

REVISED DRAFT

Federal Register Notice for

Site Characterization Field Work in Operable Units 3, 4, 7 and 9

That Will Take Place in a Floodplain

AGENCY: Department of Energy

ACTION: Notification of a Proposed Action in a Floodplain

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy proposes a project at the Rocky Flats Plant (RFP), located north of Golden, CO, portions of which will take place within 100-year floodplains. The project is the collection of surface water, ground water, soil, sediment and air samples to identify the nature and extent of contamination as part of clean-up actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. In addition, field surveys and sampling of terrestrial and aquatic biota will be conducted. The site characterization work will be located in Operable Unit (OU) 3 (Off-site Areas), OU 4 (Solar Evaporation Ponds), OU 7 (Present Landfill) and OU 9 (Original Process Waste Lines) and will start in early 1992. Most of the work is expected to be carried out during 1992, though some will continue into 1993 and later. It is possible that work in OU 4, scheduled for 1992, may be delayed until as late as the decontamination and decommissioning of RFP.

The site characterization work that will take place in floodplains consists of the following:

Six vertical soil profile trenches, each approximately 9 feet long, 5 feet wide and 4 feet deep, will be dug by backhoe in OU 3 to obtain soil samples. Such trenches are typically dug and backfilled in a day. Approximately 1,500 two-to-three tablespoon soil samples will be taken from the top one-quarter inch of ground at locations within 12 miles of RFP as part of the OU 3 program. Approximately 35 soil samples will be collected from a depth of up to one inch at sites in OU 4. Soil samples will be taken from depths of 2-to-3 inches at 12 locations in OU 7.

Sediment samples will be taken from the bottoms of streams, ditches, ponds and reservoirs at or near RFP for the OU 3 and OU 7 programs. Surface water samples will be obtained from various water bodies on and near the Plant for OU 3 and OU 7. Ground water samples will be collected from new and existing monitoring wells for OU 3 on and off the RFP site. A total of eight wells/boreholes will be drilled to obtain ground water and/or soil samples in OUs 3 and 4. Typical wells and boreholes are 6 inches in diameter and 15 to 60 feet deep, though some may be deeper.

Also at OU 3, air sampling and meteorological monitoring stations will be established and operated. Two air sampling stations and 2 six-meter meteorological towers will be located in the environs of Standley Lake, southeast of RFP, for the OU 3 program. Tests will be conducted with small and medium-sized portable wind tunnels on exposed areas of the Standley Lake bed to identify the ability of winds at various speeds to pick up and transport exposed sediments.

Samples of flora and fauna will be collected at various locations in OUs 3, 4, 7 and 9. A radiological survey will be conducted in the area of OU 4 using hand-held instruments. Finally, excavations may be made in the South Walnut Creek floodplain to locate and investigate possible buried pipelines as part of OU 9.

DATED: Comments are due on or before XXXX.

ADDRESSES: Address comments to: OUs 3, 4 and 9 Floodplain Comments, Beth Brainard, Public Affairs Office, U. S. Department of Energy, Rocky Flats Office, P. O. Box 928, Golden, CO 80402-0928; telephone (303) 966-5993.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beth Brainard, Public Affairs Office, U. S. Department of Energy, Rocky Flats Office, P. O. Box 928, Golden, CO 80402-0928; telephone (303) 966-5993.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maps showing locations of the site characterization activities are available on request.

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