

92 RF 8754

# EG&G ROCKY FLATS

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August 5, 1992

92-RF-8754

Terry A. Vaeth  
Manager  
DOE, RFO

Attn: P. M. Powell

DRAFT FEDERAL REGISTER "NOTICE OF FLOODPLAIN INVOLVEMENT" - EML-0525-92

Attached is a draft *Federal Register* "Notice of Floodplain Involvement". This draft notice, to be published pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR Part 1022, is in regard to 1) environmental media sampling for the purposes of environmental monitoring, site characterization and treatability studies; and 2) construction and operation of interim and final remedial actions. This draft notice covers several types of actions, rather than one specific action, in order to reduce the number of notices that need to be published. A generic floodplain notice approach is expected to reduce costs and to save the substantial time previously needed to have individual notices published in the *Federal Register* (typically six months). This notice is expected to cover most environmental restoration activities at RFP until publication of the Record of Decision for the SiteWide Environmental Impact Statement in 1995. A copy of the document has been made available electronically to the DOE, RFO NEPA Compliance Officer.

Please contact Steve Nesta, Ecology and NEPA Division, on X8605, or Claire Reno, on X 8620, if you have any questions or need further information.

E. M. Lee, Director  
Environmental Management

CLASSIFICATION:

WAM:blb

CLASSIFIED	X	X
CONFIDENTIAL	X	X
SECRET		

Orig. and 1 cc - T. A. Vaeth

Attachment:  
As Stated

AUTHORIZED CLASSIFIER  
SIGNATURE

*George A. Setlock*  
*WAM*

7/29/92

REPLY TO RFP CC NO:

ON ITEM STATUS

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PARTIAL  
COPIALS:

BY TYPIST INITIALS

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DATE	5-19-93

**Floodplain Involvement Notification for  
Environmental Restoration Activities at the  
Department of Energy's Rocky Flats Plant Near Golden, CO**

**Agency:** U. S. Department of Energy (DOE)

**Action:** Notice of Floodplain Involvement

**SUMMARY:** Regulations at 10 CFR Part 1022 require the Department of Energy to evaluate actions it may take place in a floodplain, or wetland in order to ensure consideration of protection of the floodplain in decision making. As soon as practicable after it is determined that an action may be undertaken in a floodplain or wetland, 10 CFR 1022.14 requires that a public notice be published in the *Federal Register*, including a description of the proposed action and its location.

DOE is engaged in environmental monitoring and is in the early stages of a multi-year environmental restoration program at its Rocky Flats Plant north of Golden, CO. Small areas of the 6,550-acre plant site are within floodplains or include wetlands, and some environmental monitoring and environmental restoration activities will take place in floodplains or wetlands.

The proposed actions include:

- (1) collection of environmental media samples for (a) environmental monitoring to identify and monitor the current status of, and changes to, the natural environment, (b) site characterization to identify the nature and extent of contamination and (c) treatability studies to test the effectiveness of specific treatment technologies on contaminated media;
- (2) drilling and abandonment of boreholes and monitoring wells; and
- (3) interim and final remedial actions to remove or treat contaminants that have been released to the environment.

Site characterization and the remedial actions will be undertaken pursuant to provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). Some of the actions could be located in the floodplains of Walnut, South Walnut and Woman Creeks and their tributaries. In addition, some actions could be in, or affect, wetlands outside of floodplains.

Floodplain assessments for these actions will be prepared independently or will be included in the NEPA documentation for the respective projects. A statement of findings will be published in the *Federal Register* when the floodplain assessment for each project has been completed.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed action must be received by \_\_\_\_\_ to assure consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to: Beth Brainard, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy, Rocky Flats Office, P.O. Box 928, Golden, CO 80402-0928. FAX comments to (303) 966-6633.

**FOR OTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on general DOE floodplain/wetland environmental review requirements contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Oversight, U. S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D. C. 20585. Telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

DOE proposes to carry out characterization and remediation activities, some of which would be located within floodplains or wetlands, at Rocky Flats Plant. The proposed actions include:

1. Collection of environmental media samples for environmental monitoring, site characterization and treatability studies. Studies will be undertaken to better understand the nature of the environment around the Rocky Flats Plant (RFP) and to identify possible releases of contaminants or movement of contaminants already in the environment. The environmental monitoring studies will occur throughout the site and will continue indefinitely. Site characterization is tied chiefly to Remedial Investigations/RCRA Facility Investigations (RI/RFIs) under CERCLA and RCRA, and it will continue through 1996. The conduct of treatability studies related to environmental restoration projects will continue through the 1990s. Site characterization and many of the treatability studies will be performed for each of the 16 Operable Units (OUs).

The following types of sampling/monitoring could occur in a floodplain or wetland: (a) sampling air, surface water, groundwater, sediments, surface and deeper soils, and terrestrial and aquatic biota, and measuring meteorological characteristics; (b) drilling boreholes to obtain soil/geological samples with some of the boreholes completed as groundwater monitoring wells; (c) digging soil test pits by hand or backhoe, (d) taking a variety of non-invasive surveys such as radiological surveys; (e) taking invasive surveys (such as with soil penetrometers and similar devices); and (f) conducting underground tests (such as aquifer, pump, tracer geophysical log, vertical seismic profile and seismic tests). Because the remaining RI/RFI field work at the Rocky Flats Plant is in OUs that are largely in the upland areas of the plant site, only small amounts of the sampling, other than for surface water and sediment, and a very small proportion of the boreholes/wells and soil test pits, are expected to be in floodplains or wetlands.

2. Abandonment of boreholes and monitoring wells. Abandoning a well typically involves removal of all man-installed material from the well. This includes the existing bentonite grout, the bentonite seal, a silica-sand filter and well casing. Casing can be removed by pulling it out of the well, destruction of the casing in the hole and removal of the pieces, or over-drilling or over-coring. Each of these methods involves driving a drilling rig to the well site. Once in the field, it may be discovered that some casings are not removable due to well depth, casing condition, or other factors. In these cases, the well casing and possibly the protective surface casing (a larger-diameter pipe surrounding the upper portion of the well casing) will be left in place. Abandonment will be accomplished in this manner only when absolutely necessary.

Regardless of the casing removal method used, the resulting hole is reamed to the original construction depth and diameter to remove any remaining annular material and debris. The borehole is then filled with bentonite grout. Wells whose casing is not removed will be abandoned by filling the casing with bentonite grout. The well casing and protective casing will be cut off below the ground surface.

A concrete pad will be poured at all well abandonment locations to provide a surface seal. A metal cap showing the well identification number and the date of abandonment will be anchored to the concrete slab. Abandonment of a well will take one-to-two days, depending on the method used and the depth of the well.

3. Construction and operation of interim and final remedial actions based on the results of the RI/RFIs now being conducted or planned. These actions may consist of in-situ treatment, bioremediation, groundwater treatment, surface water treatment, soil treatments or soil excavation. While remedial actions are expected to be constructed outside floodplains or wetlands, parts of such projects (particularly water collection devices) could be inside floodplains. Remedial actions are expected to continue beyond 2005.

Maps showing all floodplain or wetland areas potentially disturbed by the proposed activities are available from the Rocky Flats Office (see ADDRESSES above). Floodplain assessments for each individual action will be prepared separately, or will be part of the integrated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/CERCLA/RCRA documentation for the respective actions. A statement of findings, required by 10 CFR Part 1022, will be published in the *Federal Register* when the floodplain assessments have been completed and prior to taking the action.