

# Rocky Flats Site, Colorado, Legacy Management Public Involvement Plan

December 2025



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Legacy  
Management

## Contents

Abbreviations .....	ii
1.0 Introduction .....	1
2.0 Site Description and History .....	1
2.1 Site Description .....	1
2.2 Site History .....	1
3.0 Regulatory Framework.....	2
4.0 Community Profile.....	2
5.0 Stakeholders .....	3
6.0 Roles and Responsibilities .....	4
7.0 Public Participation .....	4
7.1 Public Meetings .....	5
7.2 Internet Webpage.....	5
7.3 Administrative Record.....	6
7.4 Documents for Public Review and Comment .....	6
7.5 News Releases and Community Advisories .....	6
7.6 Publications.....	6
7.7 Site Tours.....	6

## Figure

Figure 1. Rocky Flats Site Location Map .....	3
---	---

## Appendix

Appendix A Information Contacts	
---------------------------------	--

## **Abbreviations**

CAD	Corrective Action Decision
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
GEMS	Geospatial Environmental Mapping System
LM	Office of Legacy Management
RFCA	Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement
RFLMA	Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement
RFSC	Rocky Flats Stewardship Council (Local Stakeholder Organization)
ROD	Record of Decision

## **1.0 Introduction**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) assumed site operations and maintenance responsibility of the Rocky Flats Site in 2005. LM's mission is to fulfill the Department of Energy's post-closure responsibilities and ensure the future protection of human health and the environment.

This Legacy Management Public Involvement Plan follows DOE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance on public participation and outlines the methods of public involvement and communication used to inform the public of site conditions and activities. Additional communications or notifications to stakeholders not specified in this plan may be addressed in other documents. This plan will be reviewed and updated as determined by the RFLMA parties.

## **2.0 Site Description and History**

### **2.1 Site Description**

The DOE Rocky Flats Site, also known as the Central Operable Unit, consists of 1,309 acres with institutional and physical controls and continued monitoring and maintenance. The site includes the former Industrial Area, consisting of 384 acres, of the former Rocky Flats Plant.

The site is on a plateau at the eastern edge of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains at an elevation of about 6,000 feet. It is located in northern Jefferson County, Colorado, approximately 16 miles northwest of Denver and near or adjacent to the communities of Boulder, Broomfield, Westminster, Arvada, Superior, and Golden. The site is surrounded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

### **2.2 Site History**

The Rocky Flats Plant was established in 1951 to produce plutonium and uranium components used in nuclear weapons. From 1952 until 1994, the mission of the Rocky Flats Plant was the production of nuclear weapons components.

During operation, the site was divided into three geographic areas, each fenced and protected by security forces. The Industrial Area was located in the center of the property. There were more than 800 structures in the Industrial Area that included approximately 150 permanent buildings and 90 trailers, plus temporary structures, sheds, tanks, and annexes to larger buildings. The Protected Area was located within the northern portion of the industrial area and contained a complex of plutonium production facilities. This area was heavily fenced and guarded. The Buffer Zone, the remaining 5,800 acres, surrounded and protected the industrial area from potential encroachment.

The last shipment of defense-related materials was shipped out in 1994. Rocky Flats became a closure site with the downsizing of the nation's nuclear weapons complex after the end of the Cold War. The Rocky Flats Closure Project entailed the safe cleanup and closure of the entire

former nuclear weapons production site in compliance with the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA).

Cleanup and closure was completed in October 2005, at a total cost of approximately \$7 billion. DOE retains approximately 1,300 acres in the Central Operable Unit, which includes the former Industrial Area, for long-term legacy management. The bulk of the former Buffer Zone, more than 4,000 acres, transitioned to a national wildlife refuge under the auspices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in July 2007.

### **3.0 Regulatory Framework**

The DOE Rocky Flats Site is regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and the Colorado Hazardous Waste Act (CHWA). It is listed on EPA's National Priorities List.

The site's primary regulatory document is the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement (RFLMA), signed by DOE and the state of Colorado (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, or CDPHE) and EPA in 2007. It provides the regulatory framework to implement the terms of the Corrective Action Decision/Record of Decision (CAD/ROD) that determined the final action or remedy for the site. RFLMA provides that DOE must maintain and implement the Legacy Management Public Involvement Plan in a manner that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act, CERCLA, RCRA, and CHWA.

A periodic review of the remedy is required by CERCLA. This review takes place every 5 years and determines whether the remedy at Rocky Flats remains protective of human health and the environment or if DOE needs to take additional actions. Completed reviews are available on the LM website.

### **4.0 Community Profile**

The DOE Rocky Flats Site is located 16 miles northwest of the Denver metropolitan area. Figure 1 shows a location map of the site and vicinity. It is surrounded by the 5,237-acre Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Much of the refuge is surrounded by open space, undeveloped land, and a residential development. Approximately one mile south, a developing community planned for over 2,500 single and multifamily homes, along with commercial space, borders the refuge. Approximately ½ mile to the east, the city of Westminster manages over 1,000 acres of open space across Indiana Street from the refuge. Approximately one mile north, Boulder County manages open spaces across Highway 128 from the refuge. Approximately one mile west, undeveloped land going into the foothills sits across Route 93 from the refuge. To the northeast, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory Flatirons Campus Research Laboratories and Facilities border the refuge. An active gravel mine is along part of the refuge western boundary.

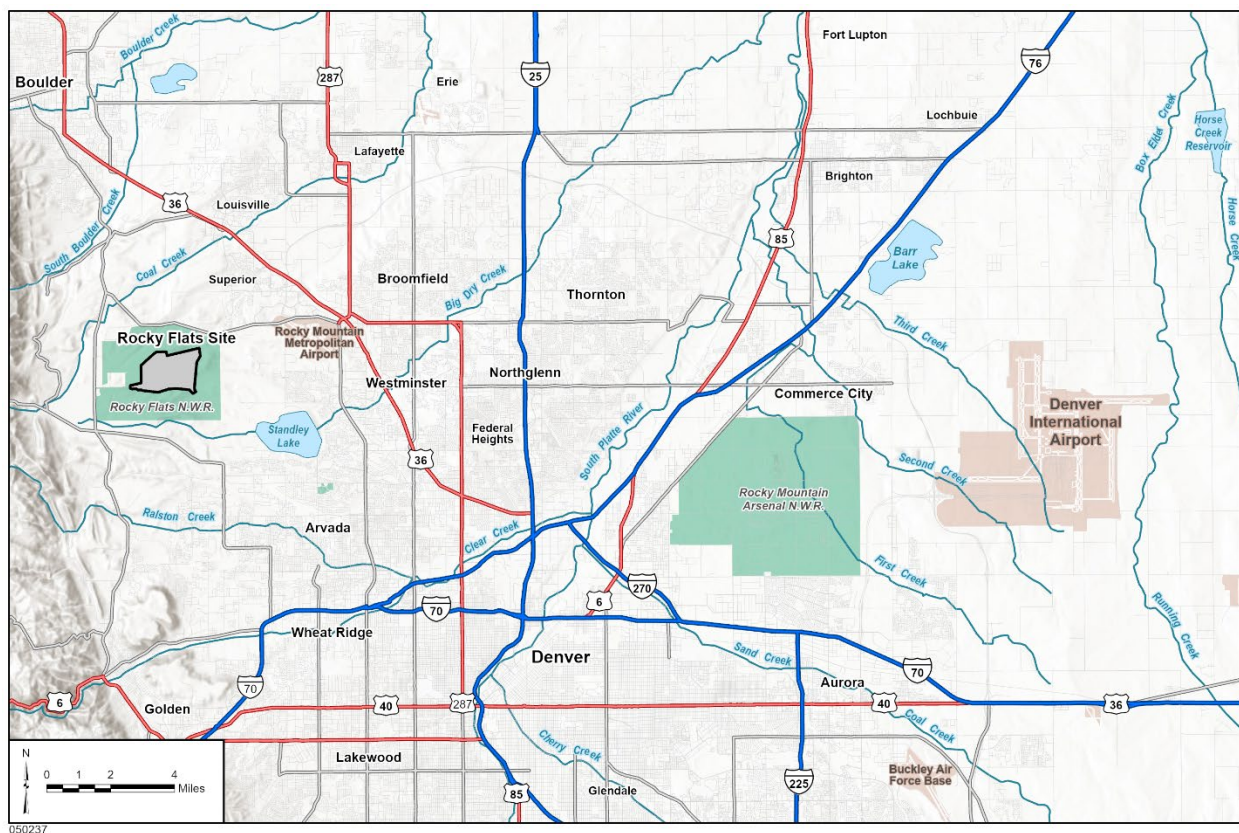


Figure 1. Rocky Flats Site Location Map

## 5.0 Stakeholders

DOE recognizes that stakeholders may be any individuals, groups, host communities, and other entities in the public and private sectors that are interested in or affected by any of DOE's activities and decisions. At Rocky Flats, stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- Residents of Boulder County, City and County of Broomfield, Jefferson County, City of Arvada, City of Boulder, City of Golden, City of Northglenn, Town of Superior, and City of Westminister.
- Local governments.
- State agencies.
- Elected State of Colorado officials.
- Federal agencies.
- Congressional delegations.
- Local media.
- Local educational institutions.
- Environmental organizations.
- Business owners.

- Service organizations.
- Retired Rocky Flats workers.
- Other interested individuals.

LM maintains a distribution list of stakeholders associated with LM sites. To be included on the list and receive Rocky Flats Site information, contact LM via the Rocky Flats email address listed in the contact section, or sign up on the LM website for LM email updates: <https://www.energy.gov/lm/office-legacy-management>.

## 6.0 Roles and Responsibilities

LM's mission is to fulfill the Department of Energy's post-closure responsibilities and ensure the future protection of human health and the environment. The primary goals are to:

- Protect human health and the environment.
- Preserve, protect, and share records and information.
- Safeguard former contractor workers' retirement benefits.
- Sustainably manage and optimize the use of land and assets.
- Sustain management excellence.
- Engage the public, governments, and interested parties.

At Rocky Flats, LM is responsible for the management of land retained by DOE and for compliance with the long-term requirements outlined in the RFLMA. Legacy management refers to all activities necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment in perpetuity following completion of cleanup, disposal, or stabilization at a site or portion of a site. These activities include maintaining all engineered and institutional controls designed to contain or to prevent exposure to residual contamination and waste; recordkeeping activities; inspections to evaluate the condition of surface features; groundwater and surface water monitoring; maintenance of other barriers and contained structures; access control; emergency response; and posting signs.

## 7.0 Public Participation

The Rocky Flats Site has been in a state of post-closure long-term monitoring and maintenance since 2005. Long-term monitoring and maintenance ensures that the site remains protective of human health and the environment based on the RFLMA, which was developed with input from regulators and the public.

LM provides quarterly and annual report information to the public and opportunities for public input on selected documents as required by CERCLA. The public can contact LM with comments and questions regarding the Rocky Flats Site through email at [RFInfo@lm.doe.gov](mailto:RFInfo@lm.doe.gov).

The primary methods of providing information to the public are the LM public website and electronic communications. Engaged stakeholders, defined as those members of the public who have indicated their interest in receiving LM communications and have provided LM with an email address, will be notified by e-mail of availability of LM documents, scheduled meetings, postings to the LM website, and other information of interest to the public.

Consultation between DOE, CDPHE, and EPA involving a regulatory decision or determination about the implementation of the selected remedy at the Rocky Flats Site will be formally documented in a publicly-available “contact record.” Contact records are posted on the LM website and notification of their availability is sent out electronically to the distribution list of stakeholders.

In the past, LM presented quarterly and annual report information for the Rocky Flats Site at meetings of the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council. This organization disbanded in 2025. LM will continue to provide quarterly and annual report information to the public via the Rocky Flats webpage.

The following are general descriptions of LM’s public participation activities.

## **7.1 Public Meetings**

LM will conduct public meetings at least annually to discuss implementation of the remedy and other site activities. These meetings will provide information about activities being conducted at the site and will present the results of site inspections, monitoring, and maintenance.

Additional public meetings may be conducted as warranted. LM will post notifications of such public meetings on the LM website and distribute electronic notification to the distribution list of stakeholders.

LM also welcomes direct communication concerning Rocky Flats at any time. Stakeholders may contact LM at [RFInfo@lm.doe.gov](mailto:RFInfo@lm.doe.gov). Direct communication may include technical discussions and briefings as requested. Attendance at such technical discussions and briefings is not restricted, and they are open to any interested stakeholder.

## **7.2 Internet Webpage**

LM maintains a webpage at <https://www.energy.gov/lm/rocky-flats-site-colorado> for Rocky Flats. LM posts site documents and key documents associated with the remedy on the webpage. DOE will notify engaged stakeholders by email of document availability when posted.

LM designed the [Geospatial Environmental Mapping System](#) (GEMS) to provide dynamic mapping and environmental monitoring data display for LM sites. Stakeholders can use GEMS to view a map of a site, photographs, and water-quality and water-level data. Water-quality and water-level data are available in table and graph formats. A GEMS site for Rocky Flats is accessible through a link on the LM Rocky Flats webpage.



### **7.3 Administrative Record**

In accordance with Title 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 300.810 and the RFCA, DOE established and maintains an Administrative Record for Rocky Flats. The Administrative Record includes the documents that formed the basis for the selection of the final action, or remedy, such as guidance documents, evaluations, and data; notices of public comment periods; public comments; decision documents; and enforcement orders. LM also established and maintains a post-closure Administrative Record file to document ongoing remedy related decisions and activities under RFLMA.

A copy of the Administrative Record is available on the [LM Rocky Flats webpage](#).

### **7.4 Documents for Public Review and Comment**

LM will provide opportunities for stakeholders to review and comment on documents as required by RFLMA and as appropriate for those activities not regulated by RFLMA. These documents will be posted on the LM Rocky Flats webpage and collected and maintained in a site file or appropriate Administrative Record. The RFLMA explains how LM will fulfill its operation, monitoring, and maintenance obligation at the site.

### **7.5 News Releases and Community Advisories**

LM will issue news releases or community advisories regarding LM documents or significant monitoring and maintenance activities. These news releases or advisories will be distributed to news media and other engaged stakeholders and will be posted on the LM website.

### **7.6 Publications**

LM prepares fact sheets and other informational documents as needed to describe LM monitoring and maintenance activities and conditions at Rocky Flats. These documents will be posted on the LM Rocky Flats webpage.

An annual report and three quarterly reports addressing site monitoring and maintenance activities at Rocky Flats will be posted on the LM website. Engaged stakeholders will be notified of document availability by email distribution.

### **7.7 Site Tours**

LM will provide tours of the Rocky Flats Site (also known as the Central Operable Unit, or COU) to regulators, local governments, and relevant organizations as funding and staff availability allow.

**Appendix A**

**Information Contacts**

<b>DOE Office of Legacy Management</b>
Rocky Flats Site, Colorado information: <a href="https://www.energy.gov/lm/rocky-flats-site-colorado">https://www.energy.gov/lm/rocky-flats-site-colorado</a> <a href="mailto:rockyflats@fws.gov">rockyflats@fws.gov</a> (720) 880-4350
<b>Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</b>
CDPHE Rocky Flats Webpage <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/rocky-flats">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/rocky-flats</a>  Hazardous Waste Corrective Action Unit Leader (303) 692-3320 (888) 569-1831, ext. 3320 <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/hazardous-waste-management-contacts">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/hazardous-waste-management-contacts</a> <a href="mailto:comments.hmwmd@state.co.us">comments.hmwmd@state.co.us</a>  CDPHE Rocky Flats Project Manager Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South Denver, CO 80246-1530 HMWMD – B2 <a href="https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/superfund-sites-contacts">https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/superfund-sites-contacts</a>
<b>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</b>
Rocky Flats Superfund Site <a href="https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0800360">https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0800360</a> (303) 312-6312
<b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</b>
<a href="https://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky-flats">https://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky-flats</a> (303) 289-0232 <a href="mailto:rockyflats@fws.gov">rockyflats@fws.gov</a>