

Jon Lipsky

From: Jensen, Carol <jensenc@msudenver.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 9:42 AM
To: Jon Lipsky
Subject: RE: RF Stewardship Council Sept. 12th meeting packet and meeting notice

Hi Jon,
Below is my response to the Stewardship Council and David's comments.

While there have been studies of the health effects to the workers at the plant, and "The State Health Department had conducted an in-depth dose reconstruction study and found that the increased cancer risk due to exposure from Rocky Flats was 2.5 in one million", there has never been a health survey of the residents in the neighborhoods downwind and down runoff of Rocky Flats to establish whether or not the radiation and other toxic substances from the plant had a negative health effect on the surrounding communities. There has not been a retroactive evaluation of the actual prevalence of radiation-related illnesses in the area surrounding Rocky Flats.

Additionally, the state study was based on theoretical amounts of radiation, as there is no way to know the exact amounts of plutonium released, especially during the 2 major fires in 1957 and 1969, and so an actual level of radiation contamination of the Denver Metro area is not known. Thus an estimate of actual disease prevalence seems warranted.

The Rocky Flats Downwinders Health Survey seeks to gather oral histories on radiation-related illnesses in the area around Rocky Flats. It is intended as a first effort to identify any clusters of such illnesses in the region that could be used to substantiate further detailed study. Our goal is to see if the reported incidence of these diseases is significantly greater than expected based on national norms. The limited availability of objective data on such illnesses in the area requires us to take this first step to use oral histories to gather preliminary data on this potentially concerning question. Other areas in Missouri and Utah have used a similar approach.

There are residents living downwind who feel that their health and lives have been negatively impacted by the toxic substances released from the plant. It seems like poor science and poor stewardship to not at least make an effort to assess whether or not there might be truth to their concerns.

Thanks for communicating with me on this matter,
Sincerely,
Carol

From: Jon Lipsky [<mailto:jon@jonlipsky.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2016 7:56 PM
To: Jensen, Carol <jensenc@msudenver.edu>
Subject: Fwd: RF Stewardship Council Sept. 12th meeting packet and meeting notice

Hello Carol,

On page 2:

"David then brought up what he saw as an interesting nexus with the Cook case, which was a new health study around Rocky Flats by a group called the Rocky Flats Downwinders. He noted that the group's founder had applied to be on the Stewardship Council board. David said that the Downwinders website stated that no health studies had ever been done around Rocky Flats, but this statement is not accurate. The State Health Department had conducted an in-depth dose reconstruction study and found that the increased cancer risk due to exposure from Rocky Flats was 2.5 in one million. David noted that the Downwinder survey was a purely opt-in online survey. David noted he does not know what it takes for such a study to be statistically valid, and whether this survey would meet that standard. He also said he did not know if the researchers were also screening for other cancer risk factors. David said he wanted to flag this issue because it was creating the impression among some that there had been no past analysis of health effects around Rocky Flats. He said additional information about offsite health risks was a good thing, but that it needed to be scientifically sound and statistically valid."

May I hand deliver your written response to the Council on September 12th.

Jon.

Regards,

Jon Lipsky
949-452-0171.

Begin forwarded message:

From: David Abelson <dabelson@rockyflatssc.org>
Date: September 1, 2016 at 1:22:17 PM MDT
Subject: RF Stewardship Council Sept. 12th meeting packet and meeting notice

Hello –

Attached is the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council's September 12th meeting packet and meeting notice.

Please let me know what questions you have.

Thanks,

David

David M. Abelson
Executive Director
Rocky Flats Stewardship Council
P.O. Box 17670
Boulder, CO 80308
(303) 412-1200
(303) 600-7773
dabelson@rockyflatssc.org