

Attachment 1

Text for *Federal Register* Notice for Wetland/Floodplain Involvement for IAG Site Characterization Activities for OUs 1, 2, 5 and 6

Wetland/ Floodplain Involvement Notification for Site Characterization Activities at OUs 1, 2, 5 and 6 at DOE's Rocky Flats Plant near Golden, CO

AGENCY:

Department of Energy

ACTION:

Notice of Wetland/Floodplain Involvement

SUMMARY:

The Department of Energy proposes to carry out site characterization activities, some of which will be within floodplains and/or wetlands, at its Rocky Flats Plant (RFP) north of Golden, CO. The activities will occur in operable units 1 (881 Hillside), 2 (903 Area), 5 (Woman Creek) and 6 (Walnut Creek) located south and east of the developed area of RFP. The site characterization activities that may be in floodplains and/or wetlands consist of 1) locating new surface water and sediment sampling stations, 2) establishing soil sample sites, 3) drilling of new wells and boreholes and 4) collection of surface water, groundwater, sediment, soil and soil gas samples.

Locating new surface water and sediment sampling stations consists of driving a stake in the ground to mark a spot which can be returned to for future sample collection.

Establishing soil sample sites includes one of two procedures. One is to simply determine the point from which small (two-to-three tablespoons) of surficial soil will be collected. Surficial soil sampling sites may be located anywhere there is soil. The second is digging with a backhoe pits that are nine feet long, five feet wide and four feet deep. These pits are dug and backfilled within a day. Soil sampling pits may be located within a floodplain but are typically not located in wetland areas. Exact locations of soil sampling sites have not yet been fixed.

Drilling new wells and boreholes involves driving a drilling rig to the designated site, drilling the hole (typically within a day) and leaving. Wells and boreholes are characteristically four-to-six inches in diameter. As the drill bit advances, drill cuttings are brought to the surface and shoveled into 55-gallon drums for analysis of any contaminants, storage and ultimate disposal. When drilling is completed, the surface evidence of the activity is downed vegetation around the immediate site and a six-inch plastic pipe sticking two-to-three feet above the ground. Soil sampling pits may be located within a floodplain but are typically not located in wetland areas. Exact locations of soil sampling sites have not yet been fixed. Surficial soil sampling sites may be located anywhere there is soil. Some existing and proposed wells and boreholes are/will be in floodplains. Typically, wetlands will be avoided, but it is possible that some new wells and/or boreholes also will be in, or on the edge of, wetlands. If this occurs, the surface evidence of the drilling will be the same as in dryland areas: downed vegetation and a length of plastic pipe sticking above the surface. Because wetlands at RFP tend to be linear or very small, it will not be necessary to drive drilling rigs into or across wetlands areas to reach desired drilling sites.

Collection of samples consists of driving or walking to a sampling location or well and collecting up to a few pounds of the desired medium. Sampling may be done on a weekly, monthly, quarterly or irregular basis. All existing and proposed surface water and sediment sampling stations are located in a floodplain and most are located in wetland areas.

