

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 95-1

Regarding the Site Budget and Cleanup Activities

Approved February 2, 1995

February 8, 1995

Secretary Hazel O'Leary
Thomas P. Grumbly
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Ms. O'Leary and Mr. Grumbly:

Over the past two years, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has begun to greatly improve its credibility in the eyes of the public with respect to its cleanup activities. This new credibility is jeopardized by a recently announced target budget for cleanup activities and a revisitation of already negotiated cleanup schedules driven by budgetary concerns. These announcements threaten to influence current negotiations of the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA).

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (RFCAB) represents a diverse range of public interests surrounding the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. All of the parties represented are strongly affected by the cleanup plans at the Rocky Flats Site, one of the nation's most contaminated nuclear weapons complex sites. RFCAB unanimously recommends that DOE and the Congress not delay actions to stop the spread of contamination and to accelerate the final cleanup at Rocky Flats. DOE and Congressional actions should be consistent with the following principles:

1. Legally binding commitments made by the federal government after extensive public participation must be honored.
2. All cleanup activities, plus waste management, plutonium disposition, and deactivation and decommissioning activities, should be governed by a negotiated agreement, such as RFCA, which is based on stakeholder and public input as well as regulator input.

3. The only acceptable measure of the cleanup activities at Rocky Flats is demonstrated progress to meet the RFCA milestones. Therefore, cleanup work scope should not be cut based on budgetary considerations.

4. DOE must not attempt to amend environmental laws that would reduce governmental accountability.

The Board looks forward to your written response as called for in our charter.

Sincerely,

Linda K. Murakami
Chair

cc: Governor Roy Romer
Mark Silverman, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Rocky Flats
Colorado Congressional Delegation
Martin Hestmark, EPA
Steve Tarlton, CDPHE

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

[Back to Index CAB Recommendations](#)

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