Rocky Flats

DOE Public Affairs 966 5993
Community Relations 966-5754

Information

Plan for Prevention of Contaminant Dispersion

The *Plan for Prevention of Contaminant Dispersion* (PPCD) is a document that addresses the potential release of contaminants into the air from environmental investigation and interim remedial activities at the Rocky Flats Plant (RFP) Also the PPCD outlines contaminant control procedures and establishes air monitoring programs

The primary objective of the Plan is to provide a means of conducting safe operations that protect the public and the environment The Plan was prepared by the U.S Department of Energy (DOE) in cooperation with the U S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the Colorado Department of Health (CDH) and EG&G

Background

The Rocky Flats Plant is a facility in the federal government's nationwide nuclear weapons research development and production complex The plant is situated on 6,550 acres of federal property 16 miles northwest of downtown Denver Colorado It supports the nuclear weapons program and other work related to national defense with processing capabilities for the fabrication of weapons components from plutonium uranium beryllium and stainless steel The plant also plays a key role in the decommissioning and maintenance of nuclear weapons and would be instrumental in the implementation of any future arms reduction agreements

The plant is managed and operated by EG&G Rocky Flats Inc a contractor to DOE In January 1991 EPA and CDH entered into an Interagency Agreement (IAG) with DOE to ensure thorough investigation of the environmental impacts of past practices at RFP and to develop appropriate remedial actions

Operations at RFP generate nonhazardous hazardous radioactive and mixed radioactive waste Past waste management techniques were not as rigorous or technologically advanced as they are today As a result certain areas at RFP have been contaminated One hundred seventy eight locations at RFP have been identified as potentially contaminated. Each of these sites is called an Individual Hazardous Substance Site (IHSS)

The IHSSs have been consolidated into 16 Operable Units (OUs) Each of the OUs is being evaluated for identification of hazardous materials determination of their concentrations and the extent of contamination All of the OUs are slated for study and if necessary cleanup according to ranking priority as defined in the IAG

The Plan

The *Plan for Prevention of Contaminant Dispersion* has been developed to make sure that the public is adequately protected from potential health risks associated with IHSS evaluation activities at RFP These types of activities could include

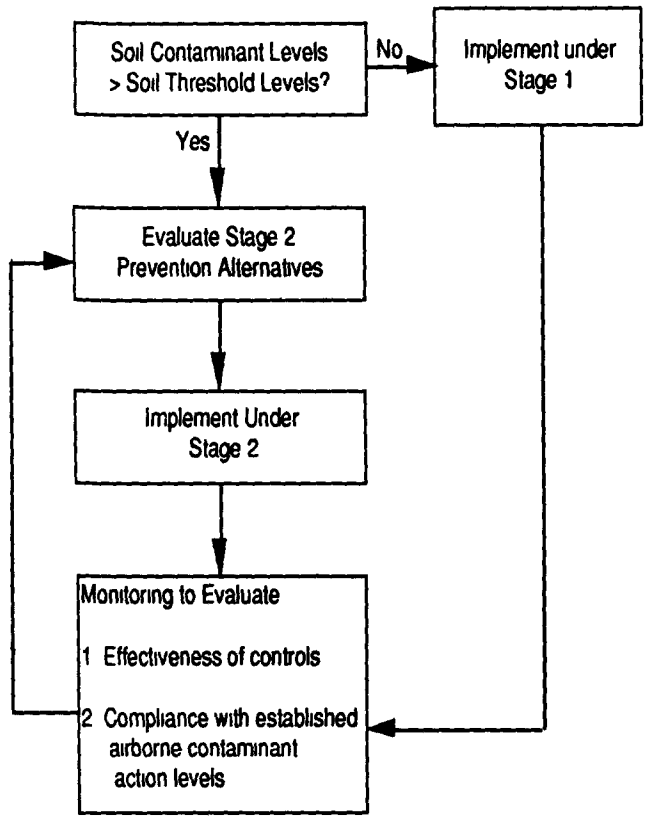
- Monitoring well installation
- Moving earth
- Traffic on dirt roads

The PPCD defines these activities as intrusive The concern is that there is a possibility of contaminated dust emitting into the air as a result of these activities and traveling uncontrolled The PPCD institutes standards and control procedures establishes monitoring programs to verify the effectiveness of procedures and establishes a decision process (see diagram) to specify actions for preventing a hazardous

ADMIN RECORD A-SW-000076

or dangerous material release into the air

The PPCD is a primary document required by the IAG Until the final PPCD is approved an interim PPCD (IPPCD) is in effect governing remedial activi ies at RFP



Implementation of the PPCD

Controls and Monitoring

Investigative and/or interim remedial activities at RFP fall into two categories of controlled operations Stage 1 or Stage 2 A particular activity would be classified as either Stage 1 or 2 based on the contami nant concentrations in the soil at that site Soil con tamination thresholds have been established using risk assessment processes and computerized disper sion models These thresholds are the levels of contaminant concentrations which if emitted into the air as a result of intrusive activities will not present a health threat to the public above the risk assessment guidelines established by EPA Therefore at a par ticular site if the concentrations of contaminants in the soil fall below the soil thresholds Stage 1 dust suppression techniques will be used If the soil concentrations are above the soil thresholds then Stage 2 dust suppression techniques will be used

Stage 1

As stated above Stage 1 activity sites have soil data indicating contaminant concentrations below estab lished thresholds Routine Stage 1 control measures used to prevent contaminants from being emitted into the air include

- Setting wind speed limits under which to conduct work
- Spraying the contaminated soil with water
- Covering the soil
- Decontaminating equipment prior to relocation
- Establishing speed limits on dirt roads

Real time (or immediate) air monitoring techniques will be used during intrusive activities at all sites Field technicians will use proven and reliable instru mentation to make sure that airborne contaminants do not exceed safe concentration levels If a reading above acceptable levels is reached work stops The decision process as outlined in the diagram will be used by the project manager to determine whether or not Stage 1 controls are adequate If they are not the project manager will implement Stage 2 controls Work will resume only when conditions that trig gered the stoppage have been reduced and controlled

Most of the work conducted under the PPCD will require only Stage 1 control measures As a precau tion however controls and procedures will be con stantly monitored and evaluated for effectiveness

Stage 2

Stage 2 activity sites have higher soil contaminant concentration levels than those in Stage 1 In addition to Stage 1 control measures more stringent controls are required to maintain acceptable airborne action levels Stage 2 dust suppression controls include

- Extensive soil wetting
- Wind screens
- Paving over dirt roads
- Use of nonhazardous chemical dust suppressants
  More frequent air monitoring
  Enclosures

Also high volume (Hi Vol) air samplers located at each activity site will provide average concentration data for Stage 2 work areas Analysis results from Hi Vols will provide long term air quality information to verify the effectiveness of controls These Hi Vols are in addition to 24 air monitors on plantsite and 28 around the perimeter of RFP and in neighboring communities This system conducts continuous sampling of outdoor air and is independently verified by CDH

Status of the Plan

The PPCD is undergoing a 60-day public comment period that began on July 30 1991 and ends Septem ber 27 1991 Written comments can be directed to

PPCD Comments
Beth Brainard Public Affairs Officer
U S Department of Energy Rocky Flats Office
P O Box 928
Golden Colorado 80402-0928

A Public Information Workshop will be held on Tuesday August 13 A Public Comment Meeting will be held on Thursday September 5 Both meetings will be from 7 00 to 9 00 p m and will be at the Westminster Recreation Center 10455 Sheridan Boulevard Westminster Colorado

Copies of the plan are available for review at the following public reading rooms

U S Environmental Protection Agency
Superfund Records Center
999 18th Street 5th Floor
Denver Colorado 80202 2405
303 293-1842

U S Department of Energy
Public Reading Room
Front Range Community College Library
3645 West 112th Avenue
Westminster Colorado 80030
303-469-4435

Colorado Department of Health
4210 East 11th Avenue
Room 351
Denver Colorado 80220
303 331-6733

Rocky Flats Environmental Monitoring Council
1536 Cole Boulevard
Suite 150 Building 4
Denver West Office Park
Golden Colorado 80401
303 232 1966-by appointment only

United States Department of Energy
Freedom of Information Office
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20585
202 586-6025

For more information about the ***Plan for Prevention of Contaminant Dispersion*** contact

Teresa Mikulsky
Community Relations EG&G Rocky Flats
P O Box 464 Building T130F
Golden CO 80402-0464
(303) 966-5754

August 1991