

ENGINEERING-SCIENCE, INC. a unit of
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September 12, 1994
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Mr. Andy Ledford
EG&G Rocky Flats, Inc.
Rocky Flats Plant
P.O. Box 464, Building 080
Golden, Colorado 80402-0464

Subject: MTS 343756 GG
OU4 Solar Ponds IM/IRA
Wetlands Assessment Summary

Dear Mr. Ledford:

Over the last month ES has worked with EG&G to delineate wetlands that exist within the OU4 boundary. During previous wetland delineations (1991) the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers did not consider that OU4 had any significant wetlands. During a recent delineation in 1993, the Corps of Engineers acknowledged that there were significant wetland areas within OU4. ES understands that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has just released their report to the DOE for review and comment.

On August 16, 1994, ES and EG&G toured the OU4 Solar Evaporation Pond (SEP) area to assess the extent of the wetlands in OU4. Marcia Murdock and a professional photographer were on the tour along with members of the EG&G OU4 team. It was agreed that there were no wetland species in the immediate vicinity of the SEPs. However, wetland areas were identified on the hillside to the north of the SEPs.

There are three small wetland areas towards the bottom of the north slope that had not been classified as jurisdictional wetlands during the 1991 "Rocky Flats Plant Wetlands Assessment."

Area A is the largest of the areas and is dominated by the broad-leaf cattail, an obligate species. This site is saturated to the surface and water flows into it from a ground water seep. Surface water drainage patterns also lead into the area.

Area B is located about 20 feet east of area A, and is smaller. This area had species of *Carex* and *Juncus*, most of which are facultative wetland or obligate species. This area was also saturated to the surface and is downgradient from a ground water seep. Surface water would also flow into this area.

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Area C is located to the east of the other wetland areas and north of SEP 207-A. It has a *Tamarix* plant on it which is a facultative wetland indicator species. Also in this area were *Panicum* species, which are facultative, and Fox-Tail Barley, also a facultative wetland species. This area was not saturated to the surface and there were no open ground water seeps.

These three areas are all located within a single soil type on the SCS Golden Area Soil Survey. The type is Denver-Kutch-Midway, with inclusions of Englewood, Hill, and Midway. The SCS does not list this type as hydric soil, but a soil scientist at the SCS says that there are specific sites of hydric-type soils in that mapping unit.

Figure 1 provides a map of the OU4 north hillside which delineates the extent of the wetland areas. ES has estimated the number of square feet for each of the three wetland areas. The approximate area is as follows:

Area A =	3,430 sq. ft.
Area B =	1,245 sq. ft.
Area C =	612 sq. ft.

Total = 5,287 sq. ft. (approximately 0.12 acres)

Figure 1 also depicts the seep line where the ground water table intercepts the surface. It should be noted that the wetland areas are north of the seep line (downgradient).

The area downgradient of the ground water seeps will not be remediated as part of the Phase I IM/IRA. Therefore, these wetland areas will not be removed or remediated during the IM/IRA construction. These areas will be addressed as a component of the Phase II remediation.

The following actions may be taken. ES could plan to protect the wetlands during IM/IRA construction activities, mainly by putting up temporary fencing to ensure that personnel and vehicles will not enter the wetlands, and construction of silt fences to protect the wetlands from sedimentation. The wetlands could also be removed, with restoration attempted after all closure activities associated with the SEPs are completed (Phase II). If the restoration attempts are not successful, then wetland mitigation banking options will be considered. One option is a mitigation banking project that the DOE is trying to set up in Bear Creek Lake Park. Mitigation banking ratios would probably be around 3:1 or 4:1. ES understands that the DOE is currently investigating the potential for wetland banking.

The IM/IRA-EA Decision Document will be modified to identify the wetland areas and specify that the wetland areas will be remediated or replaced.

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Please call me at 764-8811 or pager 687-2551 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Nixon
Project Manager: Solar Pond IM/IRA

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