



REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2405

RECEIVED

FEB 16 1990

FEB - 9 1990

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE

Ref: 8HWM-FF

Mr. Robert M. Nelson, Jr., Manager  
Department of Energy  
Rocky Flats Area Office  
P.O. Box 928  
Golden, CO 80402-0928



Mr, Phil Warner, Rocky Flats Plant Manager  
EG&G  
Rocky Flats Plant  
P.O. Box 464  
Golden, CO 80402-0464

RE: Construction Affecting SWMUs

Gentlemen:

EPA and CDH attended a meeting with DOE on January 18, 1990, to discuss three construction projects at Rocky Flats presently on hold pending EPA and CDH review. DOE, EPA and CDH are concerned about the potential impact these projects may impart upon RCRA Facility Investigations/Remedial Investigations (RFI/RI) ongoing at the plant.

EPA and CDH recognize the need for proceeding with construction activities required to modernize the facility. However, EPA and CDH believe that construction projects within or near solid waste management units (SWMUs) and/or individual hazardous substance sites (sites) may exacerbate the threats to the environment and/or human health already presented by the SWMUs or sites. The extent of this increased threat is related to the type of construction project, the type of contamination present, the media contaminated, the migration pathway of the contaminants, the magnitude of the contamination at the SWMU or site, and the steps taken by DOE to abate any increase in the threat posed by a SWMU or site as caused by the construction project.

Attached are EPA's and CDH's recommendations regarding construction activities potentially affecting areas of contamination. EPA and CDH have discussed these concerns and are forwarding this letter under joint signature to attempt to resolve this issue. If DOE wishes to formally present a plan for addressing these types of problems and/or specific construction projects, EPA and CDH would provide comments on such plan. However, assurance for maintaining compliance with all applicable laws and regulations remains a DOE and EG&G responsibility.

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION  
REVIEW WAIVER PER  
CLASSIFICATION OFFICE

ADMIN RECORD

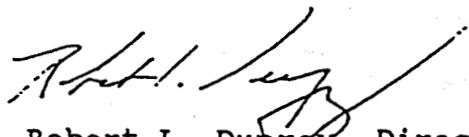
164

- If you should have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Patricia Corbetta of CDH or Martin Hestmark of EPA at (303) 331-4843 and (303) 294-7432, respectively.

Sincerely,



David C. Shelton, Director  
Hazardous Materials and  
Waste Management Division  
Colorado Department of Health



Robert L. Duprey, Director  
Hazardous Waste Management Division  
Environmental Protection Agency

Attachment

cc: Joan Sowinski, CDH  
Patricia Corbetta, CDH  
Dan Miller, Colorado Attorney General's Office  
Peter Ornstein, SRC

Recommendations for Construction Projects Potentially Affecting  
SWMUs and/or Individual Hazardous Substance Sites

DOE must be cognizant of the possibility that construction near or within contaminated areas is at risk. DOE must consider the possibility that ongoing RFI/RIs may require modification or dismantling of the completed construction in the event the construction precludes gathering information necessary to assess a contaminated area or the construction precludes completion of remediation for the affected area.

EPA and CDH suggest DOE take measures to preclude the construction projects from causing a release from the SWMUs or sites affected, or increasing the threat of release from these contaminated areas. DOE should also consider undertaking the construction project after gathering preliminary information related to the media impacted by the contamination and the site's geographic and migratory relationship to the construction.

Specifically, EPA and CDH recommend that DOE avoid construction where the project design cannot be modified to preclude exacerbating or increasing a threat posed by contaminated areas. DOE should include design modifications into permanent structures potentially causing a threat of release from an associated area of contamination which may prevent or abate such release or threat of release.

Of the three projects discussed on January 18, 1990, the electrical distribution system placement is regarded as potentially the most threatening. EPA and CDH suggest that DOE design the system to allow groundwater to be sampled, analyzed and treated depending on the results of the analyses. Design provisions allowing the sampling and potential collection of contaminated groundwater would preclude the trench sands from becoming migration pathways for further release of contaminants. The design provisions should require a minimum number of sampling/collection points with stipulations that if saturated conditions are encountered within soils or are expected, additional sampling/collection points should be added. The sampling and analysis of these points should be addressed within the Sampling and Analysis Plan and/or operable unit specific Workplans to be submitted in accordance with the terms of the proposed Interagency Agreement. DOE may also wish to develop specific Sampling and Analysis Plans for each construction project in order to avoid delay in the projects while these IAG required submittals are being developed.

DOE will need to consult with EPA and CDH if further or different mechanisms are considered by DOE to prevent or minimize the threat of release. This consultation must occur prior to the initiation of construction. Upon finding by DOE that a release into the completed electrical distribution system or as caused by

any other construction project has occurred, DOE must notify EPA and CDH of such release in accordance with Section I.B.3. of the Statement of Work, Attachment 2 of the proposed Interagency Agreement.

DOE should reference the letter sent to DOE by EPA on November 30, 1989, regarding the "RFP SWMU Construction Guidelines". -DOE is advised to monitor the air for releases of radionuclides resulting from any construction activities disturbing soils at the plant. DOE should also complete FIDLER surveys of areas planned to be disturbed by construction activities and may want to consider sampling soils within and external to SWMU boundaries prior to initiation of construction activities. DOE must comply with the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments, including the Land Disposal Restrictions, and the State of Colorado's Hazardous Waste Act. Any contaminated construction spoils determined to be hazardous wastes are considered newly generated wastes which must be stored in either a designated 90-day storage area or interim status or permitted storage areas. Any new 90-day storage areas must be added to the contingency plan in accordance with 6 CCR-1003 Part 262.34(c)(1)(iv).

Once a release has occurred as a result of any construction project initiated by DOE, DOE must develop Interim Measures/Interim Remedial Actions as required by EPA and CDH and incorporate the release into an operable unit RFI/RI as approved by EPA and CDH in accordance with the requirements of the proposed Interagency Agreement.