



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment



April 28, 2005

Mr. Joseph Legare
Director, Project Management Division
U.S. Department of Energy
Rocky Flats Field Office
10808 Highway 93, Unit A
Golden, Colorado 80403-8200

RE: Receipt and Acceptance of Historical Release Report (HRR) Annual Updates for 2003 and 2004

Dear Mr. Legare:

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) have received and reviewed the 2003 and 2004 annual updates to the HRR. Our respective sets of comments are attached.

The April 14th Comment Resolution meeting was successful in resolving outstanding issues for CDPHE and EPA. The RFCA parties agreed that errata sheets will be issued to finalize the existing HRR documents. The comments should also be utilized to guide preparation of the 2005 HRR. We understand that the 2005 HRR will be comprehensive and include complete information on all units (i.e., IHSSs, PACs, PICs, etc.).

Therefore, CDPHE and EPA accept the documents as being complete upon issuance of the errata sheets. If you have any questions regarding the attached comments, please contact CDPHE technical staff Harlen Ainscough at 303-692-3337 or USEPA RPM Larry Kimmel at 303-312-6659, respectively.

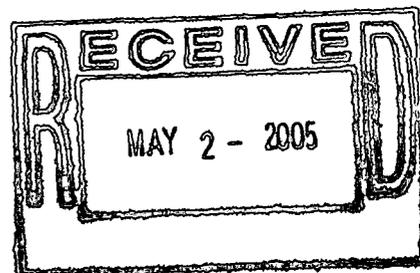
Sincerely,

Steven H. Gunderson
RFCA Cleanup Agreement Project Coordinator
Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment

Mark Aguilar
Rocky Flats Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Attachments (3)

cc: Mark Sattelberg, U.S.F&W
Norma Castaneda, DOE
David Shelton, Kaiser-Hill
Karen Wiemelt, K-H
D. Miller, AGO
Administrative Record, RFETS - Mt. View



ADMIN RECORD

SW-A-005077

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Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Hazardous Materials & Waste Management Division

Initial Comments

Annual Update

August 1, 2002 through August 1, 2003

Historical Release Report

September 2003

General Comments

1. Several PACs, etc. of Section 1 contain SSRSs. Many do not. Of those that do not, some units were approved for NFAA after the May 28, 2003 revision of RFCA Attachment 5 that established the SSRS protocol. Several of the post-revision approved unit discussions acknowledge that SSRSs were performed. Please consider either including each pertinent SSRS in the appropriate unit discussions, or referencing the specific, dated document containing the SSRS. For those unit discussions that do not acknowledge an SSRS, after the effective date, also include the SSRS or a reference to the SSRS containing document or explain why an a SSRS was not performed.

Specific Comments:

Section 1:

2. **Section "Table 1.3" (p. 7):** Rather than "accepted as proposed NFAA", "proposed and accepted as NFAA" would more clearly state the sequence.

Section 2:

3. **PAC Reference Number: NE-111.1:**

Description of Operation or Occurrence (p. 12): Please state which COCs exceeded and those levels in respect to actual 1996 Tier IIs.

Screen 4 (p. 14): Please discuss specific COCs for the IHSS relative to potential impacts to surface water. Is uranium the only consideration?

Long-Term Stewardship Recommendation (p. 15): Please delete reference to post RCRA permit, it is not applicable.

4. **PAC Reference Number: NE-111.4:**

Screen 4 (p. 20): Please discuss specifically the plutonium below three feet in depth relative to potential impacts to surface water.

Screen 5 (p. 21): The arsenic concern is further mitigated by burial with only minimal concern for burrowing animals. Please add to the discussion if Screen 5 is retained in the document.

Action/No Further Accelerated Action Recommendation (p. 23): Although the intended connotation is understood, please changed "NFAA is required" to "appropriate" to avoid the perception that NFAA is mandatory. Please check the document globally and change as needed.

5. **PAC Reference Number: NE-216.2 and 216.3:**

Action/No Further Accelerated Action Recommendation (p. 26): The SSRS is referenced, but excluded from the document. Please address. .

Please verify or update the NFAA approval status. (If approved after August 1, 2003, the date may be included as, "(The NFAA was subsequently approved on _____.)" This would prevent having to include the unit information in the 2004 or 2005 HRR updates.

6. **PAC Reference Number: NE-1407:**

Action/No Further Accelerated Action Recommendation (p. 29): The SSRS is referenced, but excluded from the document. Please address..

Please verify or update the NFAA approval status. (If approved after August 1, 2003, the date may be included as, "(The NFAA was subsequently approved on _____.)"

7. **PAC Reference Number: NE-1412 and NE 1413:**

Action/No Further Accelerated Action Recommendation (p. 33): An SSRS is excluded from the document. Please address for the contents of the two trenches.

Please verify or update the NFAA approval status. (If approved after August 1, 2003, the date may be included as, "(The NFAA was subsequently approved on _____.)"

8. **PAC Reference Number: NW-174A:**

Responses to Operation or Occurrence (p.36): Reference to samples "to be collected" probably should be changed to "were collected". The section following discusses the samples that were collected to support an NFAA decision.

Action/No Further Accelerated Action Recommendation (p. 37): An SSRS is excluded from the document. Please address for the contents of the two trenches.

Please verify or update the NFAA approval status. (If approved after August 1, 2003, the date may be included as, "(The NFAA was subsequently approved on _____.)"

9. **PAC Reference Number: SW-133.1, SW-133.2, SW 133.4 and SW-1702 (Ash Pits):**

Description of Operation or Occurrence (p. 38): Figure 2.2 remains unclear regarding the "Ghost Ash Pits". The IHSS 133.2 identifier is applied to the actual and the "ghost" pit, but the "ghost pit" is not actually labeled as the narrative suggests. The IHSS 133.4 identifier is shown only on the actual pit, its "ghost" is not labeled as such. Please address. Perhaps a dashed outline would be appropriate to distinguish the "ghost" pits from actual pits.

Table 2.9: New wells, in better locations relative to the Ash Pits, were reported to have been installed. They were dry initially but should now have water. The Division has not been provided with any results from these wells. Please ensure that all available well data are included in Table 2.9 and reflected in the subsequent discussions on page 67 and 68. (The Division may need to review well construction and see if there is a problem.)

Figures 2.3 & 2.4: Please include the outlines of the pits as shown on Figure 2.5. (If the Ghost pits are dashed, as suggested above, show on or change, accordingly.)

Lead (p. 61): The PRG for the PMJM is shown as 642 mg/kg. The RAO for the East Firing Range, relative to PMJM protection, was 220 mg/kg. Is the 220 a revised PRG or based on different ecological criteria? Please address and consider using the 220 value.

Lead (p. 62): Only Table 2.12 is included in the document, but Tables 2.12 through 2.16 are referenced in the narrative. Please address by including the tables or revising the reference, if appropriate.

Stewardship Evaluation: Footnote 3, to this sub-section, is of questionable validity. The Ash Pits are not actually contiguous with the IA. 'Lumping' the Ash Pits into the IA as a basis for leaving the pits is disingenuous. The rationale for leaving the pit contents should be developed independent of the IA.

10. **PAC Reference Number: 000-101:**

RFCA Attachment 5 was modified on May 28, 2003 to include the SSRS. Documentation of NFAA for the IHSS was in process as the Attachment 5 modification was being finalized. NFAA was subsequently approved by CDPHE on July 25, 2003. Please consider adding an SSRS to this document for consistency and to summarize the basis for NFAA.

11. **PAC Reference Number: 100-148:**

The sixth bullet, first sentence, is missing a key word or phrase following, "within the..."

12. **PAC Reference Number: 600-120.2:**

Responses to Operation or Occurrence (p.109): Please clarify whether the 48 soil samples included sub-surface samples or surface samples only. This would help clarify whether or not an SSRS was necessary.

13. **PAC Reference Number: 600-161:**

Responses to Operation or Occurrence (p.112): Please clarify whether the 48 soil samples included sub-surface samples or surface samples only.

14. **PAC Reference Number: 600-1001:**

Fate of Constituents Released to Environment (p.117): Please clarify whether the samples included sub-surface samples or surface samples only.

15. **PAC Reference Number: 800-1205:**

Responses to Operation or Occurrence (p.143): Briefly explain, for the benefit of the public, the significance of the "three times" parameter as noted in the second paragraph.

16. **PAC Reference Number: 900-140**

Considering that the NFAA request for this unit was rejected and additional work was performed, it may be appropriate to delete the entire discussion.

17. **PAC Reference Number: 900-153:**

Considering that the NFAA request for this unit was rejected and extensive remediation was performed, it may be appropriate to delete the entire discussion.

18. **PAC Reference Number: 900-154:**

Action/No Further Accelerated Action Recommendation (p. 166): Please verify or update the NFAA approval status. (If approved after August 1, 2003, the date may be included as, "(The NFAA was subsequently approved on _____.)")

19. **PAC Reference Number: 900-165:**

Action/No Further Accelerated Action Recommendation (p. 170): Please clarify whether the samples included sub-surface samples or surface samples only.

20. **PAC Reference Number: 900-175:**

Action/No Further Accelerated Action Recommendation (p. 173): Please clarify whether the samples included sub-surface samples or surface samples only.

21. **PAC Reference Number: 900-176:**

Fate of Constituents Released to Environment (p. 175): Please clarify whether the samples included sub-surface samples or surface samples only.

22. **PAC Reference Number: 900-1310:**

Description of Operation or Occurrence (p.177): The release originated "from" is the intended text. Please correct.

Responses to Operation or Occurrence (p.178): The intended year is "1992" (twice). Please correct.

Comments (p. 178): Either delete the section and/or incorporate the analytical results into the update.

23. **PAC Reference Number: UBC Site 123:**

RCRA Unit Closure (p. 182): Per page 180, last paragraph, please indicate in the first sentence that the closure was "clean".

24. **PAC Reference Number: UBC Site 371:**

Description of Operation or Occurrence (p.186-877): The level of detail does not appear to be appropriate or necessary.

25. **PAC Reference Number: UBC 776 and UBC 777:**

Description of Operation or Occurrence (p.193): "...disassembly of "retired" weapons is the intended text. Please correct.

Action/No Further Accelerated Action Recommendation (p. 170): It is unclear why this PAC was included in the annual update. Characterization was not complete and NFAA had not been requested.

Section 3:

26. **General Comment:** Sections 3.2 and 3.3 are missing. Section 3.4, and subsequent, are incorrectly numbered or the intended sections are missing from the document.

Appendix 2:

27. **EPA letter dated June 12, 2003;** Please include page 2, the signature page of the letter, in the appendix.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Hazardous Materials & Waste Management Division

Initial Comments

Annual Update

August 1, 2003 through October 1, 2004

Historical Release Report

November 2004

General Comments

The following general and specific comments are provided to guide the preparation of the comprehensive 2005 Historical Release Report. Some comments, such as No. 11, should be corrected. Other changes to this document, and the 2003 HRR Update previously provided, are discretionary.

1. A notation should be made in Section 1 that a greater level of detail is provided for PACs presented in Section 2 when not independently supported by a Data Summary (DSR) or Closeout Report. As a result, PAC narratives may freely reference the DSRs or Closeouts and present a summary of the units, operations, constituents, actions taken, and the basis for NFAA. It would be helpful to include a table of the former units to readily distinguish them from those with summary descriptions.
2. Although the intended connotation is understood, please change "NFAA is required", globally, to "appropriate" to avoid the perception that NFAA is the only recourse.
3. Several narratives acknowledge (see page 41, second bullet) that COCs remain above WRW ALs without discussing why doing so is acceptable. Either in Section 1, or as a preface to Section 2.0, please reference the hot spot analysis and "3x" limitation that were used to justify leaving soils with COCs above ALs.
4. Where appropriate, please be specific by naming the "future decision document" where ground water contamination will be addressed, i.e., GW IM/IRA.
5. The second and subsequent bullets of page 42 have been used repeatedly through the document as a basis for NFAA for numerous PACs. The information should only be used for the specific IHSS/PAC to which it applies rather than each unit within an IHSS Group. Instead, analytical results that support NFAA specific to each PAC/IHSS should be referenced. For example, taking an action relative to Tank 16 does not necessarily support NFAA elsewhere in the IHSS Group; explain each NFAA as a standalone decision. (For a further example, see page 256 where the "enclosed area" of B991 is not specifically discussed relative to a basis for its NFAA.) Although summaries are acceptable, they should be unit specific.
6. On page 117, dioxin and furan TEQs and TEFs are discussed. If possible, please add such discussions to other (i.e., preceding) PACs where PCBs were significant.
7. Significant omissions exist in disclosing the COC(s) that warranted accelerated action. For example on page 241, radionuclides and PCBs were considered as the COCs but neither the "Fate of Constituents..." or "Action/No Action..." sections discuss the precise action. Discuss which COC(s) were remediated. (Please see page 291 for a more complete approach. Although further improvements could be made therein, it does explain why an action was taken.)
8. Additionally, results are not summarized in the "Action/No Action..." sections as suggested in the "Fate of Constituents..." sections. This is evident for not only PACs for which Closeout Reports were issued but

also for Data Summary Report/NFAA units. Generally, details that are seen in describing the "Operation" are lacking in the "Response" and basis for NFAA sections.

9. In each PIC reference section, the "CDPHE 2004" reference should note that the correspondence was dated April 30, 2004 to distinguish it from the actual report that was dated April 15, 2004.
10. Better coordination and referencing from the Section 2 narratives to the plates would be very helpful. At present, the plates generally stand alone and it is unclear which plate shows the unit under discussion. Accordingly, it is unclear whether all of the units are shown on a corresponding plate. (Although there is an OPWL plate, clear linkage to the PAC numbers is not evident.)

Specific Comments:

11. **PAC Reference Number: SE 142.10:**

Fate of Constituents Released to Environment (p.16): The statement that "there are no ... (RFCA) Attachment 5 surface water action levels (ALs) for PCBs..." is incorrect. The modification of Attachment 5 in 2003 did delete the individual Aroclor constituents but replaced them with a total PCB AL based on the sum of Aroclor analytes. Please refer to the bottom of page 5-24 (Table 1) of RFCA Attachment 5. Since this change will negate that portion of the argument that PCBs are a non-issue, further modifications or deletions of text are necessary.

12. **PAC Reference Number: 000-121:**

Responses to Operation or Occurrence (p.39): Although the redundant discussions of Tanks 2, 3 and OPWL beginning on pages 34 and 67 provide thoroughness, the content of pages 39 and 67 is not fully consistent. The paragraph on page 69, beginning "In 1953..." appears to be part of the operation not the response to the operation. Additionally, the next on page 40 provides a better accounting of the response/closure action that should be included on page 69.

13. **PAC Reference Number: 700-1115:**

Description of Operation or Occurrence (p. 225): The cleanup level should be noted as 5000 mg/kg TPH to eliminate the inference to TRPH levels. Once corrected, make the argument that residual TRPH for this old spill would be similar to TPH values. Further, that the value of 2435 TRPH, even if slightly higher for TPH, would be well below the 5000 mg/kg threshold.

14. **PIC Reference Number: 6:**

Figures 2.15 and 2.16, following page 306, are not legible. Please copy on a lighter setting.

15. **PIC Reference Number: 41:**

Description of Operation or Occurrence (p. 327): Please add, "that a transformer incorrectly identified as" in the context of the section.

16. **PIC Reference Number: 44:**

Figures 2.21 and 2.22 were placed out of sequence, possibly in all copies.

Historical Release Report 2003
Historical Release Report 2004
EPA Review Comments

April 12, 2005

General Comments

1. During review, it was noted that Historical Release Report (HRR) documentation was presented somewhat inconsistently in justification of comparable decisions. Some Potential Area of Concern (PAC) sites were described in fairly detailed discussion, tables, and figures, while other sites were described in very brief general discussion with no figures or data results to support NFAA decisions. To illustrate, a few examples of the sites described above include:
 - Sufficient detail: 2003 HRR, IHSS 140, page 145; 2003 HRR, IHSS 150.6 & 150.8, page 122; and 2004 HRR, IHSS 700-143, page 162.
 - Insufficient detail: HRR 2003, IHSS 900-176, page 174; HRR 2003, IHSS 900-153, page 161.

For improved consistency in supporting decisions, please revise the PAC and Potential Incident of Concern (PIC) documentation to include, at a minimum, figures identifying IHSS sites, sampling locations, and tabulated sampling results.

2. Where applicable, the Introduction of the HRRs should update pertinent information for any sites where pending actions were proposed (e.g., Oil Burn Pit #2). This will provide improved continuity in reviewing the HRRs in which site actions were deferred or revised for various reasons.
3. Please provide a detailed description for the following site categories: IHSS, UBC, PIC, and PAC.
4. Throughout both documents, the statement "NFAA is required" is made. Please rephrase this statement to: "Based on the data presented, an NFAA is *'justified'* or *'appropriate'*."

Specific Comments

1. **HRR 2004**
The document is missing Figure 2.2 and the page numbers on the figures do not correspond to the Table of Contents. Please revise accordingly.
2. **HRR 2004**
Figures 2.14, 2.15, and 2.16 are poor quality reproductions and difficult to review. Please replace the figures.

3. HRR 2003 and HRR 2004

Referenced approval letters are not present in several of the document appendices. A few examples include the following:

- HRR 2003, IHSS 150.6
- HRR 2003, IHSS 150.8
- HRR 2003, IHSS NE-1407 OU 2 Treatment Plant

Please provide these approvals letters in the document and verify that all others are present.

4. HRR 2003 and HRR 2004

Both documents contain Table 1.2 and Appendix 1, which contain very similar information. Please consider using Table 1.2 format for Appendix 1 as it provides specific approval dates and is more usable.

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