

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 97-13

to the U.S. Department of Energy

Regarding Safeguards and Security Issues at Rocky Flats

Approved September 4, 1997

September 4, 1997

Mr. Joseph Mahaley
Director of Security Affairs - EM50
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Ms. Jessie Roberson
General Manager, DOE-RFFO
P.O. Box 928
Golden, CO 80402-0928

Dear Mr. Mahaley and Ms. Roberson:

As you know, the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Plutonium and Special Nuclear Materials Committee sponsored a panel discussion on July 15 to gain a better understanding of the safeguards and security issues at the site. We have also reviewed the letter from Keith Klein to Mary Harlow sent as a DOE follow-up to the July 15 discussion. Upon review of what was learned during the discussion and from Mr. Klein's letter, RFCAB has several outstanding concerns we would like to bring to your attention.

First, RFCAB believes the site should give greater attention to the maintenance backlog for the safeguards and security systems. Too many false alarms, inactive alarms and other problems do not create a reliable defense in depth. The site should consider hiring a Safeguards Systems Engineer or other point person to oversee this work and give it the attention it deserves.

Second, RFCAB requests that DOE provide adequate oversight of Safeguards and Security at the site.

Third, RFCAB is concerned that the site might consider upgrades of security systems in buildings slated for eventual D&D to be a lesser priority. We would like to stress that adequate and reliable safeguards and security systems should remain in all former production buildings until such time as holdup material in either piping or ventilation systems is removed.

Finally, RFCAB encourages DOE to end the apparent quarrel or lack of trust between the Headquarters office and the Rocky Flats Field Office with respect to safeguards and security issues. This is important in order for the community to have confidence that DOE works as a united team in addressing the safeguards and security issues.

We look forward to your written reply on these issues no later than September 26 so that the information may be included in the Board's information packet for the October meeting.

Sincerely,

Tom Marshall
Chair

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](#)

[Home](#) | [Citizens Advisory Board Info](#) | [Rocky Flats Info](#) | [Links](#) | [Feedback & Questions](#)