

NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative

Rocky Flats Plant (USDOE) Golden, Colorado

On May 25, 2007, EPA deleted the Peripheral Operable Unit (OU) and OU 3, also referred to as the Offsite Areas, from the National Priorities List (NPL). The Rocky Flats Plant is a DOE facility located approximately 16 miles northwest of Denver in Jefferson and Boulder Counties. The Rocky Flats Plant is divided into the Central and Peripheral OUs which contain 1,308 and 4,933 acres, respectively, and OU 3 which contains approximately 20,480 acres. This partial deletion pertains to the surface media (soil, surface water, sediment) and subsurface media, including groundwater, within the Peripheral OU and OU 3 covering a total area of 25,413 acres.

The Rocky Flats Plant was proposed to the NPL in 1984 and added to the NPL in 1989. Contaminants released to the environment from the activities at the site have included, but were not limited to: Radionuclides, organic solvents, metals, and nitrates. Two OUs are present within the boundaries of the site: the Peripheral OU and the Central OU. The Central OU consolidated all areas of the site that required remedial actions and is not included in this partial deletion action. The Peripheral OU includes the majority of the Buffer Zone which provided a security and safety buffer area around the former manufacturing areas of the site. Known or suspected release locations were delineated by 183 Individual Hazardous Substance Sites, 146 Potential Areas of Concern, 31 Under Building Contamination Sites, and 61 Potential Incidents of Concern (totaling 421 areas). These areas were investigated and accelerated actions, including non-time critical removals, triggered by contamination levels have been completed.

The Peripheral OU was determined to be unimpacted by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants with the exception of a small portion of this OU that is impacted from a radiological perspective. Plutonium exists above background levels in surface soils in a few small areas within the Peripheral OU; however, the levels of radioactivity are relatively low. Based on the findings in the RCRA Facility Investigation Remedial Investigation/Corrective Measures Study Feasibility Study Report for the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RI/FS) Report, DOE (as the Lead Agency under CERCLA) determined that no action was necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment for the Peripheral OU. This decision was documented in the Corrective Action Decision/Record of Decision (CAD/ROD) signed by DOE, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and EPA on September 29, 2006. Because no hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants occur in the Peripheral OU above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure, no five-year review is required for this remedy.

OU 3 covers an area north, south, and east of the Peripheral and Central OUs. OU 3 is comprised of four Individual Hazardous Substance Sites (IHSSs): Contamination of the Land's Surface (IHSS 199), Great Western Reservoir (IHSS 200), Standley Lake (IHSS 201), and Mower Reservoir (IHSS 202). No contaminants of concern were identified in surface water samples collected from Standley Lake, Great Western Reservoir, and Mower Reservoir. For IHSS 199 and IHSS 200, the highest contaminant concentration was used in risk calculations to determine the radiation doses that would be expected as a result of recreational and residential exposure scenarios. The CAD/ROD for OU 3 was signed by DOE, CDPHE, and EPA on June 3, 1997. This decision document determined that no action was necessary at OU 3 to protect public health, welfare, or the environment. A five-year review of the OU 3 CAD/ROD was completed in September 2002 to assess the continued protectiveness of the remedy. It was determined

that environmental conditions at OU 3 have not changed significantly since the OU 3 CAD/ROD was signed so the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.

EPA, with concurrence from CDPHE, has determined that all appropriate responses under CERCLA have been completed within the Peripheral OU and OU 3 to protect human health and the environment and that no further response action by responsible parties is required. Therefore, EPA is deleting the Peripheral OU and OU 3 of the Rocky Flats Plan from the NPL.