flats Closure Project was the safe cleanup and closure of the entire former nuclear weapons production site in compliance with the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA).

The site consisted of approximately 6,200 acres in northern Jefferson County, Colorado, approximately 16 miles northwest of Denver and near or adjacent to the communities of Boulder, Broomfield, Westminster, Arvada, Superior, and Golden. It is situated on a plateau at the eastern edge of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains at an elevation of about 6,000 feet.

The site was divided into three geographic areas, each fenced and protected by security forces. The Industrial Area, consisting of 384 acres, was located in the center of the property. There were more than 800 structures in the industrial area that included approximately 150 permanent buildings and 90 trailers, plus temporary structures, sheds, tanks, and annexes to larger buildings. The Protected Area was located within the northern portion of the industrial area and contained a complex of plutonium production facilities. This area was heavily fenced and guarded. The Buffer Zone, the remaining 5,800 acres, surrounded and protected the industrial area from potential encroachment.

Cleanup and closure was completed in October 2005, at a total cost of approximately \$7 billion. DOE retains approximately 1,300 acres in the Central Operable Unit, which includes the former industrial area, for long-term legacy management. The bulk of the former Buffer Zone, approximately 4,000 acres, transitioned to a National Wildlife Refuge under the auspices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in July 2007.

## 3.0 Regulatory Framework

Because environmental investigations indicated that operations at Rocky Flats resulted in the release of materials defined as hazardous substances, contaminants, and pollutants by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as well as hazardous wastes and waste constituents as defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Colorado Hazardous Waste Act (CHWA), Rocky Flats was listed on EPA's National Priorities List in 1989.

The RFCA, signed in 1996, provided the environmental regulatory framework for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats. RFCA was negotiated among DOE, EPA, and the State of Colorado. RFCA initiated the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, a comprehensive environmental investigation conducted at Rocky Flats to identify the nature and extent of contamination and to determine the best cleanup solutions. The Corrective Action Decision/Record of Decision (CAD/ROD) determined the final action or remedy for the site.

The *Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement* (RFLMA), signed in 2007, provides the regulatory framework to implement the terms of the CAD/ROD. The parties to RFLMA are DOE and the regulatory authorities, the State of Colorado (Department of Public Health and Environment) and EPA. RFLMA provides that DOE shall maintain and implement the Legacy Management Public Involvement Plan in a manner that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act, CERCLA, RCRA, and CHWA.

A periodic review of the remedy is required by CERCLA. This review will take place at least every 5 years and will determine whether the remedy at Rocky Flats remains protective of human health and the environment or if DOE needs to take additional actions. Reviews were completed in 2002 and 2007 and the next review will be conducted in 2012. Completed reviews are available on the LM website.

## 4.0 Community Profile

Rocky Flats is located in the highly populated Denver Metropolitan area, which has an estimated population of 3 million residents within a 50-mile radius of the site. Figure 1 shows a location map of the site and vicinity.

The site was a self-contained concentration of industrial buildings surrounded by ranch land, preserved open space, mining areas, and a low-density residential area. However, mixed residential and commercial developments have been constructed or are planned for future construction close to the site. Along the Front Range, Jefferson and Boulder Counties have been taking steps to add to their open space purchases as well.

Recreational activities in the surrounding area include hiking, biking, boating, and fishing. The Boulder open space area also has horseback riding trails just northwest of the site.

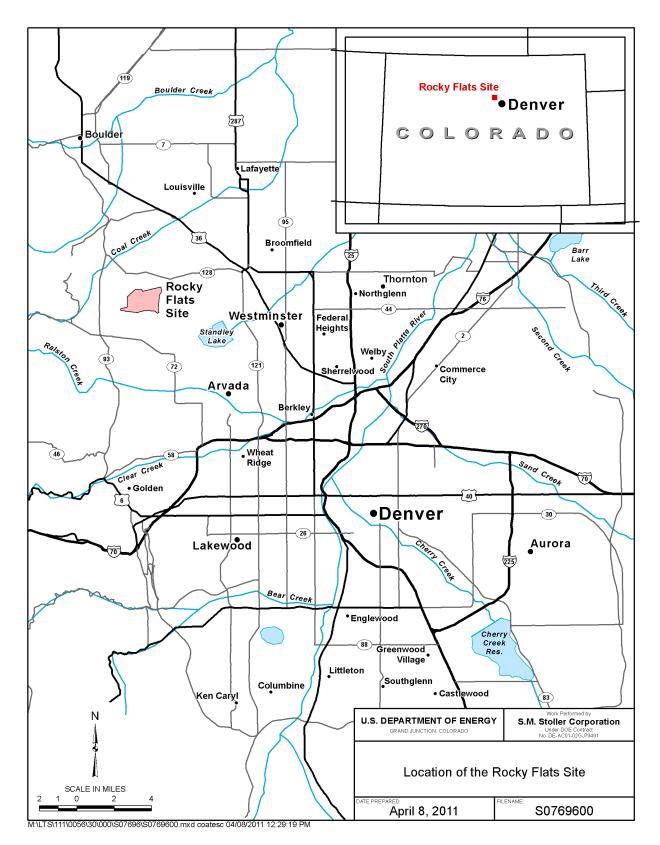


Figure 1. Rocky Flats Site Location Map

## 5.0 Stakeholders

DOE recognizes that stakeholders may be any individuals, groups, host communities, and other entities in the public and private sectors that are interested in or affected by any of DOE's activities and decisions. At Rocky Flats, stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- Residents of Boulder County, City and County of Broomfield, Jefferson County, City of Arvada, City of Boulder, City of Golden, City of Northglenn, Town of Superior, and City of Westminster.
- Local governments.
- State agencies.
- Elected State of Colorado officials.
- Federal agencies.
- Congressional delegations.
- Local media.
- Local educational institutions.
- Environmental organizations.
- Business owners.
- Service organizations.
- Retired Rocky Flats workers.
- Other interested individuals.

## 6.0 Roles and Responsibilities

The LM mission is to fulfill DOE's post-closure responsibilities at former nuclear sites and ensure the future protection of human health and the environment. The primary goals of the office are to:

- Protect human health and the environment.
- Preserve, protect, and share records and information.
- Meet commitments to the contractor workforce.
- Optimize the use of land and assets.
- Sustain management excellence.

At Rocky Flats, LM is responsible for the management of land retained by DOE and for compliance with the long-term requirements outlined in the RFLMA. Legacy management refers to all activities necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment in perpetuity following completion of cleanup, disposal, or stabilization at a site or portion of a site. These activities include maintaining all engineered and institutional controls designed to contain or to prevent exposure to residual contamination and waste; recordkeeping activities; inspections to evaluate the condition of surface features; groundwater and surface water monitoring;

maintenance of other barriers and contained structures; access control; emergency response; and posting signs.

# 7.0 Public Participation

Public participation activities are conducted to actively inform the public about Rocky Flats activities and the preparation of documents to provide opportunities for open, ongoing, two-way communication. LM will actively seek, consider, and in a timely manner respond to the views of its stakeholders, ensuring that they have an opportunity to provide input to LM's decision-making process.

The primary methods of providing information to the public are the LM public website and electronic communications. Engaged stakeholders, defined as those members of the public who have indicated their interest in receiving LM communications and have provided LM with an e-mail address, will be notified by e-mail of availability of LM documents, scheduled meetings, postings to the LM website, and other information of interest to the public.

When site conditions warrant entering the consultative process with the regulatory authorities as described in the RFLMA, LM will initiate a contact record of discussions between LM and the regulatory agencies. Contact records will be made available to the public on the LM website as early in the process as is practicable following signature approval by the parties. Engaged stakeholders will be notified of contact record postings by e-mail. Additional dialogue with the public will also be established as warranted by the nature of the conditions or by the level of interest.

The Rocky Flats Stewardship Council (RFSC) is a Local Stakeholders Organization that was legislated by Congress in 2005 and established by LM in 2006 to support and enhance two-way communication between LM and the public. LM may, at its discretion, utilize the RFSC to host public meetings, distribute LM communications, solicit public input, and otherwise provide an additional forum for public communication.

The following are general descriptions of LM's public participation activities.

### 7.1 **Public Meetings**

LM will conduct periodic public meetings to discuss implementation of the remedy and other site activities. These meetings will provide information about activities being conducted at the site and will present the results of site inspections, monitoring, and maintenance. The RFSC currently supports LM public communication by hosting meetings on a quarterly basis where LM reports on monitoring and maintenance activities.

Additional public meetings may be conducted as warranted. LM will post notification of such public meetings on the LM website and distribute electronic notification to engaged stakeholders and the local media. LM may also utilize paid advertising in local media to publicize public meetings of broad community interest.

LM also welcomes direct communication concerning Rocky Flats at any time. Stakeholders may contact the LM site manager or Rocky Flats Public Affairs representative (contact information is in Appendix A). Direct communication may include technical discussions and briefings as requested. Attendance at such technical discussions and briefings is not restricted, and they are open to any interested stakeholder.

### 7.2 Internet Website

LM will maintain a webpage at http://www.lm.doe.gov/land/sites/co/rocky\_flats/rocky.htm for Rocky Flats and will post site documents and make available online key documents associated with the remedy. DOE will notify engaged stakeholders by e-mail of document availability when posted.

LM designed the Geospatial Environmental Mapping System (GEMS) to provide dynamic mapping and environmental monitoring data display for LM sites. Stakeholders can use GEMS to view a map of a site, photographs, and water-quality and water-level data. Water-quality and water-level data are available in table and graph formats. A GEMS site for Rocky Flats is accessible through a link on the LM Rocky Flats webpage.

## 7.3 Administrative Record

In accordance with Title 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 300.810 and the RFCA, DOE established and maintains an Administrative Record for Rocky Flats. The Administrative Record includes the documents that formed the basis for the selection of the final action, or remedy, such as guidance documents, evaluations, and data; notices of public comment periods; public comments; decision documents; and enforcement orders. LM also established and maintains a post-closure Administrative Record file to document ongoing remedy related decisions and activities under RFLMA.

An electronic, digitized copy of the Administrative Record is available on the LM Rocky Flats website. Copies of documents in the Administrative Record may also be obtained by accessing a link on the Administrative Record webpage or contacting the Rocky Flats Public Affairs representative (contact information located in Appendix A).

## 7.4 Documents for Public Review and Comment

LM will provide opportunities for stakeholders to review and comment on documents as required by RFLMA and as appropriate for those activities not regulated by RFLMA. These documents will be posted on the LM Rocky Flats website and collected and maintained in a site file or appropriate Administrative Record. The RFLMA explains how DOE will fulfill its operation, monitoring, and maintenance obligation at the site. An Annual Report and three quarterly reports addressing site monitoring and maintenance activities at Rocky Flats will be posted on the LM website. Engaged stakeholders will be notified of document availability by e-mail distribution.

### 7.5 News Releases and Community Advisories

LM will issue news releases or community advisories regarding LM documents or significant monitoring and maintenance activities. These news releases or advisories will be distributed to news media and other engaged stakeholders and will be posted on the LM website.

#### 7.6 **Publications**

LM will prepare fact sheets and other informational documents as needed to describe LM monitoring and maintenance activities. These documents will be posted on the LM Rocky Flats webpage.

#### 7.7 Speakers Bureau

The LM representative or designee will give presentations on Rocky Flats as requested.

#### 7.8 Contact Database

LM maintains a contact database of stakeholders associated with LM sites.

#### 7.9 Site Tours

LM will conduct stakeholder and media tours of the Central Operable Unit on a limited basis.

Appendix A

**Information Contacts** 

DOE Office of Legacy Management								
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