Information Repositories

The following information repositories contain current information technical reports and reference documents on environmental restoration at the Rocky Flats Plant

Rocky Flats Public Reading Room
Front Range Community College Level B Center of Building
3645 West 112th Avenue
Westminster Colorado 80030
303–469 4435
Hours Monday – Tuesday 12 00 p m – 8 00 p m
Wednesday 10 00 a m – 4 00 p m
Thursday – Friday 9 00 a m – 4 00 p m

Rocky Flats Environmental Monitoring Council
1536 Cole Boulevard Suite 150
Denver West Office Park Building 4
Golden Colorado 80401
303–232 1966
Hours By Appointment

EPA Superfund Records Center
999 18th Street Suite 500
Denver Colorado 80202
303–293 1807
Hours Monday – Friday 7 30 a m – 4 30 p m

Colorado Department of Health
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division
4210 East 11th Avenue Room 351
Denver Colorado 80220
303–331 4830
Hours Monday – Friday 8 00 a m – 5 00 p m

Calendar Of Events

Rocky Flats Environmental Monitoring Council meetings January 29 and February 26 1991 Front Range Community College Student Lounge 7 00 p m (see address to left)

Scoping period on the Complex wide Environmental Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement runs through February 19 1991

Public scoping meeting on the Complex wide Environmental Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement January 23 1991 Westminster City Park Recreation Center 10455 N Sheridan Boulevard Westminster 9 00 a m – 9 30 p m

Public information meeting to discuss EISs January 17 1991 Arvada City Council Chambers 8101 Ralston Road Arvada 7 00 p m – 9 00 p m

Public comment period on Draft Community Relations Plan begins January 30 1991 Send comments to Beth Brainard U S DOE P O Box 928 Golden Colorado 80402 0928

General Rocky Flats Plant tours February 11 and March 11 1991 Please call 303 966 5870 one week in advance for reservations

Printed on recycled paper

Published by EG&G Rocky Flats Inc **Community Relations** P O Box 464 Golden CO 80402 0464 for the U S Department of Energy Contract No DE AC04 90DP62349 Telephone 303–966 5754 for general information or 303 966 6159 to place your name on the mailing list ■

EG&G Rocky Flats Inc
P O Box 464
Golden CO 80402 0464

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY · UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ROCKY FLATS
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION UPDATE

EG&G

A PERIODIC UPDATE ON ROCKY FLATS CLEANUP JANUARY 1991

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is the nation s most comprehensive legislative and public policy statement on protection of the environment Under this policy the federal government is directed to consider the general welfare of the environment in all of its actions An important method by which NEPA promotes consideration of environmental concerns is requiring federal agencies to prepare a detailed evaluation called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the potential impacts of any proposed federal action that may significantly affect the quality of the environment

The primary regulations governing NEPA also require among many other things that NEPA procedures ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken Because of NEPA procedural objectives and the extensive public involvement requirements NEPA has often been referred to as a public disclosure law

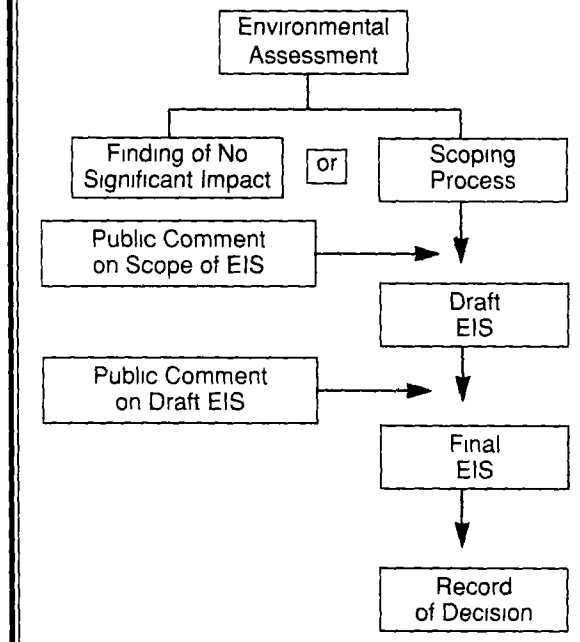
Under NEPA considerations when any federal action is proposed that may have a major significant impact on the environment which can range from constructing a bridge to passing legislation to performing environmental restoration (cleanup) work the following sequence of events generally occurs

An **Environmental Assessment (EA)** is conducted to study the impacts of the proposed action alternatives to that particular action and whether the proposed action or its alternatives may create significant enough environmental impact to warrant an EIS

If the EA reveals that the action would generate no significant impact to the environment then a **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)** is issued

On the other hand if the EA reveals that the action may create the potential for environmental impact the need to prepare an EIS is warranted If an EIS is called for a **scoping process** follows that allows for federal agencies the public and other interested parties to comment on what the focus design content and scope of the EIS should entail DOE publishes a **Notice of Intent (NOI)** in the *Federal Register* describing the proposed action and declaring an intent to hold a 30 day scoping period for the EIS Scoping periods generally include one or more scoping meetings which are announced in the NOI Participants at scoping meetings are encouraged to raise and discuss environmental issues that relate to the proposed action Written comments on the proposed EIS are also accepted and considered in determining the scope of the EIS

The NEPA EIS Process



ADMIN RECORD

January 23 Date Set for PEIS Meeting

DOE invites residents to a public scoping meeting to be held on Wednesday January 23 1991 at 7 00 p m at the Westminster City Park Recreation Center 10455 N Sheridan Boulevard Westminster This meeting is one of many being held throughout the country as part of the scoping process for the Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (the Environmental Management PEIS) for DOE s nuclear weapons facilities

Historically DOE environmental restoration and waste management operations have been conducted on a site by site basis but this practice has led to differing approaches to cleanup and waste management among DOE sites Waste management responsibilities at DOE facilities have therefore been consolidated into an environmental restoration and waste management program that establishes a consistent approach to programmatic requirements and practices The goal of this program is to mitigate potential risks to human health and the environment posed by wastes under DOE s jurisdiction

The nationwide series of meetings is designed to encourage public input on the scope of the Environmental Management PEIS The comment period for the Environmental Management PEIS runs from October 22 1990 until February 19 1991 Comments on the proposed scope of this PEIS are invited from all citizens concerning 1) the

NEPA and EIS (continued)

Based on input garnered during the scoping process DOE issues a **Draft EIS** which provides avenues to fully analyze the impacts of the proposed action and its alternatives This Draft EIS is a detailed statement addressing the environmental impact of a proposed action and alternatives to that action any unavoidable adverse environmental effects the relationship between local short term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long term productivity and the irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources inherent in the proposed action Federal agencies state and local governmental organizations affected Indian Nations special interest groups and the public are encouraged to submit written comments on the Draft EIS during a comment period lasting at least 60 days One or more public hearings are also held on the Draft EIS to receive oral comments

After the close of the public comment period on the Draft EIS DOE considers all written and oral comments and prepares the **Final EIS** The Final EIS also contains explicit DOE responses to comments made on the Draft EIS

Finally a **Record of Decision (ROD)** is issued announcing DOE s decision about the proposed action and its alternatives

Major types of DOE EISs currently under way include the following

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) A PEIS is intended to address nationwide environmental policy issues and procedures associated with specific DOE programs and to provide the primary basis for broad decisions related to topic such as waste management methods and technologies A PEIS is currently under way to analyze the potential environmental impacts of DOE environmental restoration and waste management activities at all DOE facilities throughout the United States

Site Wide Environmental Impact Statement A site wide EIS focuses on the facilitie and activities at a single DOE site such as RFP in an attempt to assess the past present future and cumulative impacts of all actions at that site

Project Specific Environmental Impact Statement A project specific EIS focuses on an individual project within a DOE site

To eliminate repetition and ensure consistency project specific EISs shall incorporate by reference the applicable portions of overlapping programmatic or site wide EISs but concentrate solely on the issues unique to a project

Presently RFP is involved in four different DOE initiated EISs

A **Programmatic EIS for DOE s Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Nationwide** is currently in the scoping process The Notice of Intent was issued on October 22 1990 (See related article in this *Update*)

A **Programmatic EIS for Reconfiguration** (modernization) of DOE s nationwide nuclear weapons complex is currently in the planning phase and the Notice of Intent is scheduled to be issued early in 1991

A Site Wide EIS for RFP is currently in the planning phase and the Notice of Intent is scheduled to be issued early in 1991

A **Project Specific EIS for the Plutonium Recovery Modification Project (PRMP)** involves the design and construction of a plutonium recovery plant The Notice of Intent was issued on May 30 1990 ■

PEIS (continued)

scope of the PEIS 2) the issues that should be addressed and 3) the alternative approaches that should be investigated in the PEIS

Environmental restoration activities covered by the Environmental Management PEIS include the assessment and physical cleanup of contamination at DOE installations and other properties Also the decontamination and decommissioning or dismantling of DOE s surplus facilities result in large amounts of debris that in addition to the wastes generated from production and research at DOE facilities will require extensive waste management The goal of waste management activities is to perform waste packaging storage treatment and transport functions in the most efficient manner possible while maintaining strict regulatory compliance and protection of human health and the environment

Some of the DOE facilities that require environmental restoration or that generate or store the largest volumes of radioactive hazardous and mixed waste are located at the installations shown on the map on page 3

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this Environmental Management PEIS are addressed the public is invited to comment on the proposed scope of this PEIS at the public scoping meeting or by writing to

Mr W E Wisenbaker Acting Director
Division of Program Support
Office of Environmental Restoration
(EM043)
U S Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue S W
Washington D C 20585

Following completion of the public scoping process a PEIS Implementation Plan will be issued for public review This plan will record the results of the scoping process and define the alternatives and issues to be evaluated in the Environmental Management PEIS DOE expects to complete the Draft Environmental Management PEIS early in 1992 ■

Public Comment Invited on Community Relations Plan

DOE is developing a Community Relations Plan (CRP) to provide a blueprint for involving the public in environmental restoration monitoring and waste management decisions at RFP The principal objectives of the CRP are to

enhance public knowledge about RFP s environmental restoration activities

encourage formal and informal public involvement in environmental efforts at RFP

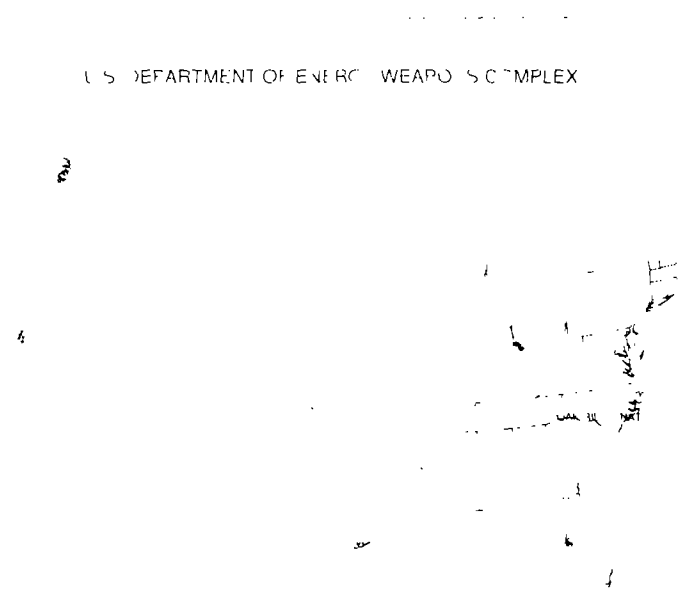
provide a forum for conflict resolution regarding environmental remediation and

meet the community relations requirements for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Interagency Agreement (IAG) Activities under the plan are also intended to meet requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Although RCRA CERCLA NEPA and the IAG provide the framework for the CRP it is tailored to the needs of the communities surrounding RFP Members of the public contributed substantially to the development of the CRP through an extensive interview program conducted from June through October 1990

A 60 day public comment period for the draft CRP will begin January 30 1991 and a public meeting will be scheduled in March 1991 for interested citizens to offer oral comment on the CRP Following revision in response to public comment the CRP will be implemented in August 1991 Copies of the draft CRP will be available for review during the public comment period at the information repositories listed on page 4

Until the CRP is finalized approved and implemented RFP will conduct community relations activities as outlined in the interim CRP Although development of an interim CRP is not required by DOE RFP is doing so in response to requests from the public DOE expects to implement the interim CRP early in 1991 ■



New Documents Available

The following documents are available at the information repositories listed on page 4

Final Background Geochemical Characterization Report (required by the IAG)

Health and Safety Plan Workbook and *Health and Safety Program Plan* (required by the IAG)

Rocky Flats Plant Site Environmental Report – 1989 (call EG&G Community Relations 966 5754 if you would like to obtain a copy) ■

RFP Tours & Speakers Available to Public

Interested parties are encouraged to learn more about the Rocky Flats Plant by taking a public tour or by arranging for an EG&G Rocky Flats employee volunteer to speak to your school professional association civic organization or community group

Speaker presentations are made on a wide variety of topics from a basic overview of RFP to future DOE projects and include such issue as

Environmental restoration
Environmental monitoring
Hazardous waste management
Robotics and automation
Health and safety
Waste minimization

To schedule an RFP speaker call the Speakers Bureau between 7 30 a m and 4 00 p m Monday through Friday at 966 2011 at least one week in advance of your meeting date These presentations are free of charge and are geared to the interests of the audience

If you are interested in visiting RFP you may join one of the general public tours conducted on the second Monday of every month by calling 966 5870 Please call in advance to make a reservation and have your name placed in the visitor log Special group tours may also be arranged at other times All visitors must be US citizens who are at least 12 years old ■